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## OATSD-PA Memorandum on Beginning of Rwandan Genocide

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HOUSEUCOM Public Affairs

12 April 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR OATSD-PA (CAPT Doubleday)

SUBJECT: DISTANT RUNNER UPDATE WRAP-UP (RWANDA NEO)

1. In support of today's Press Brief, the following information on the Rwanda NEO (DISTANT RUNNER) is provided for your use:

● The U.S. European Command forward deployed U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force forces Saturday, April 9, to Burundi and Kenya as a precautionary measure in the event a non-combatant evacuation (NEO) was required for approximately 250 U.S. citizens in Rwanda. That country experienced a drastic escalation of violence at the end of last week that left many thousands dead. We are redeploying our forces today.

● Our U.S. Embassy in Rwanda completed an ordered departure by overland convoys, but our forward deployed forces airlifted 242 U.S. and foreign nationals from Burundi to Nairobi, Kenya. Additionally, we are flying a total of 15 U.S. Air Force C-5 sorties to transport Belgian military forces and equipment from Europe to Kenya to assist in their operation to evacuate their citizens.

● Approximately 330 U.S. Marines and Navy medical personnel of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are redeploying today and returning to the USS Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) in the Indian Ocean. That force received orders late Friday night to deploy from the sea to Bujumbura, Burundi so that a force would be immediately available in event a non-combatant evacuation was needed. The USS Peleliu ARG moved off the coast of Kenya, and the MEU (Forward) flew to Burundi the next day.

●● Once in Burundi, the Marines provided valuable assistance to on-scene Embassy personnel and bolstered EUCOM's command and control capabilities. The force included two Navy doctors and 14 Navy corpsmen, 4 KC-130 aircraft from Mombasa and three CH-53E helicopters. In addition to providing command and control capabilities to the European Command on-scene, this force assisted in the reception and forward movement of our evacuees by U.S. Air Force C-141 airlift to Nairobi since Sunday. The MEU's redeployment should be completed later today. The 11th MEU is commanded by Colonel William C. McMullen, USMC.

● Four U.S. Air Force C-141 aircraft prepositioned April 10th at Bujumbura, Burundi (two) and Mombasa, Kenya (two) transported a total of 242 evacuees to Nairobi, Kenya through today--141 U.S. citizens and 76 foreign nationals to Nairobi on April 10-11, and a flight today carrying 25 passengers. The aircraft, from the Air Mobility Command (AMC), were at or enroute Sigonella, Crete, Diego Garcia and Senegal on other airlift missions when they were diverted to support U.S. European Command operations--an immediate response to an urgent mission.

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS RWANDA WRAP-UP**

• The U.S. Transportation Command is also conducting a strategic airlift of Belgian military forces and equipment at the request of that government. Eight of 15 U.S. Air Force C-5 missions have been completed. There are an additional four C-5 missions taking place today, April 12, and the remaining three are scheduled for tomorrow. So far, we have transported 65 vehicles, 178 personnel and 35 pallets of supplies from Europe to Nairobi, Kenya. We expect to move a total of 500 personnel and 276 vehicles from Bonn/Cologne airport in Germany and Melsbroek, Belgium to Nairobi. The vehicles included armored personnel carriers and jeeps. All of the C-5's are assigned to the Air Mobility Command. The Belgian government is handling the onward movement of these forces into Rwanda from Nairobi.



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