

7-26-1994

Press Guidance - July 26, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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DRAFTED BY: AF/P:TKURTH

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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

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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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD

DATE/CASE ID: 08 SEP 2003 200301834

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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
USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY
USOFFICE ABUJA PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - JULY 26 1994

1. THE FOLLOWING IS RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF, PM AND
PRM), GAMBIA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF), AND NIGERIA PRESS

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GUIDANCE (AF).

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: RAWSON MEETINGS

Q: DO YOU HAVE A READOUT ON AMBASSADOR RAWSON'S MEETINGS
AND ACTIVITIES IN RWANDA?

A. AMBASSADOR RAWSON MET WITH FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU
(FO-STAN TWA-GEE-RA-MOON-GOO), THE PRIME MINISTER
DESIGNATED BY THE ARUSHA ACCORDS YESTERDAY. HE WILL BE
MEETING WITH UN, UNAMIR AND MEMBERS OF THE RPF.

HE WILL BE ASSESSING THE POLITICAL STABILITY, SECURITY
SITUATION AND THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE KIGA I AIRPORT
FOR POSSIBLE HUMANITARIAN DELIVERIES.

3. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: REFUGEE UPDATE

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Q: WOULD YOU PROVIDE US WITH AN UPDATE ON RWANDAN REFUGEES?

A: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 2.2 MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES:

ZAIRE: 1.5 MILLION:

1,000,000 IN GOMA

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312,000 IN BUKAVU

230,000 IN UVIRA

BURUNDI: 210,000

TANZANIA: 460,500

UGANDA: 10,500

UNHCR REPORTS THAT SOME 20,000 REFUGEES FROM GOMA HAVE CROSSED BACK INTO RWANDA SINCE THE BORDER WAS REOPENED BY ZAIRES LAST SUNDAY.

INSIDE RWANDA, ABOUT 45,000 PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE FRENCH SAFE ZONE AND RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF).

HOWEVER, SOME 2,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES PER DAY CONTINUE TO LEAVE THE FRENCH SAFE ZONE FOR THE BUKAVU AREA OF ZAIRES (SOUTH OF GOMA).

Q: WHAT IS THE HEALTH SITUATION OF THE REFUGEES IN GOMA?

A: AN ESTIMATED 14,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES IN GOMA HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM CHOLERA HUNGER, EXHAUSTION, AND DEHYDRATION.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 5 PERCENT OF THE GOMA REFUGEE

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POPULATION (ESTIMATED 50,000) IS INFECTED BY CHOLERA.

THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL HAS ALREADY SENT 4 DOCTORS TO GOMA, AND WILL SEND AN ADDITIONAL 7 DOCTORS THIS WEEK TO GOMA, BUKAVU AND UVIRA TO HELP UNHCR WITH THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

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

A: THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ON JULY 22 AN IMMEDIATE AND MASSIVE INCREASE IN OUR RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN RWANDA, TO BE DIRECTED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SINCE THE RWANDA CRISIS BEGAN IN APRIL 1994.

OUR TOTAL CONTRIBUTION NOW STANDS AT OVER DOLLARS 150 MILLION, MAKING THE UNITED STATES THE LARGEST SINGLE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTOR OF AID.

THIS INCLUDES FUNDING FOR UNHCR, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND PROVIDES FOOD COMMODITIES, MEDICAL AND RELIEF SUPPLIES, LOGISTICAL SERVICES AND AIRLIFT SUPPORT.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT.

4. PM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: U.S. ASSISTANCE

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Q: ANY DETAILS ON U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDANS IN ZAIRE?

A: U.S. TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FLEW THE FIRST WATER PURIFICATION EQUIPMENT INTO GOMA, ZAIRE LAST NIGHT, ALONG WITH FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

THE U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND IS SENDING MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO GOMA TO ADMINISTER REHYDRATION FACILITIES AND MONITOR SANITATION.

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A U.S. SURVEY TEAM IS ASSESSING CONDITIONS OF OTHER AIRFIELDS AND ROADS IN THE REGION.

HUMANITARIAN AIRDROPS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH UNHCR.

U.S. EMBASSIES IN THE REGION ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH HOST COUNTRIES, THE U.S. MILITARY, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF RELIEF EFFORTS ON THE GROUND.

5. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - GAMBIA: SITUATION UPDATE

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN THE GAMBIA?

A: BANJUL CONTINUES TO REMAIN CALM. IT IS NORMAL AND
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QUIET. STORES, INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE LINES, THE BORDERS AND THE AIRPORT ARE OPEN.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT ON THE POLITICAL FRONT?

A: THE ARMED FORCES PROVISIONAL RULING COUNCIL (AFPRC) LEADERSHIP HAS NAMED A CABINET WITH AN EQUAL MIX OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY OFFERED TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PRESIDENT JAWARA. THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL REJECTED THAT OFFER.

WE CONTINUE TO URGE BOTH SIDES TO SOLVE THEIR GRIEVANCES AND DIFFERENCES THROUGH DIALOGUE.

6. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: JACKSON MISSION

Q: WHAT IS OUR ROLE IN THE JESSE JACKSON PRESIDENTIAL MISSION?

A: JESSE JACKSON IS TRAVELING TO NIGERIA ON A PRESIDENTIAL MISSION. THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP IS TO

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DELIVER A LETTER TO GENERAL ABACHA.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE WHITE
HOUSE TO COORDINATE THE TRIP. A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

AND A STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE WILL ACCOMPANY
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REVEREND JACKSON ON THE TRIP.

Q: WHAT IS OUR REACTION TO THE CRITICISM OF THE TRIP?

A: THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MISSION IS TO PRESS
THE ABACHA REGIME TO ACCELERATE THE RETURN TO A CIVILIAN
GOVERNMENT.

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.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED CHRISTOPHER

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