

11-30-1995

Jimmy Carter to President Clinton on Rwanda

Jimmy Carter

Orig. 11/8 letter pouched to Addressee
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

'95 NOV 10 P3:41

November 8, 1995

Dear Mr. President:

Let me congratulate your government for its decisive action in detaining eight Rwandan exiles suspected of genocide.

The prosecution of such individuals by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal will go a long way toward creating the necessary climate in Rwanda for national reconciliation by breaking the cycle of impunity.

As the first African government to demonstrate leadership by taking bold and constructive steps on this issue, Zambia is defining the proper course of action for others to undertake. I applaud your government for its leadership in this regard.

Sincerely,

Anthony Lake

Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

His Excellency
Frederick Chiluba
President of the Republic of Zambia
Lusaka

*DATE
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or
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11/30/95

To President Bill Clinton

We have just completed our visit to East Africa, and a summary report and a communique from the Cairo conference are attached.

There is one very important issue that needs to be addressed quickly and sensitively by the White House, State Department, and our United Nations delegation.

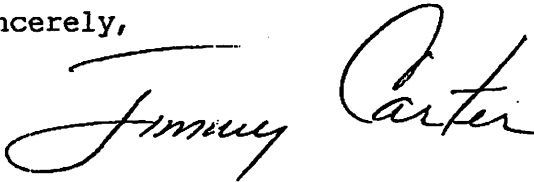
As you know, the original mandate for the UNAMIR forces in Rwanda was for six months, ending June 8th, and was reluctantly extended by the Rwandans until December 8th. There is now no need for the 1800 troops to maintain order or for the protection of lives or property. However, the removal of them at this sensitive time would send a strong negative signal to refugees who have become convinced through intimidation and propaganda that they cannot return safely to their homes.

President Bizimungu and other Rwandan leaders have agreed and announced publicly that UNAMIR can remain for another three months, provided their mandate is to "encourage and expedite the safe repatriation of refugees," or words to that effect. A quick initiative is needed from the United Nations, and the sensitivities of the Rwandans about their sovereignty need to be respected.

My hope is that the influence of our country can be used to resolve this particular issue. If so, there is every expectation that this refugee crisis will be successfully addressed.

As usual, I will be available to discuss this or other Great Lakes issues with whomever you designate.

Sincerely,



cc: Secretary of State Warren Christopher
UN Ambassador Madeline Albright