

7-6-1994

Press Guidance- Wednesday, July 6, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 NOV 2003 200301834

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TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1994

1. BELOW ARE IO AND AF PRESS GUIDANCES ON RWANDA.

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2. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION

Q: PLEASE FROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING.

A: UN SOURCES REPORT THAT IT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING KIGALI, WHICH IS NOW
COMPLETELY UNDER RPF CONTROL. CIVILIANS ARE REPORTEDLY
MOVING BACK INTO THE CAPITAL.

Q: WHAT MORE DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE LATEST FRENCH ACTIONS,
INCLUDING THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE A "SAFE ZONE," AND THE
AGREEMENT THEY MADE WITH THE RPF?

A: UN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ESTABLISHED A
"SAFE AREA" IN THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF THE COUNTRY.
THE UN REPORTS THAT THE RPF HAS NOT OBJECTED TO THE
CREATION OF THE AREA, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO
SUBSEQUENT THREAT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FRENCH FORCES
AND THE RPF.

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Q: WHAT IS THE US VIEW OF THESE ACTIONS?

A: WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE FRENCH AND THE RPF ARE COOPERATING TO AVOID ARMED CONFLICT AND FACILITATE THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS.

Q: DOES THE AGREEMENT TO FORM A SAFE AREA CONTROLLED BY THE FRENCH REQUIRE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL?

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A: WHILE THE ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 929, WHICH AUTHORIZES FRANCE TO USE "ALL NECESSARY MEANS" TO FULFILL THE HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVES OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 925 (INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURE HUMANITARIAN AREAS), THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THIS RECENT DEVELOPMENT.

Q: WHEN DO WE EXPECT ADDITIONAL UNAMIR TROOPS TO BE DEPLOYED IN RWANDA?

A: ADDITIONAL GHANAIA TROOPS ARE EXPECTED TO DEPLOY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. THE US IS WORKING WITH THE UN TO EXPEDITE THE EQUIPPING AND DEPLOYMENT OF REMAINING GHANAIA PERSONNEL, AND WE ARE ENCOURAGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO HELP EQUIP AND MOVE THE OTHER CONTINGENTS.

3. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CEASEFIRE

Q: HAS THE U.S. HAD A RESPONSE TO OUR STATEMENT YESTERDAY CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN RWANDA?

A: WE ARE STILL PRESSING THIS POINT IN OUR DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS. THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO CONVENE PARTIES TO FORM A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD THEN ANNOUNCE A CEASE-FIRE.

Q: WOULD THE U.S. SUPPORT A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN
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RWANDA? WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

A: SINCE THE RWANDA CRISIS BEGAN ON APRIL 6, THE U.S. HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE SENSELESS KILLING IN RWANDA, A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, AND A RETURN TO TALKS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE <<ARUSHA>> <<PEACE>> <<ACCORD>>.

THE ARUSHA ACCORD REQUIRES THE INSTALLATION ON A BROAD-BASED MULTI-PARTY TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARUSHA FRAMEWORK OFFERS THE BEST SOLUTION TO RWANDA'S CRISIS AND THAT THE ARUSHA PRINCIPLES OF GENUINE POWERSHARING MUST BE RESPECTED IN ANY NEW GOVERNMENT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT KAGAME'S CALL FOR A BROAD-BASED COALITION GOVERNMENT?

A: THE ARUSHA ACCORD REQUIRES THE FORMATION OF A BROAD-BASED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THIS ACCORD MUST SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THE FORMATION OF ANY NEW GOVERNMENT.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT RWANDANS HAVE A BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THAT COMES INTO BEING THROUGH TRUE DIALOGUE AMONG THE RELEVANT POLITICAL FORCES AND NOT THROUGH MILITARY CONQUEST.

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