

2-13-1993

France Issues Habyarimana an Ultimatum

N/A

BACKGROUND

OKW
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(NOTE: The following information will be confirmed by a NIACT IMMEDIATE cable when, and if, Kigali's communications equipment can be fixed.)

According to Ambassador Flaten, the reason for the visit of Delaye and de la Sabliere to Kigali was to give Habyarimana an ultimatum: unless you can pull your government together in the face of military and governmental crisis, there is nothing we can do to help you. The message was apparently that Mitterand will not defend Habyarimana personally and the French will only assist if Habyarimana leads a united government. The two worked with the President and the Prime Minister until 2 AM this morning to prepare a joint declaration that will be announced soon:

1. The President and the PM take note of the Arusha protocol of January 9 and commit themselves to examine the modalities (modalites) for implementation (mise en application). (The wording was chosen very carefully in French.)
2. They also commit themselves to democracy.
3. They also commit to overcome the obstacles (entrave) in the government. (Habyarimana refused the word blocage. This element refers largely to the problem of suspending or removing local officials implicated in human rights violations.)
4. They also commit themselves to agree on a program for further negotiations at Arusha.

Habyarimana convoked Ambassador Flaten and the Belgian ambassador this morning to inform them of the declaration. He thanked Ambassador Flaten for USG assistance up to now and asked for more in convincing the RPF to stop shooting and return to the ceasefire lines negotiated last July.

Delaye and de la Sabliere have flown on to Kampala to meet with Museveni today. They are convinced that the military situation has gotten worse, with new areas of combat around Kagitumba in the northeast (where the original attack occurred in 1990). They believe that the military situation is almost hopeless and that, unless Habyarimana can unite his government now and take immediate steps, the Rwandan army, which they believe only 40% effective, will soon fall apart and the RPF will march on Kigali. They are also convinced that Uganda is resupplying the RPF army in a major way. We are unable to confirm these French reports. Theogen Rudasingwa has expressed surprise at the Kagitumba report and will provide us soon with whatever information he can get.