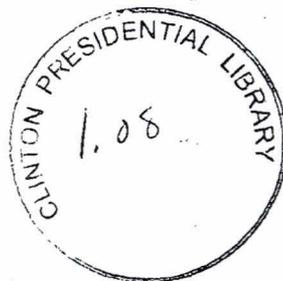


DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-040, document no. 39
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: March 18, 2014



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DECL:7/21/05

TO: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: AF - George E. Moose
SUBJECT: Your Meeting on Burundi with NGOs, White House,
July 25, 1630

I. PURPOSE

- o Inform NGOs of USG policy objectives, accomplishments to date and challenges ahead.
- o Engage NGOs in discussion of initiatives they and USG can take.
- o Convince NGOs Rwanda/Burundi is receiving both the high level attention and resources necessary to meet our policy objectives.

II. KEY POINTS

State of Play

- o Security has been steadily declining over the last two months, as Tutsi extremists have moved to push Hutus out of parts of the capital, Bujumbura. Meanwhile, the Hutu opposition has reportedly formed a government in exile and threatened military reprisals. The Hutu-majority government has become increasingly marginalized and essentially reduced to a near-impotent facade. Some observers predict a descent into massacres on the Rwandan scale. Others expect that the current level of violence and insecurity will continue or increase (but not to Rwanda levels) for months. NGOs, like many players in the international community, are becoming frustrated by the lack of visible forward progress in Burundi. They sometimes express this frustration by criticizing the USG for a perceived lack of high level attention and activity.

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Format and NGO Participants

- o A tentative list of NGO participants is attached. The tentative schedule is that NSC Advisor Tony Lake will give welcoming remarks, introduce yourself, Brian Atwood and DOD Undersecretary Walter Slocum, and then give a short overview of USG policy in the region and USG leadership in organizing the international community. You will then be asked to speak for three minutes, followed by three minute presentations by Atwood and Slocum. Afterwards, Lake will open the floor and moderate 40 minutes of discussion before making concluding remarks. Though the subject is Burundi, questions might be asked about Rwanda. Everything said is off the record.

III. TALKING POINTS

- o Emphasize the high degree of attention which you are giving to Burundi and Rwanda.
- o State that, from the beginning, we have followed a deliberate strategy focused on preventing the kind of explosion in Burundi which we saw in Rwanda. That strategy has been to provide as much support as we can to the Secretary-General's representative, and to make the Burundians aware that they are an object of international attention by sending high level visitors and messages, and through the good work of Amb. Krueger in highlighting reality as we see it. In some aspects, that strategy has worked. We still have a Hutu President and a National Assembly. But, we are not fooling ourselves into thinking that things are going well. In fact, everybody in this room knows that things are further deteriorating. And, for our part, we have seen the need to take increasingly vigorous measures, but always with the adage in mind "This above all, do no harm."
- o Hand out copies of the attached fact sheet on preventive diplomacy and other USG initiatives.
- o Briefly discuss some of these preventive diplomacy initiatives.

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-----Give the status of the Burundi Commission of Inquiry. We applaud UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's July 17 announcement that he is setting up a Commission of Inquiry into the October, 1993 coup attempt in Burundi and its aftermath. We are proud to say that this announcement is a direct result of our discussions with the UN in the days leading up to his speech.

-----Along with the OAU and other members of the international community, we are pushing hard for an all-party regional political conference. We are disappointed that politicians in Bujumbura rejected a call for all-Burundi conference in Addis Ababa for July 24, but will continue to apply pressure on this issue.

-----We understand that, in response to the rejection of the July 24 conference, the OAU will be convening a conference of regional African foreign ministers and the OAU Central Organ to seek an African solution to the Burundi situation, a move which we applaud and support.

- o Discuss military intervention. State that we have been experiencing concern about the security situation in Burundi since early March, and started contingency planning at that time. We shared this plan with a number of our allies, saying that we would do lift and other limited support, and we have gotten no takers.

IV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- o Q. How will the US vote on Rwanda's request to lift the arms embargo against its government?

A. We will vote for it, with certain conditions. The most important of these is that the arms not be passed on to third parties, i.e., to Burundi. This was a tough call, and I know it won't be universally popular. However, you have to remember that the government of Rwanda is one which we support. They are trying to defend themselves against armed genocidists. To continue the embargo denies them the tools to do that.
- o Q. Is consideration being given to an arms embargo against Burundi and Burundians?

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A. Yes, it is being considered. Many observers believe that implementing an embargo on Burundi will lead the military to undertake a coup. We believe that an embargo is the right step, and are proceeding cautiously, due to these concerns.

- o Q. What is the US doing to halt arms flows into the sub-region?

A. We are pushing hard to get observers put into the airports in the region, especially in Eastern Zaire, and think that we are very close to achieving this. We are also supporting calls for a Commission of Inquiry into arms flows in the area.

- o Q. Aren't the French and others supplying arms to the rebel Hutus?

A. Since this allegation was first made by Human Rights Watch and others, we have asked the intelligence community to look hard for any foreign government involvement, including the French, and they haven't found any. The French categorically deny any involvement. We are pushing for a Commission of Inquiry to look into the whole question of arms flows.

- o Q. What is the status of human rights observers for Burundi?

A. The plan to put civilian human rights monitors on the ground in Burundi has necessarily been revised to include only Bujumbura. Due to security concerns, it appears that observers will not be put in the countryside for now.

- o Q. Is it true that the OAU is pulling its military observers out of Burundi?

A. We too have heard rumors, and have recently learned that the OAU Ambassador has asked to withdraw the observers. We are checking this with OAU Secretary General Salim Salim, and will ask him to leave them in.

- o Q. Why doesn't the US bar Burundian extremists from coming here?

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o A. We do. We have placed a number of extremists in our look-out system. They and their families are barred from receiving visas. Other nations are doing the same. Given our concerns for the security of personnel on the ground, we have not publicized our actions.

o Q. What is the status of a UN regional special envoy for Rwanda and Burundi?

A. This is an idea we have given full support to. We are hopeful that the Secretary-General will make an announcement soon. It has been suggested that statesmen such as Brian Mulroney of Canada or Julius Nyerere of Tanzania would be good candidates. I would be interested in hearing any suggestions from this group as to who would be a good candidate for this job.

o Q. What is the status of the War Crimes Tribunal in Rwanda?

A. Justice Goldstone is meeting with Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali tomorrow to try to straighten out some of the administrative and bureaucratic issues. The Tribunal already has a budget of \$10 million, a staff of 10 and two shipments of supplies on the ground in Kigali. There will be 21 more investigators in August. The Tribunal plans to have some indictments before the end of 1995. The slow progress on setting up this Tribunal is a source of frustration to everybody, but it's beginning to look like it will work.

Q. Why don't Western countries freeze the assets of extremists?

A. We're taking a hard look at effective ways of doing this, and will be working on it.

Attachments:

- Tab 1 - Preventive Diplomacy in Burundi (copies to be handed out)
- Tab 2 - Preventive Diplomacy in Rwanda (copies to be handed out)
- Tab 3 - Tentative List of Attendees

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PM:RWharton
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DRL/MLA:JRosenblatt
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