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Press Guidance - August 2, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC. PREL, XA, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - AUGUST 2, 1994

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

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - <<RWANDA>>: CURRENT SITUATION

Q DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE HUTUS IN ZAIRE? ARE THEY
INTIMIDATING REFUGEES?

A: WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT HUTU MILITIA OR
REMNANTS OF FORMER RWANDAN GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE
INTIMIDATING REFUGEES.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO
MAINTAIN SECURITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS AND TO DISARM
REFUGEES. WE HAVE MADE REPEATED DEMARCHES TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO THAT EFFECT AND THEY HAVE BEEN
COOPERATIVE.

Q: IS THERE RENEWED THREAT OF A CIVIL WAR IN <<RWANDA>>?

A: <<RWANDA>> REMAINS IN A VERY VOLATILE SITUATION.

THE U.S. CONTINUES TO CALL ON ALL PARTIES IN <<RWANDA>> TO WORK TOGETHER, CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ARUSHA ACCORD, TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF STABILITY AND RECONCILIATION IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE POPULATION AND ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES.

Q: ARE THE HUTUS REGROUPING IN ZAIRE?
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A: WE ARE AWARE OF REPORTS THAT UNITS OF THE FORMER RWANDAN GOVERNMENT'S ARMY ARE CAMPED TOGETHER AS INTACT MILITARY UNITS.

THE ICRC HAS STATED THAT IT WILL NOT ASSIST THE FORMER GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE DISARMS THE MILITARY, PLACES THE SOLDIERS IN CAMPS, AND GUARDS THEM.

THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE ICRC'S STANCE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A READ-OUT ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S AND AMBASSADOR RAWSON'S ACTIVITIES IN KIGALI?

A: AMBASSADOR MOOSE ARRIVED IN KIGALI YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 1. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH A FULL RANGE OF POLITICAL CONTACTS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND UNAMIR. HE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART KIGALI AND WILL TRAVEL TO BUJUMBURA WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

AMBASSADOR RAWSON CONTINUES A FULL RANGE OF POLITICAL CONTACTS IN KIGALI. HE CONTINUES TO WORK TO FACILITATE THE RELIEF EFFORT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES. HE MEETS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, UNAMIR, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS HANDLING THE RELIEF EFFORT. HE IS ALSO ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE REOPENING OF EMBASSY KIGA I.

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3. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - <<RWANDA>>: REFUGEE UPDATE

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

A: ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), THERE ARE CURRENTLY AN ESTIMATED 2 MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF ZAIRE BURUNDI, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA.

ZAIRE: 1.4 MILLION:

1,000,000 IN GOMA AREA

412,000 IN BUKAVU AND UVIRA

BURUNDI: 200,000

TANZANIA: 322,000

UGANDA: 10,500

THERE ARE SOME 1.5 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE INSIDE <<RWANDA>>.

REFUGEE NUMBERS FLUCTUATE AS BETTER COUNTS ARE OBTAINED AND AS PEOPLE ACTUALLY MOVE.

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Q: HAS THE REFUGEE FLOW BACK INTO <<RWANDA>> SLOWED?

A: UNHCR REPORTS THAT AN ESTIMATED 125,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES FROM TANZANIA, BURUNDI, AND ZAIRE HAVE RETURNED TO <<RWANDA>>.

ABOUT 90,000 REFUGEES FROM THE GOMA AREA HAVE CROSSED BACK INTO <<RWANDA>> IN THE PAST WEEK.

ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE A DAY WERE CROSSING BACK INTO <<RWANDA>>, BUT OVER THE WEEKEND RUMORS OF HUTUS BEING KILLED HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RETURNING TO 10,000 A DAY.

UNHCR IS PLANNING TO USE RADIO BROADCASTS TO COUNTER THESE ADVERSE RUMORS AND DISINFORMATION.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OGATA'S COMMENTS REFLECTING CAUTION REGARDING RETURNING REFUGEES?

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A: HIGH COMMISSIONER OGATA HAS STATED THAT REPATRIATION IS THE BEST SOLUTION TO THIS REFUGEE CRISIS.

HOWEVER, SHE BELIEVES THAT THE SITUATION THAT THE REFUGEES WILL BE RETURNING TO MUST ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.

REPATRIATION MUST ALWAYS BE VOLUNTARY.

REPATRIATION IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE EMERGENCY REFUGEE RELIEF EFFORT NOW UNDERWAY IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

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

A: AS MANY AS 80,000 REFUGEES ARE AFFECTED BY CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, AND OTHER WATER-BORNE DISEASES.

AN ESTIMATED 16,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM THESE DISEASES IN THE PAST WEEK.

MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORTS TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER, FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR THE REFUGEES HAVE HELPED REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS, FROM ABOUT 1,800 PER DAY LAST WEEK TO ABOUT 900 PER DAY AS OF YESTERDAY.

HOWEVER, AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CLEAN WATER CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN GOMA. MORE WATER PURIFICATION UNITS AND TANKERS TO DISTRIBUTE WATER ARE ARRIVING.

THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL HAVE SENT A TEAM OF 11 DOCTORS TO THE AREA TO HELP UNHCR WITH THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

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

A: ON JULY 29 PRESIDENT CLINTON REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING OF DOLLARS 320 MILLION TO ASSIST IN THE URGENT HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS FOR <<RWANDA>>

DOLLARS 270 MILLION WOULD BE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE AIRPORT SERVICES AND AIR DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES, PROVIDE SAFE WATER, DEP- N

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SUSTAIN APPROXIMATELY 4,000 U.S. TROOPS AND PROVIDE OTHER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

DOLLARS 30 MILLION WOULD BE FOR THE EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO RESPOND TO URGENT APPEALS FROM INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) PROVIDING RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION.

DOLLARS 20 MILLION WOULD BE FOR THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) TO PROVIDE MEDICINE AND SUPPORT MEDICAL TEAMS, AND HELP BURY THOSE WHO DIED FROM CHOLERA.

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.

4. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: GENERAL SITUATION

Q: ARE U.S. INTERESTS IN NIGERIA BEING THREATENED?

A: ON JULY 25, PENGASSAN UNION OFFICIALS SENT A LETTER TO ALL OIL COMPANIES IN NIGERIA ASKING THEM TO COOPERATE WITH
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THE PETROLEUM STRIKE. ON JULY 28, PENGASSAN (PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION) UNION OFFICIALS VISITED U.S. OIL COMPANIES AND VOICED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT EMPLOYING THEIR NORMAL STAFF LEVELS. PENGASSAN OFFICIALS SAID THEY DID NOT WANT THEIR LETTER TO BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT LETTER BUT ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING ALL COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STRIKE.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION CLOSELY AND TO REMIND ALL AMERICANS TO EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN TRAVELLING TO NIGERIA.

Q: HOW MUCH OIL PER YEAR DOES THE U.S. RECEIVE FROM NIGERIA?

A: THE UNITED STATES IMPORTS 11 PERCENT (291 MILLION

BARRELS) OF ITS CRUDE OIL FROM NIGERIA. (11 PERCENT
IMPORTS, NOT CONSUMPTION)

Q: WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN NIGERIA?

A: THERE ARE 160 OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS
IN NIGERIA. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TOTALS 7,000.

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
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RESPECT FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT ENSURES THAT THE
WILL OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE IS RESPECTED.

Q: ARE WE CONSIDERING AN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST NIGERIA?

A: 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.

(IF PRESSED):

A: THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT CONSIDERING AN OIL EMBARGO
AGAINST NIGERIAN OIL AT THIS TIME.

5. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - GAMBIA: REACTION TO MILITARY

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE
GAMBIA?

A: THE PROVISIONAL RULING COUNCIL CONTINUES TO
CONSOLIDATE POWER. SEVERAL MINISTERS AND PARASTATAL
MANAGERS FROM THE JAWARA GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN DETAINED.

BANJUL REMAINS CALM. THE AIRPORT AND BORDERS ARE OPEN. A
CURFEW REMAINS IN EFFECT.

THERE ARE NO THREATS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AT THIS TIME.
BECAUSE THE FOSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR CIVIL UNREST. AMERICANS

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ARE ADVISED TO POSTPONE NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL TO THE GAMBIA.

Q: WILL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BE AFFECTED?

A: ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESTORED TO POWER, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOT PROMISING.

ACCORDINGLY SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GAMBIA AMOUNTS TO DOLLARS 100,000 IN FY 94.

WE WILL RESTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES PENDING A PROGRAM REVIEW. FY 94 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE GAMBIA EXCEEDS DOLLARS 10 MILLION.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE JAWARA GOVERNMENT?

A: WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE JAWARA GOVERNMENT. OUR AID PROGRAMS HAVE PROMOTED TRANSPARENCY IN THE BANKING AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS, AND WE HAVE SUPPORTED PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT PRESIDENT JAWARA HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ECONOMIC OPENING AND DEMOCRACY. THE MILITARY ACTION HAS SHAKEN
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THESE UNDERPINNINGS OF GAMBIAN SOCIETY. WE BELIEVE THAT ACCOUNTABILITY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS, AND NOT AT THE POINT OF A GUN.

6. STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN - GAMBIA: CONDEMNATION

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THE GAMBIAN NATIONAL ARMY'S EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW THE DULY AND DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT JAWARA. WE URGE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE INSTIGATED THESE ACTIONS TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING DIFFERENCES AND TO ASSURE THE

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COUNTRY'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY.

STATES TO REVIEW ITS SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH A VIEW TO THEIR TERMINATION IN
THE GAMBIA.

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