

7-20-1994

### Press Guidance - Wednesday, July 20, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01
	A-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EAP-01	EUR-01
	OIGO-01	FDRE-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OIG-04	OIS-01	PA-02	PM-00
	PRS-01	SP-00	SR-00	SA-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09

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

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ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
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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

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY  
USOFFICE ABUJA PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT. PRESS GUIDANCE - WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1994

1. RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF, IO, AND PRM) AND A NIGERIA  
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PRESS GUIDANCE (AF).

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2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: POLITICAL RECONCILIATION  
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Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING REGARDING POLITICAL  
RECONCILIATION?

A: TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION, WE HAVE BEEN URGING  
RWANDANS TO PROCEED WITH SERIOUS DIALOGUE AMONG RELEVANT  
POLITICAL FORCES AND ESTABLISH A TRULY BROAD-BASED  
TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE  
ARUSHA ACCORD, WHICH WILL REASSURE AND GAIN THE ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

WE ARE ALSO PUSHING FOR FULL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THOSE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDAL KILLINGS AND OTHER CRIMES

AGAINST HUMANITY. AS THE WHITE HOUSE SAID LAST FRIDAY,  
JULY 15, WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD ACT SWIFTLY  
-- UNDER THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION THAT ESTABLISHED  
A UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS -- TO CREATE A WAR CRIMES  
TRIBUNAL. ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY WILL HELP RWANDANS  
TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, CLOSE OUT THIS TRAGIC  
CHAPTER IN THEIR HISTORY, AND MOVE TO TRUE RECONCILIATION.

Q: WHO ARE WE TALKING TO?

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A: WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH RWANDAN  
AUTHORITIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
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MOOSE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL HAVE  
REPEATEDLY SPOKEN BY PHONE TO THE RPF LEADERSHIP IN  
RWANDA, AND WE HAVE MET WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES HERE, IN  
NEW YORK, AND OVERSEAS.

WE HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACT WITH OTHER  
POLITICAL FORCES IN RWANDA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MET  
WITH PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU ON HIS  
RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

Q: WILL WE RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE NAMING OF  
CERTAIN MEMBERS OF A GOVERNMENT AND ARE FOLLOWING SUCH  
DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. WE HOPE THAT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE GENUINELY BROADLY-BASED AND CONSISTENT WITH THE  
POWER-SHARING PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE ARUSHA ACCORDS.

WE ARE DEALING WITH RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION TO  
QUICKLY ADDRESS THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND HELP RWANDA  
RETURN TO STABILITY.

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3. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: ATWOOD REMARKS  
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Q: WHAT DID BRIAN ATWOOD THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY  
AND AID ADMINISTRATOR, SAY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT FORMED BY  
THE RPF? WHAT EFFECT DO WE HOPE IT TO HAVE ON THE CURRENT  
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS?

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A: THE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED BY THE RPF IS TO BE HEADED BY  
A PRESIDENT AND A PRIME MINISTER, BOTH OF WHOM ARE

MODERATE HUTUS. BRIAN ATWOOD SAID YESTERDAY THAT "WE  
ARE HOPEFUL THAT THAT SITUATION, PLUS THE FRENCH  
PROTECTION OF THE SAFE ZONE IN THE SOUTHWEST PART OF THE  
COUNTRY, ALONG WITH AN AUGMENTED UNAMIR FORCE INSIDE  
RWANDA, WILL CONVINCE PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND  
WILL STOP THE PEOPLE FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY."

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4. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION  
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Q: PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING. ALSO WHAT IS THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR?

A: UN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE RPF IS CONFIRMED TO BE IN CONTROL OF GISENYI. GOMA AIRPORT CONTINUES TO BE OPEN AND FUNCTIONING, AND THE SITUATION IS QUIET. OFFICIALS FROM THE RPF AND THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT MET AT THE BORDER TO DISCUSS MONDAY'S SHELLING OF GOMA...THE 50 U.S.-LEASED APC'S ARE EN ROUTE TO KIGALI FROM KABALE, UGANDA TODAY. AN ADVANCE PARTY OF THE CANADIAN COMMUNICATIONS UNIT WILL ARRIVE IN NAIROBI TONIGHT, FOR DEPLOYMENT TO KIGALI SOON THEREAFTER.

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5. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION  
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Q: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI CALLING A "PLEDGING CONFERENCE" FOR THIS COMING MONDAY, PROBABLY IN NEW YORK, ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA, AS REPORTED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE PRESS REPORT. AT THIS POINT, WE'RE NOT AWARE OF A PLEDGING CONFERENCE BEING PLANNED BUT WE ARE CHECKING WITH THE U.N. TO SEE WHAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS IN MIND.

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6. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: REFUGEE UPDATE  
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Q: WOULD YOU PROVIDE US WITH AN UPDATE ON RWANDAN REFUGEES?

A: THERE ARE NOW ABOUT ONE MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE GOMA AREA OF ZAIRE.

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), ANOTHER 400,000 REFUGEES HAVE CROSSED INTO ZAIRE AT BUKAVU, WHICH IS SOME 60 MILES SOUTH OF GOMA.

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HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE PEOPLE FROM THE FRENCH SAFEHAVEN ZONE INSIDE RWANDA ARE REPORTED TO BE MOVING TOWARD ZAIRE.

120,000 NEW REFUGEES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN BURUNDI SINCE JULY 15, BRINGING THE NUMBER OF RWANDAN REFUGEES IN BURUNDI TO APPROXIMATELY 210,000.

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IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, OVER 460,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES REMAIN IN TANZANIA, AND ABOUT 10,500 ARE IN UGANDA.

Q:   WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP?

A:   U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO DATE STANDS AT APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 120 MILLION SINCE APRIL 1994.

THIS INCLUDES THE AUTHORIZATION BY PRESIDENT CLINTON ON JULY 17 OF THE USE OF UP TO DOLLARS 19 MILLION FROM THE U.S. EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DOLLARS 34.6 MILLION FOR USE BY UNHCR, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (IFRC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC).

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY SOME 80 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FLIGHTS. THE FIRST OF THESE WILL ARRIVE IN GOMA TODAY, CARRYING FOOD, OIL AND PLASTIC SHEETING FOR SHELTERS.

DOD HAS ALREADY CARRIED OUT 100 HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFTS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THE REGION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE RWANDA CRISIS, VALUED AT NEARLY DOLLARS 7 MILLION.

A U.S. GOVERNMENT INTERAGENCY TEAM WILL TRAVEL TO ZAIRE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK SOON TO EXAMINE, AMONG OTHER THINGS WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF THE GOMA AIRPORT TO HANDLE ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS

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USAID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) HAS MADE DOLLARS 11.2 MILLION AVAILABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL

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ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) WORKING INSIDE RWANDA.

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

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

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MR. ATWOOD'S TRIP?

A: BRIAN ATWOOD, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) ADMINISTRATOR AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, WENT TO ZAIRE LAST WEEKEND TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.

HE VISITED GOMA AND BUKAVU TO EVALUATE THE ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF THE NEW REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN RWANDA. HE ALSO TRAVELED TO BUJUMBURA TO ASSESS THE INCREASING REFUGEE PRESENCE AND ETHNIC TENSIONS IN BURUNDI.

MR. ATWOOD WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TODAY AND WILL BRIEF THE PRESIDENT ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND MAKE HIS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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Q: WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING TO ASSIST IN THIS CRISIS?

A: THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY IS RESPONDING URGENTLY TO THE CRISIS.

THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARE FOR WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES, FOOD, SHELTER, AND SANITATION.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ESTIMATES THAT TO FEED THE POPULATION OF ONE MILLION REFUGEES IN AND AROUND GOMA ALONE, ABOUT 600 TONS OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID ARE NEEDED PER DAY.

ALTHOUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AIRLIFT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES HAS RESUMED, THE OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AT THE GOMA AIRPORT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS THAT CAN COME IN, AND THE OFF-LOADING OF THE PLANES AND THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION HAVE BEEN SLOW.

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THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IS COORDINATING THE RELIEF EFFORTS. IT HAS AN EMERGENCY TEAM AND FIELD STAFF IN GOMA. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AND A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) ARE WORKING WITH THE REFUGEES IN GOMAA

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7. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: GENERAL SITUATION  
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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN LAGOS YESTERDAY?

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A: EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THAT RIOTS CONTINUE IN LAGOS AND IBADAN. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY FATALITIES YESTERDAY.

WE CALL ON THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY.

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN NIGERIA?

A: THE JULY 4 NATIONAL UNION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES. ACUTE FUEL SHORTAGES REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS ONE MAIN REFINERY HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN. THE MILITARY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SUPPLY CUSTOMERS. IN LAGOS, TRAFFIC IS AT A STANDSTILL.

THE NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REJECTED A GENERAL STRIKE WHICH WAS TO START TODAY.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY. WE ADVISE AMERICANS TO CONSULT THE CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY TRAVEL TO NIGERIA.

Q: WHAT IS OUR OVERALL POLICY TOWARD NIGERIA?

A: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS TO RESTORE CIVILIAN, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TO NIGERIA.

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.

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