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Press Guidance - September 26, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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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 KHARTOUM 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
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY

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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
WHITE HOUSE/SITROOM PASS TO NSC STEINBERG 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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1. THE FOLLOWING IS <<RWANDA>> PRESS GUIDANCE (AF AND IO).

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - <<RWANDA>>: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY RPF

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE RPF HAS COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS
ATROCITIES? WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF HARASSMENT AND REPRISALS BY
RPF SOLDIERS AND RETURNING TUTSI REFUGEES AGAINST HUTUS,
PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEASTERN <<RWANDA>>. THE CONTINUED
OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES TO TANZANIA HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR
CONCERN.

FROM THE TIME WE FIRST HEARD THESE REPORTS, WE URGED THE
NEW GOVERNMENT OF <<RWANDA>> TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE NECESSARY
ACTION. WE MADE THIS POINT BOTH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN
KIGALI AND IN MEETINGS BETWEEN VISITING U.S. OFFICIALS AND

RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PRESIDENTIAL
MISSION ALSO RAISED THESE REPORTS.

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THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT REPRISALS ARE NOT THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED THE ATTACKS WERE ISOLATED INCIDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE WORKING TO ENSURE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE PROBLEM MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED IS CONTROVERSIAL. THE UN IS INVESTIGATING AND HAS DISCUSSED
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THE MATTER WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH UNAMIR THE CRITICAL NEED TO PLACE PEACEKEEPERS IN THE SOUTHEAST WHERE THE REPORTS OF ABUSES HAVE BEEN CENTERED. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE UN IS DISPATCHING A CONTINGENT TO THE AREA.

Q: WAS THIS RAISED DURING UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH'S TRIP?
CAN WE GET A WRAP UP ON THE TRIP?

A: UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH IS WINDING UP A VISIT TO THE REGION TODAY. HE SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN <<RWANDA>> AND, ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, HE RAISED OUR CONCERNS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND URGED IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE THE REPORTS OF ABUSES AND TAKE STEPS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AGREED THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS REQUIRED, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING WITH THE UN IN THIS INVESTIGATION.

IN BURUNDI, UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH URGED THE PARTIES TO COMPLETE THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION PROCESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE COUNTRY COULD MOVE FORWARD WITH ITS DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION.

Q: OTHER THAN DEMARCHES, WHAT ELSE ARE THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING TO ADDRESS THE REPORTS OF RPF ABUSES?

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A: THE U.S. IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE UN TO COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 4,200 UNAMIR PERSONNEL IN <<RWANDA>>; THE 5,500

FORCE SHOULD BE FULLY DEPLOYED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE PUSHING TO HAVE THE UN COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FIRST GROUP OF 25 SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE U.S. HAS PLEDGED A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 750,000 AND HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT OF MONITORS. THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER'S PLAN OF ACTION INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 150 MONITORS, FORENSICS EXPERTS, AND OTHER SPECIALISTS, AND THE UN WILL BE APPEALING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

WE ARE ALSO PRESSING FOR RAPID COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, OR OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES. WE EXPECT THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE ITS INTERIM REPORT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, AND WE INTEND TO MOVE QUICKLY THEREAFTER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TRIBUNAL.

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Q: WOULD THE TRIBUNAL ALSO PROSECUTE CASES INVOLVING RPF ATTACKS?

A: WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRIBUNAL MUST BE EVEN-HANDED IN METING OUT JUSTICE AND THAT ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN <<RWANDA>> SINCE APRIL -- REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THEY MAY HAVE FOUGHT FOR OR SUPPORTED -- SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Q: WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO THESE REPORTS HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN <<RWANDA>>?

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAT OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTANCE DEPEND ON SERIOUS EFFORTS BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROMOTE REFUGEE RETURN, INTERNAL RECOVERY, AND, ULTIMATELY, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT QUICKLY TO END THESE

LIVES ARE PROTECTED AND REFUGEES WILL FEEL SAFE TO RETURN. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR AND MOVE TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO RETURN? IF SO, WILL THESE REPORTS CAUSE YOU TO CHANGE THAT POLICY?

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A: OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS NOT CHANGED. FROM THE BEGINNING, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS IN <<RWANDA>> THAT WILL FACILITATE THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF REFUGEES IN SAFETY.

WE OPPOSE INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND DO NOT SUPPORT ENCOURAGING REFUGEE RETURN IF IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT REPATRIATION CAN BE DONE SAFELY.

OUR DEMARCHES TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF EXPANDED UNAMIR AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS, ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY SITUATION AND THEREBY FACILITATE SAFE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS OF FORMER GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS ENGAGING OR PLANNING TO ENGAGE IN GUERRILLA WARFARE?

A: WE REMAIN CONCERNED BY INSECURITY IN THE BORDER AREA BETWEEN ZAIRE AND <<RWANDA>>. RECENT SECURITY INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN TRACED TO THE PRESENCE OF COHESIVE UNITS OF MEMBERS OF THE FORMER RWANDAN ARMED FORCES AMONG THE REFUGEE POPULATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT SMALL GROUPS OF FORMER RWANDAN ARMED FORCES MAY HAVE RE-ENTERED <<RWANDA>>. AS YET, HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT THIS IS AN ORGANIZED INCURSION.

RETURN TO <<RWANDA>> OF REFUGES HAS BEEN INHIBITED BY
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HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION BY MEMBERS OF THE FORMER RWANDAN ARMED FORCES, HJTU MILITAS AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF

THE FORMER RWANDAN GOVERNMENT.

THE CONTINUED INSECURITY ALONG THE BORDER HIGHLIGHTS THE
THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO WORK WITH
THE UN TO ACCELERATE DEPLOYMENT OF A FULL COMPLEMENT OF
UNAMIR PEACEKEEPERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS TO <<RWANDA>>.

3. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - <<RWANDA>>: RWANDAN ATROCITIES

Q: WHAT IS THE UN DOING TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF
ATROCITIES BY SOLDIERS OF THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT IN
THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY?

A: THE UN HAS SENT UNAMIR FORCES TO THE AREA AND THUS FAR
THEY HAVE FOUND NO PROOF OF MASSACRES BY TROOPS OF THE NEW
RWANDAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: DOES THE US GOVERNMENT ACCEPT THE UNAMIR REPORTS?

A: THE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO
REACH ANY FINAL CONCLUSIONS. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAS
ASSURED US THAT REPRISALS ARE AGAINST ITS POLICY AND THAT
TROOPS WHO COMMIT CRIMES WILL BE PUNISHED. WE SUPPORT
CONTINUED MONITORING BY UN FORCES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
MONITORS.

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