

7-13-1994

RPF Representative on French Withdrawal, Partition Issue

US Embassy Rwanda

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-00

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CORRESPONDENT GERARD LECLERC, DATE AND PLACE NOT GIVEN; "LES QUATRE VERITES" PROGRAM -- LIVE OR RECORDED)

INFO AFP-01 AS-01 XYA-02 XW-01 KE-01 PMA-01 ZF-01 IV-01
RW-01 GB-01 /011 A1 SDB

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 EUR-00 TEDE-00 /002W
-----SBFSAC 130921Z /38

P 130912Z JUL 94
FM FBIS LONDON UK
TO FBIS RESTON VA
DIO CANBERRA AS
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
ACCIS LANGLEY AFB VA
UTAS RAMSTEIN AB GE//INOW//
JICPAC HONOLULU HI
AIC NORFOLK VA
CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
FBIS RESTON VA//POLCH//
CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
FBIS BRUSSELS BE
FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//
ONI SUTLAND MD//N2//
MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
FAISA FT BRAGG NC
DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
VOA WASH DC
AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS//POL//
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/WECA//
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDAO PARIS FR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BONN//PAXSON OCA//
AMEMBASSY BONN//POL//
AMEMBASSY BONN//DAO//
AMEMBASSY BONN//ECON//
DIP OPERATIONS GROUP CARISLE BKS PA
FBIS ABIDJAN IV
FBIS VIENNA AU
MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD
USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOAM//
US SURVEY SEC SHAPE BE
UCIRF AUGSBURG GE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
SHAPE BE//PIO//
ACCT FBID-EWDK

UNCLAS 8A/RWAMP FRAMP FRACT 866

WARNING: ATTN C1FM

SERIAL: LD1307091294

COUNTRY: RWANDA
SUBJ: RPF REPRESENTATIVE ON FRENCH WITHDRAWAL, PARTITION ISSUE

SOURCE: PARIS FRANCE-2 TELEVISION NETWORK IN FRENCH 0550 GMT 13 JUL 94

TEXT:

//((INTERVIEW WITH FRANCOIS RUTAYISIRE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT, IDENTIFIED BY SCREEN CAPTION, BY

((TEXT)) ((LECLERC)) GOOD MORNING, FRANCOIS RUTAYISIRE.
((RUTAYISIRE)) GOOD MORNING.

((LECLERC)) FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER FRANCOIS LEOTARD YESTERDAY
ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF 300 FRENCH SOLDIERS BEFORE 31 JULY. THE
REMAINING FRENCH TROOPS CURRENTLY IN RWANDA ARE DUE TO WITHDRAW
WITHIN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS. NOW, THE RPF ((RWANDAN PATRIOTIC
FRONT)) HAS ENJOINED FRANCE TO LEAVE RWANDA AS EARLY AS THE END OF
THIS MONTH. WHY, I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, THIS INTRANSIGENCE?

((RUTAYISIRE)) IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT THIS CORRESPONDS TO A
COMMITMENT BY FRANCE, ADOPTED THROUGH THE AUTHORIZED VOICE OF ITS
PRIME MINISTER, WHO SAID THAT, WITH REGARD TO OPERATION TURQUOISE,
THE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD END ON 31 JULY AT THE LATEST.
THE RPF IS ONLY ASKING FRANCE TO RESPECT THE COMMITMENT IT ADOPTED
PUBLICLY.

((LECLERC)) THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT THERE IS NO RELIEF; THE UN
TROOPS, AMONG OTHERS, ARE NOT READY TO RELIEVE THE FRENCH TROOPS.
IF THERE IS NO SUCH RELIEF, DOES THIS NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE AN
EVEN GREATER DISASTER THAN THE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE SO
FAR?

((RUTAYISIRE)) THE PROBLEM IS THAT OPERATION TURQUOISE WAS SET UP
VERY QUICKLY. WE SAID THE FOLLOWING: THERE ARE AFRICAN FORCES WHICH
ARE READY... ((PAUSES)) THE TROOPS ARE READY TO GO TO RWANDA, THEY
ONLY LACK THE MEANS, THEY LACK THE LOGISTICS. FRANCE HAS THE MEANS
AND THE LOGISTICS; THE PROOF IS THAT WE SAW THAT, WITHIN LESS THAN
48 HOURS, WITHIN ONE WEEK, EVERYTHING WAS READY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
NECESSARY AT THAT TIME TO GIVE THESE MEANS, THESE LOGISTICS, TO
NEUTRAL FORCES WHICH WERE READY TO LIVE IN RWANDA, THAT IS IT.

((LECLERC)) WHY DO YOU BASICALLY REJECT THIS FRENCH INTERVENTION,
OPERATION TURQUOISE, THE AIM OF WHICH -- IT HAS BEEN PROVEN ON THE
GROUND -- IS A PURELY HUMANITARIAN ONE? THE AIM IS TO RESCUE
CIVILIANS, CHILDREN.

((RUTAYISIRE)) IF ONE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE ROLE PLAYED BY
FRANCE IN THAT COUNTRY, WHERE A TRAGEDY -- THERE IS NOW TALK OF 1
MILLION DEAD...

((LECLERC, INTERRUPTING)) DOES THIS FIGURE LOOK PLAUSIBLE TO YOU?

((RUTAYISIRE)) I BELIEVE THAT THOSE ON THE GROUND ARE IN A BETTER
POSITION TO GIVE FIGURES, I DO NOT REJECT THEM. WHAT I WANTED TO
SAY IS THAT FRANCE HAS PLAYED A PART, IT IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE RWANDAN TRAGEDY. FOR YEARS ON END, RWANDA WAS UNDER A FASCIST
DICTATORSHIP AND FRANCE SUPPORTED IT MILITARILY AS EARLY AS 1990.
FRANCE REINFORCED ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN 1992 AND IT SUPPORTED
THIS FASCISM MILITARILY, DIPLOMATICALLY, FINANCIALLY, AND
POLITICALLY. CONSEQUENTLY, FRANCE HAS PLAYED A PART IN THE CURRENT
RWANDAN TRAGEDY. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT UP TO FRANCE TO WANT TO
SAY NOW: WE ARE GOING TO PLAY A HUMANITARIAN PART. I WOULD LIKE TO
TELL YOU SOMETHING. WHEN THE TRAGEDY STARTED, WHEN THERE WAS TALK
OF 200,000 OR 300,000 DEAD, FRANCE VOTED AT THE UN IN FAVOR OF THE
WITHDRAWAL OF UN SOLDIERS. AT A TIME WHEN, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE
MASSACRES -- 300,000-400,000 DEAD -- FRANCE REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE WORD GENOCIDE AT THE UN. ONCE THE GENOCIDE WAS ALMOST OVER, WE
WERE TOLD: WITHIN A FEW HOURS, IT IS A MATTER OF DAYS, IT IS
NECESSARY TO INTERVENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
NECESSARY TO INTERVENE BEFOREHAND, AND FRANCE DID NOT PLAY A PART
TOWARD THAT. WE BELIEVE THAT FRANCE IS IN THE WORST POSITION TO
INTERVENE.

((LECLERC)) YES, BUT OTHERS ARE NOT INTERVENING AND THE URGENCY
WAS TO TRY AND LIMIT THE MASSACRES. TODAY THERE IS TALK OF 2.5
MILLION REFUGEES FLOCKING TOWARD THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. HOW CAN
WE AVOID MORE TRAGEDIES, AND HOW CAN WE AVOID FURTHER ABUSES AGAINST
THE HUTUS, THIS TIME?

((RUTAYISIRE)) IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT, IN THAT
ZONE... ((PAUSES)) WHO IS TAKING REFUGE THERE? MAINLY, THERE ARE

MANY, MANY MILITIAMEN...

((LECLERC, INTERRUPTING)) THERE ARE ALSO 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE, IT

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'S NOT...

((RUTAYISIRE, INTERRUPTING)) I AM GETTING THERE. THERE ARE MILITIAMEN, THERE ARE SOLDIERS OF THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES WHO, AS THEY ARE LOSING POSITIONS, ARE ASKING CIVILIANS AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO FOLLOW THEM IN THEIR STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHERE THEIR STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL IS TAKING PLACE.

I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS... ((PAUSES)) IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE RPF IS NOT FIGHTING AGAINST CIVILIANS. ONCE IT HAD TAKEN KIGALI, ONCE IT WAS IN CONTROL, IT ASKED CIVILIANS TO COME BACK. THOSE WHO WANT TO COME BACK TO KIGALI CAN COME BACK TO KIGALI. THE SOLUTION 'S NOT TO CREATE AN INTAKE OF AIR SO THAT CIVILIANS TAKE REFUGE IN THAT ZONE. THE SOLUTION IS RATHER TO SAY: THOSE BEHIND THE TRAGEDY, THAT IS SOLDIERS OF THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL LEADERS, AND MILITIAMEN, SHOULD BE DISARMED ON THE ONE HAND, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO CIVILIANS THAT IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO TAKE REFUGE, NOT TO FOLLOW AT ANY COST THOSE WHO ARE LOSING.

((LECLERC)) WHY NOT PROCLAIM A CEASE-FIRE RIGHT NOW?

((RUTAYISIRE)) MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS MUST BE MET. WE KNOW THAT POLITICAL LEADERS ARE CONTINUING IN WHAT IS LEFT -- IN THE WEST OF THE COUNTRY THEY ARE MAKING INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ANYTHING, AND THESE POLITICAL LEADERS ARE BEHAVING AS IF THEY ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS NECESSARY TO RENDER THEM HARMLESS. MILITARILY, THESE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES, THESE MILITIAMEN, ARE STILL HOLDING POSITIONS. THEY ARE THE ONES BEHIND THE TRAGEDY. AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT CLEARLY DENOUNCE CLEARLY, AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT SAY, WE STOP, THEN THE RPF CAN ONLY CONTINUE FIGHTING AGAINST THEM.

total surrender

((LECLERC)) IS THE RPF GOING TO GO ON RESPECTING THE HUMANITARIAN

ZONE PROTECTED BY THE FRENCH TROOPS?

((RUTAYISIRE)) WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SO-CALLED HUMANITARIAN ZONE MUST NOT BECOME THE PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY. WE WILL FIGHT AGAINST THIS, POLITICALLY, MILITARILY -- POLITICALLY, DIPLOMATICALLY. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST A DE FACTO PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY.

((LECLERC)) BRIEFLY, DO YOU THINK THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BUILD RWANDA AGAIN, TO HAVE ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO SLAUGHTERED ONE ANOTHER LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN?

((RUTAYISIRE)) IT IS NECESSARY. IT WILL TAKE TIME. IT WILL TAKE PATIENCE AND IT WILL REQUIRE POLITICAL GOOD WILL, AND THE RPF HAS ALL THIS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MODERATE POLITICAL FORCES IN THE COUNTRY.

((LECLERC)) FRANCOIS RUTAYISIRE, THANK YOU, HAVE A NICE DAY. !
(ENDALL) 130550 HORLER/MC 13/0914Z JUL WC 1088

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