

7-20-1992

George H. W. Bush Letter

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THE WHITE HOUSE

July 20, 1992

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to congratulate you for your success in bringing Rwanda one step closer to peace. My government is greatly encouraged by the peace agreement Foreign Minister Ngulinzira signed with the Rwandan Patriotic Front in Arusha, Tanzania, July 12. This historic event demonstrates to the world the commitment of both parties not only to end the senseless killing of Rwandans by Rwandans, but to establish a democracy based upon national unity, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

In my April letter to you, I expressed my hope that the new political opening offered by your courageous decision to include opposition parties in the transitional government would contribute to the restoration of peace on your borders and to a period of calm and harmony within Rwanda. By your support for the peace-making process, you are well on the way to realizing that hope. Clearly, there is still much difficult work to be done in the next few months, and good faith and compromises will be required by both sides. But this opportunity for peace must be seized immediately and wholeheartedly. If lost now, it may never come again.

Your personal efforts, now more than ever, are essential not only to achieving a permanent peace within Rwanda, but to resolving the serious refugee problems that have so destabilized the region in recent years. Rwanda's willingness to negotiate and implement a political settlement to its historic problems can serve as a model for Africa and indeed for the world. We look to you now, Mr. President, to make this agreement work.

The United States Government will continue to support Rwanda in this process of restoring peace and harmony within your borders. We look forward to 1993 as the great year of peace and democratic elections in your country.

Sincerely,

George Bush

His Excellency
Juvénal Habyarimana
President of the Republic of Rwanda
Kigali, Rwanda