

7-18-1994

Press Guidance - Monday, July 18, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/rawson_rwanda

Recommended Citation

US Embassy Rwanda, "Press Guidance - Monday, July 18, 1994" (1994). *David Rawson Collection on the Rwandan Genocide*. 36.

https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/rawson_rwanda/36

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Museum at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in David Rawson Collection on the Rwandan Genocide by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

PAGE 01 STATE 192020 190223Z
ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01
	A-01	SMEC-00	CPR-02	OASY-00	EAP-01	EB-01	EXME-00
	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FDRE-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00
	L-01	ADS-00	MED-07	NEA-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OIG-04
	OIS-01	OPIC-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	SP-00	SR-00
	SA-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	/076R		

DRAFTED BY: AF/P:TKURTH
APPROVED BY: AF/P:MSWANN

-----SDE421 190227Z /38

P R 190220Z JUL 94
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CALGARY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 192020 190223Z
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
 SOMALIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
 USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 USCINTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY
 USOFFICE ABUJA PRIORITY
 INFO CIA WASHDC 0000
 DOD WASHDC 0000
 WHITE HOUSE 0000

UNCLAS STATE 192020

E.O. 12356: N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 192020 190223Z
 TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
 SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - MONDAY, JULY 18, 1994

1. RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (S/CPR, IO, AND PRM), RWANDA STATEMENTS (WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT), AN ETHIOPIA PRESS GUIDANCE, AND A NIGERIA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF) ARE BELOW.

 2. S/CPR PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: STATUS OF DIPLOMATS

Q: HOW MANY RWANDAN DIPLOMATS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEPART THE UNITED STATES?

A: THERE ARE THREE DIPLOMATS AND SIX SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE RWANDAN EMBASSY. THE AMBASSADOR IS REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY NOT LATER THAN JULY 22 THE DATE UPON WHICH THE EMBASSY WILL CEASE DIPLOMATIC OPERATIONS.

REMAINING PERSONNEL AND THE EIGHTEEN (18) DEPENDENTS ARE

REQUIRED TO DEPART BY AUGUST 14. ONE INDIVIDUA MAY BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN LONGER IF NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CLOSING (I.E., SECURING PROPERTY, DISPOSITION OF AUTOMOBILES, ETC.).

Q: WILL THE EXTENSIONS BE GRANTED:

UNCLASSIFIED

3 of 9

A: THE TIMETABLE SET FORTH ACCORDS THE PERSONS SUFFICIENT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 192020 190223Z
TIME TO WIND DOWN THEIR AFFAIRS. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY
EXTENSIONS.

Q: WILL PERSONS BE FORCED TO RETURN TO RWANDA?

A: THE PERSONS AFFECTED ARE REQUIRED TO DEPART THE UNITED
STATES BY THE DATES INDICATED. THE QUESTIONS OF THEIR
ULTIMATE DESTINATION IS A MATTER BETWEEN THEM AND ANY
RECEIVING STATE.

Q: WILL THE PERSONS AFFECTED BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASYLUM IN
THE UNITED STATES.

A: THE QUESTION OF ASYLUM WOULD BE DETERMINED ONLY UPON
APPROPRIATE APPLICATION. SUCH APPLICATIONS ARE HANDLED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

3. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION

Q: PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING, INCLUDING
REPORTED CLASHES BETWEEN FRENCH FORCES AND THE RPF.

A: UN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE RPF HAS TAKEN GISENYI.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, A CEASEFIRE HAVE ALREADY BEEN
DECLARED. NO CLASH BETWEEN FRENCH FORCES AND THE RPF HAS
BEEN REPORTED SINCE YESTERDAY'S CONFRONTATION, WHICH THE
UN DESCRIBES AS MINOR.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 192020 190223Z
4. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: REFUGEE UPDATE

Q: WOULD YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE RWANDAN REFUGEES AT
THE BORDER OF ZAIRE?

A. ABOUT 800,000 TO ONE MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE
BELIEVED TO HAVE CROSSED INTO ZAIRE AND ARE NOW IN THE
GOMA AREA. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH

UNCLASSIFIED

3 of 9

UNCLASSIFIED

4 of 9

COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), THE REFUGEES ARE CONTINUING TO ENTER ZAIRE AT A RATE OF ABOUT 10,000 TO 15,000 PER HOUR.

PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS SENT U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD TO ZAIRE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. ATWOOD ALSO SERVES AS THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE. HE WAS IN GOMA TODAY TO LOOK AT THE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF BOTH NEW REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN RWANDA.

Q: WERE EMERGENCY AIRLIFTS SUSPENDED?

A: MORTAR ATTACKS NEAR THE GOMA AIRPORT FORCED THE SUSPENSION OF UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY RELIEF FLIGHTS. THE AIRLIFTS RESUMED TODAY.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IS FLYING IN 160 TONS OF FOOD, AND UNHCR IS BRINGING IN BLANKETS, JERRYCANS, AND PLASTIC SHEETING.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 192020 190223Z

Q: WOULD YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE OTHER RWANDAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES?

A: IN ADDITION TO THE RWANDANS FLEEING INTO ZAIRE, OVER 500,000 HAD ALREADY TAKEN REFUGE IN TANZANIA, BURUNDI, AND UGANDA. AROUND 400,000 OF THESE ARE IN TANZANIA.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DISPLACED AND ON THE MOVE INSIDE RWANDA IS ESTIMATED UP TO FIVE MILLION.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP?

A: SINCE APRIL 1994, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED OVER 97 MILLION DOLLARS IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE RWANDA CRISIS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL UNDERTAKE ANOTHER 80 HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT MISSIONS. DOD HAS ALREADY CARRIED OUT OVER 100 HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFTS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES SINCE THE START OF THE CRISIS IN RWANDA. AIRLIFT SUPPORT TO DATE IS VALUED AT NEARLY 7 MILLION DOLLARS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED 15.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, THE INTERNATIONAL

UNCLASSIFIED

4 of 9

UNCLASSIFIED

5 of 9

FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (IFRC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) TO SUPPORT THEIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE EARLIER WAVES OF REFUGEES.

WE ARE WORKING ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 192020 190223Z
USAID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAS MADE 5.8 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS IN RWANDA, AND ANOTHER 3.9 MILLION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) WORKING INSIDE RWANDA.

FOOD FOR PEACE HAS APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALMOST 66 MILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA/BURUNDI REGIONAL EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS PROVIDED 4 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE RWANDA/BURUNDI EMERGENCY SINCE APRIL.

5. WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT - RWANDA: ATWOOD MISSION (7/16)

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN J. ATWOOD TO TRAVEL TO THE RWANDIAN BORDER REGIONS IN HIS CAPACITY AS SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE. MR. ATWOOD WILL ASSESS RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CRISIS IN RWANDA AND THE NEED FOR ENHANCED ASSISTANCE CAUSED BY THE RECENT WAVE OF NEW REFUGEES ACROSS THE BORDER FROM RWANDA TO ZAIRE AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS WITHIN RWANDA ITSELF. MR. ATWOOD WILL ARRIVE IN GOMA, ZAIRE, ON MONDAY.

THE WHITE HOUSE REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT WITH FOOD, MEDICINE AND OTHER
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 192020 190223Z
SUPPLIES. SINCE THE START OF THE CURRENT CRISIS IN RWANDA IN APRIL, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED A TOTAL OF ABOUT

DOLLARS 100 MILLION, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR 100 AIRLIFT MISSIONS. ANOTHER 80 MISSIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE

UNCLASSIFIED

5 of 9

SHORT-TERM.

6. STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN - RWANDA: AID FOR REFUGEES

THE PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED ON JULY 17 THE USE OF UP TO DOLLARS 19 MILLION FROM THE U.S. EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND TO MEET THE UNEXPECTED AND URGENT NEEDS OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES, AND CONFLICT VICTIMS FROM RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED THE CONFLICT IN RWANDA TO THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF TANZANIA, ZAIRE, UGANDA, AND BURUNDI HAS NOW REACHED OVER 2 MILLION. THE FLOW OF ALMOST A MILLION PEOPLE INTO THE GOMA AREA OF ZAIRE OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS IS UNPRECEDENTED. MOREOVER, THERE ARE AS MANY AS 3 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE INSIDE RWANDA. THE NEEDS ARE ENORMOUS AND INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES ARE OVERWHELMED. THE CONTINUED OUTFLOW THREATENS THE STABILITY OF THE REGION.

THIS FUNDING REAFFIRMS OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORT CAUSED BY THE RWANDA CRISIS. IT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), WHICH IS COORDINATING
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 192020 190223Z
BASIC ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES THROUGHOUT THE REGION; AND TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CRITICAL RELIEF IN RWANDA, BURUNDI, TANZANIA, UGANDA, AND ZAIRE.

THIS NEW FUNDING IS IN ADDITION TO THE DOLLARS 100 MILLION WHICH THE U.S. HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED SINCE APRIL AND TO 80 NEW DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AIRLIFT MISSIONS WHICH WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK WITH FLIGHTS INTO GOMA.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD, WHO IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, VISITED GOMA TODAY TO ASSESS RELIEF EFFORTS AND THE NEED FOR ENHANCED ASSISTANCE CAUSED BY THE WAVE OF NEW REFUGEES ACROSS THE BORDER FROM RWANDA INTO ZAIRE.

7. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - ETHIOPIA: MED. TREATMENT DENIED

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE WASHINGTON TIMES REPORT THAT A WOUNDED CHILD IN ADDIS ABABA WAS DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT BY OUR EMBASSY?

A: OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA HAS INVESTIGATED THE REPORT OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT. WE BELIEVE THE REPORT IS UNTRUE.

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25 THE EMBASSY WAS CLOSED. THE MARINE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 192020 190223Z
SECURITY GUARD ON DUTY RECEIVED AN URGENT TELEPHONE CALL FOR THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER TO CONTACT A DUTCH CONSULAR OFFICER. AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS, THE DUTY OFFICER WAS CONTACTED AND RETURNED THE DUTCH CONSULAR OFFICER'S CALL. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO ANSWER AT THE NUMBER WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED.

THE EMBASSY HAS NEITHER A RECORD OF A REQUEST AT THE EMBASSY GATE BY ANYONE SEEKING MEDICAL TREATMENT NOR ANY REQUEST FOR MEDICATION FROM THE LELAND ORPHANAGE AT THE EMBASSY HEALTH UNIT ON JUNE 25. NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORPHANAGE, AND NO ONE NAMED JOS VAN NOORD, SPOKE WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL CONCERNING SUCH A REQUEST.

THE EMBASSY HEALTH UNIT NORMALLY PROVIDES CARE TO EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ONLY, NOT TO PRIVATE CITIZENS.

HOWEVER, SINCE 1991, THERE HAS BEEN A MECHANISM IN PLACE TO HANDLE REQUESTS FOR OUTSIDE HELP ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. IN THE CASE CITED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES REPORT, WE HAVE NO RECORD THAT SUCH A REQUEST WAS EVER RECEIVED.

8. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: GENERAL SITUATION

Q: WHAT IS OUR REACTION TO THE ALLEGED AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE RELEASE OF ABIOLA?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 192020 190223Z

UNCLASSIFIED

8 of 9

A: WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION GROUPS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES AND PROVIDE

HUMANE TREATMENT FOR THEM AND MOVE THE COUNTRY TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN NIGERIA?

A: THE NATIONAL UNION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS HAS BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE JULY 4, SEEKING THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SEEKING WAGE INCREASES. THE STRIKE, WHILE CENTERED IN THE SOUTH, HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD TO OTHER REGIONS.

THERE ARE ACUTE FUEL SHORTAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS ONE MAIN REFINERY HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN AND THE MILITARY HAS BEEN UNABLE ADEQUATELY TO SUPPLY CUSTOMERS. THE UNION'S GOAL IS TO STOP BOTH PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION AND BRING TRAFFIC TO A STANDSTILL.

THE NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING A GENERAL STRIKE POSSIBLY TO START TOMORROW.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, WE REMIND ALL AMERICANS THAT A TRAVEL ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR NIGERIA.

Q: WHAT IS OUR OVERALL POLICY TOWARD NIGERIA?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 192020 190223Z

A: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS TO RESTORE CIVILIAN, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TO NIGERIA. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED THE NIGERIAN MILITARY TO RELEASE THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 12, 1993 ELECTIONS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY INDIVIDUAL. OUR INTEREST IS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AND RESPECT FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT ENSURES THAT THE WILL OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE IS RESPECTED.

WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO NIGERIAN LEADERS THAT SANCTIONS IMPOSED IN THE WAKE OF THE ANNULMENT OF THE 1993 ELECTION WILL BE REVIEWED ONLY WHEN THE MILITARY REGIME DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR AN

UNCLASSIFIED

8 of 9

EARLY RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

Q: IS OUR POLICY WORKING?

A: THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. OUR POLICY IS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EFFORT.

WE CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN NIGERIA ON A REGULAR BASIS AND WILL TAKE SUCH FURTHER ACTIONS AS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.

Q: WHAT IS OUR VIEW OF ABIOLA?

A: CHIEF M.K.O. ABIOLA WAS THE APPARENT (PROCESS WAS NOT COMPLETED) WINNER IN WHAT MANY CALL FREE ELECTIONS LAST
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 192020 190223Z
YEAR. WE CALL ON THE ABACHA REGIME TO RELEASE THE ELECTION RESULTS.

SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST NIGERIA AFTER THE JUNE 1993 ELECTIONS ARE:

VISA RESTRICTIONS -- TO PERSONS WHO FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT OR BENEFIT FROM POLICIES THAT HINDER A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

ALL ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA INCLUDING MILITARY TRAINING IS TERMINATED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRATIZATION AID TO THE SOCIAL SECTOR THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

ALL APPLICATIONS FROM US BUSINESSES FOR A LICENSE TO EXPORT DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW WITH THE PRESUMPTION OF DENIAL.

ALL PROJECTS FINANCED THROUGH THE EXIM FACILITIES AND OPIC ARE SUSPENDED.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED TALBOTT

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>