

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 7, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE DEATHS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI

I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi last night in a plane crash outside Kigali, Rwanda. The two Presidents were returning from a regional summit in Arusha, Tanzania, intended to bring an end to the civil wars that have plagued their two countries for more than three decades.

Both Presidents were seeking means to end the bloodshed in their troubled countries and facilitate a movement toward peace and democracy. Their deaths are a tragic blow to the longsuffering Rwandan and Burundian people.

I am equally horrified that elements of the Rwandan security forces have sought out and murdered Rwandan officials, including the Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

On behalf of the people of the United States, I extend my condolences to the families of the deceased Presidents and the Prime Minister as well as to the peoples of the two nations.

I strongly condemn these actions and I call on all parties to cease any such actions immediately. These tragedies must not derail Rwanda and Burundi from pursuing national reconciliation and democracy.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 10, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POOL

The South Portico

3:55 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Today, while negotiations were being held on a cease-fire in Bosnia, the Serbs launched a new attack on Gorazde. These attacks have resulted in heavy casualties and have put United Nations personnel there at risk.

UNPROFOR Commander General Rose requested and received authorization from U.N. civilian authorities to receive NATO close air support. Under existing authority and policy, NATO forces promptly responded. U.S. F-16 aircraft under NATO command attacked at least one target identified by UNPROFOR. French aircraft under NATO are now conducting a damage assessment.

We have said we would act if we were requested to do so. We have now done so and will do so again if we are requested. The Serbs should cease their attacks on Gorazde and should pull back. The talks on cessation of hostilities in Bosnia should resume. We were at quite an important point in these discussions when these attacks interrupted the progress of the discussions, and I very much hope that now the attacks will cease, that the Serbs will pull back, that the talks will resume on cessation of hostilities.

I have a great deal of confidence in General Rose's determination. We strongly supported his decision, and I applaud the rapid response of the U.N. civilian authorities.

Q What about Serb retaliation, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have no reason to believe there will be any. We were retaliating. We -- the United Nations made it absolutely clear that there were U.N. personnel in Gorazde, that an attack on the town would be interpreted as a clear violation of the rules. And it happened anyway. General Rose asked for the air support and civilian authorities approved it in a prompt fashion, and we supported it.

Q After the bombing raid, we had reports that there were anti-aircraft missiles fired into the suburbs. Do you know --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't -- excuse me?

Q at the houses.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't confirm that at this time.

Q Mr. President, did you know about the bombing raid before it took place?

THE PRESIDENT: We knew that General Rose had asked for it before it took place, yes. With only -- it all happened in fairly rapid succession. There was not a long time delay now between when he asked for the support from the civilian authorities and when they gave it. But we've been keeping on top of this, you know. I -- on two successive days, Thursday and Friday, I talked with the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and National Security Advisor about this. I was kept informed yesterday, and then we talked again this morning. It became clear to me that General Rose would probably ask, and when he asked I was told and we were told as soon as Mr. Akashi approved it.

Q So what do you think is going to happen next, sir? Do you think this is the end of it, or are you fearful that NATO will have to strike again?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think we have to be firm. We have seen in the past that when we have been firm in support of the United Nations mission, that it has tended to further negotiations. That's all we're trying to do, is to further negotiations.

Let me make one other comment, if I might. As you all know, we've been very concerned about the safety of Americans in Rwanda. As far as we know now, the last of the convoys containing all Americans who wish to leave has either passed into Burundi or is about to pass into Burundi.

And I just want to say a special word of thanks and gratitude on behalf of our entire nation to our Ambassador, Ambassador Rawson, for the remarkable way in which he has handled himself and in which he went about guaranteeing the security and safety of American citizens during this very difficult situation. There may be more to say about that tomorrow. But for now, I just think we all ought to be grateful to him for the role he played in getting our people out to safety.

Q Do you think this is a one-time only attack in Bosnia? Do you think we'll have to use our air power again there?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have to be prepared to do it. But I don't have any reason to believe one way or the other -- I'm not hopeful, I'm not skeptical. I just think that -- you know, sometimes the command and control is not very tight there; the communications aren't all that tight. This may have been something that happened that was not authorized by any central authority on the part of the Bosnian Serbs. So I just think this is a clear expression of the will of NATO and the will of the United Nations and the UNPROFOR operation there. And it's a clear call to the Serbs to pull back from Gorazde and resume the negotiations.

Thank you very much.

Q Do you have a response to the minister who wants to legalize drugs, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I disagree.

END4:04 P.M. EDT

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 30, 1994

RADIO MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA

The Oval Office

11:20 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: The horrors of civil war and mass killings of civilians in Rwanda, since the tragic deaths of the Rwandan and Burundian Presidents three weeks ago, have shocked and appalled the world community.

On behalf of all of the American people, I call on the Rwandan army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to agree to an immediate cease-fire and return to negotiations aimed at a lasting peace in their country.

I applaud the efforts of regional leaders actively engaged in the quest for peace. I reaffirm the American commitment to participate in renewed negotiations under the Arusha framework.

The pain and suffering of the Rwandan people have touched the hearts of all Americans. It is time for the leaders of Rwanda to recognize their common bond of humanity and to reject the senseless and criminal violence that continues to plague their country.

END11:21 A.M. EDT

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 15, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

In an effort to bring an end to the fighting and growing humanitarian disaster in Rwanda, the Clinton Administration has closed the Embassy of Rwanda and ordered all personnel to leave the country. Representatives of the so-called interim government of Rwanda must depart within five working days.

The White House also announced that it will begin consultations with other United Nations Security Council members to remove representatives of the interim government from Rwanda's seat on the council. The State Department declared that representatives of the Interim Government will be denied access to any Rwandan government financial holdings in the United States.

"The United States cannot allow representatives of a regime that supports genocidal massacre to remain on our soil," President Clinton said.

Noting that the ongoing fighting is creating an even more perilous humanitarian disaster in Rwanda and along its borders, the White House appealed to all forces to agree to an immediate cease-fire. It called on all responsible parties to begin serious talks on forming a transitional government that will lead to genuine power sharing.

The White House applauded the French effort to protect Rwandans at risk, and said the United States would continue to press for rapid deployment of the UN peacekeeping force (UNAMIR) to replace the French. It appealed to the international community to redouble its efforts to deploy those U.N. forces.

The White House again insisted that those Rwandans responsible for genocidal killings and other crimes against humanity be brought to justice. It said it hoped that the United Nations would act swiftly -- under the Security Council Resolution that established a U.N. Commission of Experts -- to create a War Crimes Tribunal.

As the crisis in Rwanda has unfolded, the United States has taken a leading role in efforts to protect the Rwandan people and ensure humanitarian assistance. It has:

- Provided more than \$95 million in relief, including food, medicine and supplies for international organizations and private relief agencies.

- Flown about 100 Defense Department missions into the region to airlift relief supplies.

- Strongly supported an expanded UNAMIR; airlifted 50 armored personnel carriers to Kampala to support the UN peacekeepers; and committed to equipping the U.N.'s Ghanaian peacekeeping battalion.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 16, 1994

Statement by the Press Secretary

The White House announced today that the President has asked U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Brian J. Atwood to travel to the Rwandan border regions in his capacity as Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance. Mr. Atwood will assess relief efforts for the victims of the crisis in Rwanda and the need for enhanced assistance caused by the recent wave of new refugees across the border from Rwanda to Zaire and the increased numbers of displaced persons within Rwanda itself. Mr. Atwood will arrive in Goma, Zaire, on Monday.

The White House reaffirmed its commitment to assist the humanitarian relief effort with food, medicine and other supplies. Since the start of the current crisis in Rwanda in April, the United States has provided a total of about \$100 million, including support for 100 airlift missions. Another 80 missions will be undertaken in the short-term.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Miami, Florida)

For Immediate Release July 18, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

In a further response to the urgent humanitarian crisis in Rwanda and the Zaire border region, the President has authorized the use of an additional \$19 million in emergency relief funds to provide food, medicine, other relief supplies and airlift to the victims of this crisis. These funds, authorized under the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund, will assist the efforts of the international community, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program, to address the needs of refugees and displaced persons in the region.

These additional funds bring the total U.S. humanitarian assistance to Rwanda-Burundi this fiscal year to \$139 million, including \$118 million since the start of the current crisis in April. This assistance has included support for 100 airlift missions. Another 80 missions will be undertaken in response to the immediate crisis.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 27, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Over the last five days, the United States has undertaken a massive relief effort to bring water, medicine and food to refugees from Rwanda. The President today has asked Secretary of Defense Perry and General Joulwan, Commander of U.S. Forces Europe, to travel to the area this weekend for a brief inspection of operations at Goma, Zaire and Entebbe, Uganda. They will report back to the President immediately upon their return.

Since July 22, the United States has delivered 1300 tons of humanitarian goods and water purification equipment and has put 750 people -- including medical personnel, logistics teams, and engineers -- on the ground in the affected areas. The first five sets of water purification equipment arrived yesterday and began immediate operation. Additional purification units are on the way, with some scheduled to arrive today.

In response to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees appeal for assistance in dealing with refugees who have died, the United States has begun to move additional equipment and engineers into the refugee camps.

Limited airport runway and ramp space, however, continues to create bottlenecks and block the delivery of supplies. To remedy this problem, the United States and the United Nations are examining opening additional airfields in Rwanda, including one at Kigali. No decisions have yet been reached.

The United States is also working closely with the United Nations to establish conditions to allow the refugees to return home. Our Ambassador to Rwanda, David Rawson, has had several positive meetings with representatives of the new leadership in Rwanda. He has made clear our views about the need for the leadership to establish a broad-based government, bring about the rule of law, and fulfill its commitments to pursue national reconciliation.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TONY LAKE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI
AND ACTING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JOHN DEUTCH

The Briefing Room

11:21 A.M. EDT

MR. LAKE: If I may, we will answer your questions. We thought it would be useful first if General Shalikashvili were to run through with you the actions that the American military have taken since the President ordered them a week ago to take on responsibility for four of the eight packages of effort that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees asked us to assume.

I said a week ago, when I first announced this, that we could not guarantee in this race against time that we would save every life and meet every need in the camps; and we cannot do so. But I did guarantee that we would do everything we can. And I think the President is well-satisfied -- I certainly am -- that our military are, in fact, doing so.

In fact, yesterday, after General Shalikashvili had run through with the leaders of the nongovernmental organizations what we are doing, I said that I thought that there was only one institution in the world that could accomplish this and that is the American military, and they burst into applause. I will not ask you to do the same thing, but I will turn it over now to General Shalikashvili.

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: What I would like to do, if it's all right with you, is spend just a few moments with you before we turn it over to questions and answers to kind of put in perspective, as I see it, what has happened since the President decided to go to the area and try our very best to make a difference.

The first thing I will say is the very obvious that you so well know and that you and your colleagues have reported on so well. It is an enormous tragedy that's ongoing there by any measure. We're using every means available to us -- intelligence, airplanes and other things -- to give us a clear picture where all the refugees really are and what the conditions of those camps are. And I will show you in a minute a slide where we see all of them are -- sort of in a kind of cartoon fashion -- just to highlight that the problem is larger than just Goma. But it is true that by every information that we have been able to gather so far, the conditions in and around Goma are the most severe and the most taxing.

The second thing I will tell you is also obvious, and that is that I understand well the frustrations of the people in and out of uniform in places like Goma and everywhere else. It would be very strange if they did not feel impatient and frustrated with the flow of humanitarian assistance, with the water purification equipment, with the medical teams because the need is really so very vast. And yet, as much as we race against time to enlarge the airfields, the infrastructure that leads up to the airfields, it will continue for quite some time to be a race against time and against those priorities that far exceed our ability to squeeze all of that in through very limited airfields in the area.

That, by the way, is one of the reasons why the President stated that on an urgent basis we're looking at the possibility of opening Kigali as an additional airfield in our fight against this humanitarian disaster. And I'll say a few more words about that.

Then one final thing I want to say, and then I'll get into the charts, and that is, that despite the tension and despite the frustrations, I, for one, will tell you that I have seldom seen a better cooperation between American military forces there, between the nongovernmental agencies, UNHCR, the French who are there in great numbers and others. It is, despite the frustration that you hear expressed on the ground, which are very understandable, overall an extraordinary cooperative effort where a multitude of organizations are pulling together trying to deal with this as rapidly as we possibly can.

Now, having said that, let me run through a couple charts here, not to show you anything new, but hopefully to try to put in perspective for you. I told you that one of the things that we looked at was the issue of trying to get a better handle of where all the refugees are, in what numbers they might be. And while in Goma, as we well know, the number has been variously reported as a million plus, there was something under a million.

It is, in fact, the area where the world's focus seems to be right now; and rightfully so, because the conditions are worse there than anywhere else. But they are, as you can see by these green areas, lots of other places in and around Rwanda where large numbers of refugees are located.

I put Kigali here prominently in the center of Rwanda to point out to you that if it makes sense to open Kigali, then it would be, in fact, a great help to the overall humanitarian effort in Goma because the distance between Kigali and Goma is only something like 60 miles or so. So it isn't a terribly long distance and it would then give us an alternative to more than double the number of flights that could impact -- humanitarian flights that could impact this tragedy here.

So, for purely a humanitarian standpoint, we are looking at the wisdom of opening up Kigali. We hope to have a recommendation to the President very soon on this issue and then proceed.

Let me just review with you very briefly what it is that about a week ago the President directed us to do. He directed us to open up a hub in Uganda, specifically at Entebbe. That has been done. That hub has some 400 American military personnel there, because fuel in the region is a tremendous problem and if we don't watch, it could become an impediment to this effort.

He also directed us to expand the airlift operations near these refugee camps specifically the Goma airfield. When we first went there Goma could accept about 10 flights a day. We are up to well over 20 now. We are on a 24-hour operation. We think we can grow that with a little bit more, but there's a very finite limit with the runway that's there, the ramp space that's there. And that's why Kigali airfield is such -- from at least that perspective becomes an attractive alternative.

We are doing the necessary surveys in Bukavu airfield as well to see what we can do there to increase its capacity. Throughout this effort to enlarge our infrastructure, the President also directed us to make sure that we continue the humanitarian effort that is flowing the goods, the food, the medicine, the shelter and so on into the area. And I'll show you again we have been doing that.

We know from the very beginning, as you so well reported, that if we're going to get on top of the cholera epidemic and other epidemics that are borne from a lack of sanitation and so on, we really needed to get a handle on water. And so, we went not only to our resources, military resources. We went to the civilian community where we found great help and very innovative equipment. We went to our German colleagues and they have been very forthcoming in this kind of equipment as well. And I'll show you a little bit the direction that we're going.

And, finally, the President asked us to take the necessary steps to establish the conditions that would enable the refugees to return home. So these are the things that we've been tasked to do. Let me tell you briefly how we envision doing that and what you are reporting on now hopefully fits all into those two phases.

The first phase, clearly the most urgent, is to stop the dying and the misery in those camps in and around Goma. And to do so, however, we have to establish not only a command and control structure that could direct this effort, establish and widen as rapidly as we can the transportation system that delivers the goods, that delivers the food, that delivers the medication, the sanitation teams and whatnot. And, finally, you have to concentrate on the very basic needs, which are, first and foremost, water. But there are others, of course, as well.

And then, as rapidly as we can shift to phase two without interfering with the operation that's ongoing in phase one. And phase two must be some way, some way, to help those refugees to return home because it is obvious to all. I think now, that the conditions in those camps in Goma is such that we cannot sustain them there for very long. And that the best answer is to try to get them to go home as soon as possible. And so, we have been conducting the necessary planning, the necessary discussions with UNHCR, with our French colleagues and others to find the best way, the safest way to make it possible for those refugees to return home without there being the implication that somehow we are pushing them to go home. It must be an individual decision on their part, when they feel safe to go home and when they feel the conditions are right to go home.

And I'll talk again about this a little bit more.

The next slide I won't belabor at all very long, but you need to know the people -- the names that you've been hearing like General George Joulwan who's our senior military commander in Europe, and he has been appointed overall responsible for the operation. He, in turn, has sent into the region Lieutenant General Dan Schroeder who in his normal life is the Deputy Commander of U.S. Army in Europe. And he's the overall commander for this operation. He is, today, I believe in Entebbe. He has just come out of Kigali where he conducted the first survey of that airfield to report to us what is involved both from a technical point of view, also from a security point of view, if we chose to recommend to the President to reopen that airfield.

So he has just returned from Kigali. I believe he is either in Goma right now as we speak or in Entebbe. And then General Nix whose normal life is to be the Commander of U.S. Army Forces in Italy, he is and has been for the last few days in Goma and is intended to stay in Goma until we get a better handle on it, on that operation there. So he's the contact for your people down in Goma.

We then, of course, have forces associated with this operation in Frankfurt, in Entebbe, Mombasa, Goma, Bukavu and, if it is appropriate and a decision is made later on, then, of course, some forces would be also located in Kigali to support this humanitarian effort.

Enough about how this is organized. Let me return to this transportation system that we're trying to set up and the sooner we set it up the sooner we're able to reduce, I think, some of the level of frustration that exists there.

The transportation system really starts in Frankfurt where we have established a collection point for all contributions, all things and people that have to flow into the region. And at Rhinemerth there we have a 24-hour operation where, for instance, the German water purification equipment is shipped and then shipped onward into Entebbe or directly into Goma. Some 3,500 miles south of that, Entebbe, where we now have about 400 people whose task it is to operate that airfield 24-hours a day to make sure that there's fuel for the crews, to make sure there's unloading equipment there to transload the equipment, to make sure that there are fresh air crews there so the movement can go on. In essence, run as robust an airfield as we can make it.

From there our attention then shifts to Goma. It is a 24-hour operation in field. In the last few days we've started bringing in C-5 aircraft as well. And to us that was key that we could bring that large capacity of C-5 aircraft. For instance, today there are three C-5s, three C-141s going in addition to all the other kinds of airplanes that are going in.

And while I'm on that point, let me digress for just a second. We have opened that airfield so that everyone, everyone who flies in there whether they are contract aircraft that we contract, whether they're contract aircraft that someone else has contracted, all users could use that airfield 24-hours a day. And it isn't so important whether it's a U.S. airplane that goes in or whether that's a French airplane or a Dutch airplane or a commercial airplane. What's important is since we all fly in support of the priorities established by UNHCR, that we get as many airplanes in as we can. So, to those of you who have heard about the frustrations that not enough U.S. airplanes are landing, the issue is really how many total airplanes are landing that's very important.

And I think, to the best of my knowledge, there are today 26, 27, 28 airplanes going to go in. And that's a far cry from a few days ago -- 10 airplanes. Plus the 10 airplanes before were not the C-5 type aircraft, which can, of course, bring an awful lot more.

So we have not fixed the problem. I think we've taken a small step forward and will continue working 24 hours a day trying to increase that, and if it makes sense, to try to go open an airfield in Kigali as well.

There are an awful lot of other places, as well, where we have mid-air refueling aircraft, so we do not have to bring airplanes in to land, waste an hour refueling and then go on. So we refuel much of the military air in the air to speed up the effort.

Additionally, we've had an awful lot of good needed equipment on board Army prepositioned ships. They usually are in and around Diego Garcia. On the day that the President gave us the mission, we ordered those ships to steam towards Mombasa because we have enough water purification equipment there. We have enough water distribution capacity there to meet all our needs. And so the first two ships are going to land tomorrow in Mombasa. We have already forward deployed C-130 airplanes, CH-53 helicopters that can slingload much of that equipment. And we're going to form -- if we're certain that the security conditions are right -- a very large ground convoy that will take the large oversized equipment over land into Goma.

So, starting about tomorrow and the next few days, we will have at our disposal an awful lot of the badly needed stuff for water purification, in addition to additional trucks that are needed over there, bulldozers and whatnot. So that's another hub that we've established here. And we'll continue keeping it open, because that's a good place to bring other humanitarian supplies in and then shuttle them forward.

This is just a picture that shows you sort of that on the day that the President told us to get going, the most that we could get into the region were two aircraft. We are now, between those that are refueling and those that are landing, bringing in some 22, 23 aircraft into the region. You have to add to that all those other aircraft that other nations are bringing in. The point is not so much the numbers, but that we've had a steady growth and we'll work very hard not to let that level off, but to continue building on this growth here.

Let me turn to water for a minute. There was zero clean water being produced on the day the President spoke to you here. The day before yesterday, we were doing 74,000 gallons of water; yesterday, 96,000 gallons. Today, we did not have time yet to tell the President that it's really more than 100,000 gallons. As we stand here, we're producing 164,000 gallons. We actually can produce more water than that right now. This shows you not only the water production capacity, but also the storage and distribution capacity.

With the help of our German colleagues, we've just laid a five kilometer pipeline into the middle of Goma. That's just the beginning. We need to lay more pipelines; we need to bring in more water trucks. We are flying, starting later on today, six 5,000-gallon tankers into Goma directly. Hopefully, we'll have them on the streets there tomorrow.

When we get the stuff off the ships, we will have a capacity of producing, storing and distributing in the vicinity of 3,500,000 gallons of fresh water. Now, it's going to clearly take us some days to off-load it, transport it, set it up, build the pipelines that need to be done. But at least the equipment is getting into the region now. And hopefully before too much time, we can have much of that stuff forward. Much of it will depend whether we can, in fact, find a good speedy over-land route to move some of that oversized equipment.

But it's looking an awful lot better today than it did when I stood before you here a week ago and in my mind thought that it would be several months away before we could get that kind of a capacity together. So we're nowhere near out of the woods; lots of stuff could still happen. But it's beginning to look a little better.

Let me stop with that last slide and turn it over to Tony and for any questions that you might have.

Q General, can we ask you a question? How would you protect against mission creep if you make a decision about Kigali and decide that you have to send people in to open that airport?

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: To me that's a very easy answer. Our mission has been to assist in providing humanitarian assistance. Our mission today and tomorrow, whether we go into Kigali or not, is to assist in providing humanitarian assistance. There isn't a word in my instruction from the President that has anything to do with peacekeeping or anything else.

So I see that as the task of opening as many airfields as we can where it makes sense, to be able to help the people of Kigali and to help the people to go home. I don't see that as a mission creep. It is a tactical decision whether one wants to open another airfield in a continuation of the same effort that we've been on.

Q In Somalia, what happened was that our people came under fire and they had to respond and it escalated.

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: It is clear about you cannot be involved in operations without some danger that someone will take a potshot at you. You, of course, understand that that can happen to us at Goma as well. And the reason that we are so very careful about proving any concept going into Kigali that we want to be sure that we can go to the President and articulate this issue of security to our soldiers and so on. But that's not mission creep.

Mission creep is when you take on different tasks. The President has been very clear, and I support it 100 percent, we should be there to help in a humanitarian effort.

MR. LAKE: Andrea, let me add to that if I may, because this is a very important question.

First of all, on Somalia, the mission from the start of American forces when they went in was to put an end to the fighting so that we could deal with the humanitarian crisis. And I might add, hundreds of thousands of Somalis are alive today because we did that successfully.

Here the mission is not a peacekeeping operation. It is not explicitly designed to expand throughout Rwanda and to carry out the same kind of mission. It is limited, as the General said and as the President said, to the humanitarian mission.

Secondly, there is the issue of how long it lasts. And here I should say that the mission is designed to deal with the immediate humanitarian crisis. This is not a long-term peacekeeping commitment in Rwanda. That is for UNAMIR, the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Rwanda. And if I could say just a word about that. The United States agreed months ago that we would offer support for one of the U.N. battalions that would go in, and we encouraged other governments to support other battalions. We have done what we said; we have been supporting a Ghanaian battalion. They are about half deployed now. About 500 Ghanaians are now in Rwanda. They are, in fact, the only -- I believe the only U.N. forces there. We are encouraged that they have start joint patrolling, or there is an agreement they will be doing joint patrolling with the Rwandan forces.

We would hope and we are urging that other governments will support other battalions so that they will be properly supplied and equipped when they go in. Assistant Secretary Moose, after he goes to Kigali, will be going to Ethiopia and Tunisia and elsewhere also to encourage those other African governments that have committed themselves to sending troops in as a part of the peacekeeping operation, and they will do that as quickly as possible.

Q Tony and General Shalikashvili, look, no sooner had the President finished than our guy on the ground in Goma reported that the people across the border who are armed said that if the United States comes in, they will regard the United States as their enemy and that they will fight. Now, for whatever this is worth, how are you going to hold the focus of the mission on humanitarian aid when it is quite evident that there is going to be a substantial security threat?

MR. LAKE: First of all, our representative there, Ambassador Rawson, has spoken to the government -- or the acting government of Rwanda, the representatives of the RPF, who are in control in Rwanda now. And they have agreed that we should open the airfield in Kigali, and they are in control of their own troops. So I am not saying that there is not a security threat; there is.

Q This is the other side.

MR. LAKE: But they are in control of the situation now at Kigali and generally throughout the country. We are looking at the same time very, very carefully at the security situation both now and down the road as we deal with this immediate crisis to make sure that if we open the airfield that there is a secure environment. This could involve American military personnel, certainly. And we are looking at -- we have not reached a conclusion on it -- we are looking at what the number of such personnel might be.

But their mission -- and I emphasize this -- their mission would be the protection of the airfield and of our humanitarian operation. It would not be a broader security role and it would not be peacekeeping, as we just said.

Q What is holding up the deployment to Kigali? Is it strictly a tactical question, as General Shali said, or are there political considerations involving the RPF that are factored into this?

MR. LAKE: No, there is no -- that I'm aware of, there is no problem with the RPF, or those who are acting in the government in Kigali. We want to make sure that if we do this, we do it right. That we have thought through all of the questions including this question of security.

At the same time there is an urgent need that we do this. We have been working the planning through on a very urgent basis. The site survey team has just started reporting in on the logistical side and how you would do this and how we would make it work. They have worked very urgently. As soon as we have the answers to those questions, I can assure you we will make an immediate decision because not just days but hours count here. And I would expect this decision very, very soon.

Q Can I follow up? Do you have a commitment from both the Tutsis and the Hutus that the U.S. forces if they go into Kigali will be invited and they will not become seen as part of one side or the other? Have both sides invited the United States to set up this facility at the Kigali airport?

MR. LAKE: My understanding is that the RPF, who are as I said, in control of Kigali and who were the apparent victors in the conflict, have said that they would welcome this. The rump Hutu government we are not in touch with and in my view we should not be because, as we have said before, many of them were responsible for genocidal acts in Rwanda and we do not consider them to be in a position of authority within Rwanda. And, indeed, in a physical sense they are not now.

That said, I am not saying that Rwanda is not potentially still a tough neighborhood and that is why we are taking a very careful look at the security issues before we proceed on the Kigali airfield.

Q How many troops are involved here if a decision is made to go in?

MR. LAKE: We have not made a decision on that yet.

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: We have not made a decision, nor have we completed going over the assessment from our assessment team that just came in here. And until we understand which radars have to be brought in to have 24-hour operation and what transportation system we have to have, it's very difficult to tell. So, any number I would give you now is misleading.

When we went into Entebbe initially we thought that it might take a couple thousand to run Entebbe. We have been very successfully running Entebbe now, as an example, with some 400. Whether those two numbers are the bookends between which we come out in Kigali or they'll come out something different, any number I give you or someone else has been given in the last few days really I would take with a grain of salt.

Let us complete this assessment.

Q General, is it your feeling that it is essential for the operation to open Kigali?

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: Only if it makes sense and there are an awful lot of things that you need to take into consideration. What is essential, I think, is to expand airport operations in as many places as we can because we must increase the throughput to those refugees. Whether Kigali will after analysis turn out to be the right place or not, too early to tell. Let us finish the assessment.

Q? Will you be talking to Schroeder today about this?

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: Yes.

Q So you might make a decision today once you --

Q She's already had one question. General, how long do you think our troops will be there?

GENERAL SHALIKASHVILI: I don't know. I will tell you that I think the sooner we can get the refugees to go back to their homes, the sooner we can wind down this effort and the United States military will be able to go home.

Now, whether that's measured in weeks or in months, I cannot tell you but I must say that it is not just for our own good that we need to look at it in those terms of getting them home but also for the good of the refugees. Our interest on both sides are to get on this as quickly as possible. The sooner they're home, the sooner we will go home.

Q Where are you getting the money for this? Are you taking it out of something you already had or are you cutting off some other part of the budget?

MR. LAKE: This is why, as the President said this morning, we are sending an emergency supplemental request to the Hill this morning.

Q Well, that doesn't tell me what I want to know. Where are you getting this money from? Are you cutting off some other program to do that?

MR. LAKE: That is the answer. An emergency supplemental is an off-budget request. It would not come out of other Pentagon funds.

Q But are you cutting off other civilian programs for this?

MR. LAKE: No, this is beyond the current budget. The purpose of the emergency supplemental would be to get additional funds to meet what is in fact an emergency. In the end this will be a congressional decision of course as to where the funds come from but our position is that we believe that this should be supplemental and not draw down other accounts.

Let me just say on the Kigali decision, this is not in my view a question of doing it quick or doing it right. We want to do it right and quick, and we are working this very urgently but making sure that we know exactly what we're doing before we do it. And it could come, it's very soon.

Q But might the President make the decision today?

Q Today? Could it come today?

MR. LAKE: I don't want to put a deadline on his decision, but that is possible.

Q What is your estimate as to how many Rwandans are dying every day?

Q The United Nation's officials have been complaining that UNAMIR is not coming together, they're not getting the troop contributions that they need. What happens if the humanitarian mission winds down and there's no U.N. mission to hand things over to?

MR. LAKE: In a way it works the opposite way, as General Shali was just saying. We are working very hard to get the UNAMIR in not only as quickly as possible but in as large numbers as possible so that it can help to create the environment for the refugees to return. To the degree that it works slowly, then to that degree it may be that the refugees return less quickly. So, we're working on that. That is why Assistant Secretary Moose is going off. That is why we have been approaching other governments, that's why we are encouraging those who have already committed troops to move as quickly as possible.

We are encouraged that the RPF have agreed now to join patrolling with UNAMIR forces in the western part of Rwanda which will help, we think, create a secure environment. There are two other pieces to this though. One is to encourage the RPF to reach out in reconciliation, to make appointments that will broaden their government as much as possible. Assistant Secretary Moose will be discussing those issues also with the RPF in Kigali.

And, third, as the General was suggesting, we need to look at the mechanisms on the ground which would encourage the refugees to come back so that they know as they move back along the roads that they will be able to get water and supplies, find shelter, whatever. And we are working on planning on that on a very urgent basis.

But we are appealing to other governments, both that can help equip UNAMIR forces and to those that have either committed themselves or would commit themselves to supply UNAMIR forces, to do so absolutely as quickly as they can. The crops are going to start dying in the fields within a couple of weeks now if the refugees cannot get back and start to harvest them. And this is another one of the races against time that we are conducting.

Q Tony, what is your best estimate as to how many Rwandan refugees are still dying every day?

MR. LAKE: We were at 1,500 to 2,000 a few days ago. I have not seen a new estimate today. I can't give you that with precision. It's about -- it's approximately the same still.

Q Tony, the rump Hutu government, as you said, is not in control of territory in Rwanda. But they clearly have fighters with guns in Goma, and a fair amount of control over at least some people --

MR. LAKE: Mostly more in the south, yes.

Q And they are actively trying to keep refugees from going back. So, clearly, our efforts to try to get those refugees back are going to conflict with what they're doing. And there's been some indication that they've been getting at least some support from some elements of the Zaire government in the past, at any rate. How do you assess the potential problem that those folks pose? And what do you foresee doing about them as this operation goes ahead?

MR. LAKE: We've discussed this with the government of Zaire and with the French. There are two aspects to it; one, how do you get them disarmed and limit that threat? And secondly, what do you do about their public appeals to the refugees not to go back? And we're working, as I said, on both with the French.

Q Are you satisfied with the response you've gotten from the Zairians at this point?

MR. LAKE: We'll see over the coming days how this goes.

He has to leave in a moment, so maybe one more question.

Q There were military officers who were quoted a couple of days ago saying that one of the reasons for having a U.S. military presence in Kigali, in addition to the humanitarian reason, would be as a symbol that reprisals between the two groups should not occur; and that we, in fact, would prevent that. Is that part -- would that be part of admission of any U.S. forces there, to stand between reprisals between Hutus and Tutsis?

MR. LAKE: As I said, there may be a psychological effect within Rwanda of our opening the airfield. But our mission explicitly is not a peacekeeping mission; it is the humanitarian mission, and strictly limited to that.

Q While you're there, Tony, could you update us on the situation in Bosnia? Because you discussed it with the President this morning, didn't you?

MR. LAKE: Secretary Christopher will be going -- just very briefly, because I have to run, too. Secretary Christopher will be going, in fact he has just left now, to a meeting of the Contact Group foreign ministers to discuss how we will follow up on the apparent Bosnian Serb rejection of the Contact Group's peace proposal. And we will, I'm sure, be having more to say about that over the weekend. I look forward to discussing this with you on Saturday and Sunday, as well.

END12:00 Noon EDT

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 29, 1994

The President today transmitted to the Congress requests for emergency FY 1994 appropriations that would provide funds to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts for refugees of hostilities in Rwanda. The requested funds, totaling \$320 million, are urgently needed at this time due to the emergency situation that has arisen from the sudden influx of refugees into areas bordering Rwanda.

The funds -- \$270 million for the Department of Defense, \$30 million for the Department of State, and \$20 million for the Agency for International Development -- would assist the international community in coping with this human disaster.

Emergency funds provided to the Department of Defense would be used to:

- Establish and operate airport services at Goma, Zaire, and at least one additional location;
- Provide fuel, logistics support, and maintenance of vehicles and equipment for distribution of water, food supplies, and medical items;
- Establish and operate an air distribution facility in Uganda, or another suitable location, for the collection, storage, and forward movement of relief supplies;
- Transport supplies and equipment;
- Provide safe water; and
- Deploy and sustain approximately 4,000 U.S. troops.

Of the \$270 million requested for the Department of Defense, \$100 million would be available only upon the President transmitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement.

Emergency funds provided to the Department of State would enable the United States to respond to urgent appeals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as to fund private voluntary organization (PVO) humanitarian efforts in the region.

Emergency funds provided to the Agency for International Development would be used to:

- Provide medicine and support medical teams;
- Procure local foodstuffs; and
- Safely bury refugees who have died of cholera in order to diminish the spread of disease.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 29, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Briefing Room

11:15 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. In the past week the United States has taken significant steps to alleviate the problems in Rwanda and the suffering -- the terrible suffering -- of the refugees. We have delivered more than 1,300 tons of equipment, food, water and medicine. We have increased safe water production and distribution from nothing to 100,000 gallons a day.

This relief effort is the most difficult and complex the world has faced in decades. I want to commend all those in the field who are facing the frustrations and the heroic challenges.

The United States must do more. Today I have requested that Congress immediately provide \$320 million in emergency relief assistance. I commend Chairman Obey, Chairman Byrd, Senator Leahy, and their colleagues for their swift action yesterday in support of the initial \$50 million of these funds. If Congress approves the balance of our request this would bring total United States assistance since April to almost half a billion dollars.

To monitor our on-the-ground activities in the refugee camps I have asked Secretary Perry to visit the region this weekend and to make an immediate report to me upon his findings. We are urgently reviewing whether to open a new airfield in Kigali in Rwanda to help deliver supplies that are being held up because of the limited airport capacity in Zaire.

Let me be clear about this. Any deployment of United States troops inside Rwanda would be for the immediate and the sole purpose of humanitarian relief, not for peacekeeping.

The men and women of our Armed Forces have responded to this tragedy with vigor and speed. They have already met the goals we have set out last week. The Entebbe air hub is operating around the clock. The Goma Airport is capable of operating 24 hours a day. Transportation between airfields and the refugee camps is vastly improved, and as I noted, we are expanding water supplies as quickly as we possibly can.

The United States is also working hard with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to create conditions that are necessary for the refugees to return home to Rwanda. Assistant Secretary of State George Moose will be traveling again to Kigali this weekend to continue his talks with the new leadership, and we are hopeful that more refugees will be returning soon. That is the only solution ultimately to this humanitarian tragedy.

Yesterday I met with representatives of the world's private relief organizations, whose employees and volunteers have converged on the refugee camps. The American people should know about the remarkable skill and compassion they bring to their work. But they, too, need more assistance to continue. And I appeal to all Americans to reach out in the form of private contributions to these relief efforts so that more people can be kept alive.

Working together with the international community, both public and private, I believe we are making progress in the battle against suffering and death on the borders of Rwanda. The United States will not cease its efforts until the dying stops and the refugees have returned. This is our mission; we must continue it until it's accomplished.

Before I close, I'd also like to say a word about the terrible wildfires that are burning in the West. As of this morning, we had reports of 320 fires burning in seven states. The Interagency Fire Command Center in Boise reports that the federal government has mobilized more than 330 fire crews and more than 200 fire engines, helicopters and air tankers. Two battalions of Marines have begun training today and will be deployed to fight the fires as soon as possible. Our hearts go out to all those who have been displaced, or who have lost property in these fires.

The federal government will continue to monitor the situation closely, to marshal the necessary resources, and to coordinate the firefighting efforts. This is a deeply troubling development, but we will do all we can to help them deal with it.

Now I'd like to turn the briefing over to the National Security Advisor, Mr. Lake, and to General Shalikashvili to discuss the operations in Rwanda in greater detail, and to answer whatever questions you have.

Q How do you feel about the French going -- Rwanda, Mr. President?

Q What about mission creep --

Q How many troops would have to go if there are troops that have to go to Kigali, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: You've asked me three questions. I want to let General Shalikashvili respond to Andrea's question.

I don't think that -- mission creep is not a problem here. And General Shalikashvili will explain why that is. We've had a long talk -- we just completed about an hour and 45 minutes national security principals meeting this morning. And I do not believe that that is a problem.

With regard to -- the French will have to make whatever decision they make. But I do believe you will have large numbers of people contributing to this humanitarian effort. I was most deeply moved when we met yesterday at some length, and the General and Mr. Lake and others briefed the representatives of the nongovernmental organizations. I am deeply moved by the number of volunteer organizations, many of them American citizens who are there working. I think everyone knows this is a humanitarian effort, and it will be kept at that.

END11:20 A.M. EDT

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 22, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY ON VIOLENCE IN RWANDA

The Administration is deeply concerned about the continued violence at the camps for the internally displaced in southwestern Rwanda. The recent killings and violence at these camps jeopardizes the effort towards peace and reconciliation.

Assistant Secretary for African Affairs George Moose, U.S. Army Gen. Heflebower and Ambassador Townsend Friedman, special coordinator for Rwanda, will arrive in Rwanda Monday in a previously planned trip. The future of the camps and the violence will be high on their agenda in their meetings with the Rwandan leadership.

This is historical material, "frozen in time." The web site is no longer updated and links to external web sites and some internal pages will not work.

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 23, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

We are deeply saddened and concerned at the dimensions of the tragedy that has apparently occurred at the Kibeho camp in southwest Rwanda. The facts are as yet unclear as to how this incident took place and where the blame for it lies.

Our embassy is working closely with the United Nations mission in Rwanda. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa George Moose is on his way to Kigali where he is expected to meet with Rwandan government officials. We join others in calling for an end to the killing.

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 5, 1995

September 1, 1995

Presidential Determination
No. 95-39

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. AGENCY

FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: Determination to Allow DFA to be used
to Support Administration of Justice Activities in
Rwanda

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 614 (a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$4 million of fiscal year 1995 funds made available for Chapter 10 of Part I of the FAA and, in addition, up to \$3 million of prior year funds, for assistance to Rwanda to support the establishment of the rule of law and promote the impartial administration of justice, without regard to any limitations contained in Section 660 of the FAA.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to Congress and to publish it in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 22, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States remains deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and killing in Burundi. Too many people have lost their lives because extremist forces have chosen to settle their differences through violence rather than dialogue.

We continue to call on all Burundians to reject extremism and to resolve their differences through peaceful means. A constructive dialogue involving all key political leaders is necessary to begin the process of ending the violence in Burundi and fostering national reconciliation.

The United States is watching events in Burundi closely and will continue to work with the international community to defuse tensions in Burundi and prevent further violence. As we approach the new year, the United States calls on the people of Burundi to renounce violence and demand peace from all parties.

-30-30-30-

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 20, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Ambassador Madeleine Albright has just completed a visit to Burundi on behalf the President to underscore the deep concern of the United States towards the deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi. She delivered a letter to the Burundian President from President Clinton restating American support for the Convention of Government already agreed to as a means of sharing power and advancing democracy.

Ambassador Albright stressed to political leaders with whom she met that it was important for Burundians of all ethnic and political persuasions to set aside their differences, reject extremism, renounce violence and acknowledge the benefits of a peaceful, stable Burundi. She warned extremist forces that the United States will not support, recognize or provide assistance to any government that may come to power in Burundi by force and will lead an international effort to isolate any such regime.

We believe it is possible for Burundians to share power, to overcome their mistrust and fears. The U.S. and its partners in the international community are eager to find ways to help Burundians fulfill these goals. We continue to support international efforts to facilitate political reconciliation, including those of Burundi's neighbors, the United Nations, former President Carter and others.

The downward spiral of violence, resulting from interethnic strife, could result in an enormous loss of civilian life, a considerable outflow of refugees and destabilization of the entire Africa Great Lakes region. It is already resulting in widespread human rights abuses and the ascendancy of extremist groups who employ intimidation and violence.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 19, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Violence in Burundi

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms the continuing violent attacks carried out by Hutu insurgents and by Tutsi radical groups in Burundi. Almost all of the victims of this ongoing violence have been innocent civilians, in many cases women and children. Such cowardly attacks by extremists on both sides serve only to widen Burundi's ethnic divide and risk plunging the country into catastrophe.

We urge all Burundians to reject violence as a means of addressing their country's problems. The United States repeats its warning that it will not support any government that comes to power by force in Burundi. Negotiations, reconciliation and cooperation are the only path forward. We urge all parties to turn away from extremism and work together for a better future for all Burundians.

The United States places great importance on the talks convening this weekend in Tanzania, organized by former President Julius Nyerere. All parties to the talks should commit themselves to peace, understanding that the fate of Burundi depends upon the successful reconciliation, that can begin through this process.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 14, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

National Security Advisor Anthony Lake departed Washington Saturday, May 11 on a mission to Burundi, with brief stops in Paris, France; Nairobi, Kenya and Kigali, Rwanda. He arrived in Burundi today.

The purpose of his mission is to underscore continued United States concern over the growing violence in Burundi and to encourage all Burundian parties to stop the killing and engage in serious negotiations. His efforts are intended to complement those of former Tanzanian President Nyerere.

The United States, working with its partners in the international community, will continue to use its political and diplomatic influence to help foster a political solution to the complex problems that divide Burundi and threaten regional stability.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Lyons, France)

For Immediate Release June 28, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States welcomes the results of the recent Arusha Summit meeting at which the heads of state of Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, along with representatives from Zaire and the OAU, agreed to prepare a joint security assistance plan to help the Burundian authorities bring peace and stability to that troubled country. The U.S. hopes this initiative can play an important role in halting the ongoing violence in Burundi.

The cooperation exhibited by the Burundi President, Prime Minister, Defense Minister and National Security Council in crafting this initiative and recommending its adoption to participants at the Arusha Summit is a laudable breakthrough and demonstrates the continued utility of responsible authorities joining together to end the violence. This same spirit of cooperation and mutual support will be essential to bring reconciliation to Burundi. We salute the efforts of those leaders involved and call on the people of Burundi to seize this opportunity to find a path toward lasting peace.

The United States will continue to play an active role in support of regional and international efforts to forge an endearing settlement to the conflict in Burundi. The Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for Burundi Peace Negotiations Howard Wolpe and Rwanda/Burundi Special Coordinator Richard Bogosian are en route to the region to discuss ongoing peace efforts and implications of the recommendations of the Arusha Summit.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 10, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States strongly condemns the massacre of at least 80 innocent civilians and their families by extremist Hutu rebels at the Teza tea plantation in Burundi last week. We again urge all forces to end the cycle of violence and begin working together for a lasting and viable peace. We call on the leadership of the Burundian armed forces to exercise due restraint and refrain from retaliation.

This tragic event occurs at a time of potentially significant progress in the peace process following the recent request of the Burundi President, Prime Minister, Defense Minister and National Security Council to countries in the region for security assistance to bring peace and stability to Burundi. The United States renews its call for all Burundians to stand behind this courageous initiative and reject extremist solutions.

Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for Burundi Peace Negotiations Howard Wolpe and Rwanda/Burundi Special Coordinator Ambassador Richard Bogosian are en route to the region to work with leaders on promoting a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Burundi.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 24, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States strongly condemns recent massacres and the deepening cycle of ethnic violence in Burundi. We urge all groups and individuals to use peaceful and constitutional means to overcome their disputes. Continued violence only serves to enhance the role of extremist forces that must not be allowed to set the agenda.

We are also concerned by calls for a change in government through non-constitutional means. The United States will not support a government installed by force or intimidation and reiterates that it will work actively to isolate any such regime.

The Arusha Declaration, agreed last month by the Burundi President, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, as well as by leaders of regional states under the mediation of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere remains the best avenue to bring stability to Burundi. It is also imperative that parallel political talks among all armed factions leading to a lasting political settlement begin immediately. This should be accompanied by an immediate cessation of hostilities by all armed elements.

The United States is firmly committed to a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Burundi. For more than a year, the United States has led contingency planning efforts at the United Nations and tomorrow will initiate discussions at the UN on a detailed plan prepared by the U.S. to cope with a possible humanitarian disaster. We recently restated the U.S. offer of strategic airlift and related assistance to support an international response to a humanitarian crisis in Burundi. National Security Advisor Anthony Lake has visited Bujumbura twice, most recently in May, to urge reconciliation and demonstrate concern over increasing violence. The President last month appointed Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy for Burundi Peace Negotiations and dispatched an 11-person military team to the region to assist with planning efforts related to the Arusha Declaration.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July 25, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States condemns the coup d'etat by military forces in concert with various political figures in Burundi earlier today. We regret that both civilian and military leaders of Burundi did not resolve their differences through established constitutional mechanisms.

We strongly encourage all Burundian parties to halt the violence and engage immediately in concerted efforts to achieve lasting national reconciliation. We expect them to protect the lives of American citizens, maintain democratic institutions, and enter into negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The President is dispatching Special Envoy for Burundi Peace Negotiations Howard Wolpe to the region for urgent consultations. We are discussing with African and other governments appropriate next steps.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 16, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON ACCORDS RANK OF AMBASSADOR
TO SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR RWANDA AND BURUNDI

The President today announced the nomination of Richard W. Bogosian of Gaithersburg, Maryland, a career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to the Rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Coordinator for Rwanda and Burundi.

Ambassador Bogosian was Ambassador to Niger from 1985 to 1988, to Chad from 1990 to 1993 and Chief of Mission in Somalia from 1993 to 1994. He has also served in Baghdad, Paris, Kuwait and Khartoum, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission from 1976 to 1979. Ambassador Bogosian's Washington assignments have included tours as Director of the Office of East African Affairs and as the Director of the Office of Monetary Affairs.

Ambassador Bogosian entered the Foreign Service in 1962 following graduation from the University of Chicago Law School. He is also a graduate of Tufts University. He is married to the former Claire Mornane; they have three children. Ambassador Bogosian was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1937. He speaks Arabic and French.

-30-30-30-

[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 18, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States welcomes the recent announcement issued by the Burundian authorities lifting the ban on political parties and restoring the National Assembly. We view this as a significant step in the right direction. At the same time, we look forward to clarification of some aspects of the announcement and to the effective and impartial implementation of these decisions.

The United States again urges all concerned parties in Burundi to launch, immediately and unconditionally, a negotiating process aimed at ending the killing and establishing a framework for all-party negotiations. This is the way to address the root causes of the conflict and to bring about a better future for all Burundians.

As we continue to call on the Burundian authorities to take further steps to achieve national reconciliation, we stress that the National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD) and all opposition parties must take up the offer of talks and not obstruct them. It is time to stop the killing and start talking. The United States condemns in particular all attacks against civilians and population centers. UN Security Council Resolution 1072 emphasized the international community's readiness to consider additional measures aimed at any party, inside or outside Burundi, that is not demonstrating a commitment to a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Since the July 25 coup, the United States has consistently called on the Burundian authorities to guarantee safe passage out of the country for President Ntibantunganya and others who continue to be accorded refuge in the U.S. and other Embassies. Their freedom to depart the country would be another important indication of the seriousness of the Burundian authorities in seeking an end to the current crisis.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 15, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The U.S. welcomes reports that tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees have today returned to Rwanda from Zaire. Many more appear to be following. The needs for food, water, sanitation, and other essential services, as well as community development, shelter, and agricultural equipment will be enormous, and the international community must do whatever possible to help meet these requirements.

In response to these urgent needs, the United States will make available immediately \$25 million in humanitarian assistance funds to assist in the repatriation and reintegration of Rwandan refugees returning from Zaire.

The United States will continue to do its share. Beyond this contribution announced today, we are prepared to respond as more specific needs become evident.

We urge others to do the same.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 27, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Rwanda/Eastern Zaire

The United States welcomes Canada's proposal to establish the multinational headquarters for the planned humanitarian mission in Central Africa. The mission would be to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the return of refugees to Rwanda.

The U.S. is prepared to participate in this multinational mission (MNF) under Canadian leadership and to contribute personnel to the headquarters, civil-military affairs unit and other support elements while continuing to plan for potential additional mission tasks. The U.S. is also contributing U.S. personnel, many of whom are already in the region, who will provide airlift, air control and related services in support of the planned multinational mission.

The United States looks forward to working with the Government of Canada and others to finalize the details of the mission plan, including establishing the political oversight body for the mission known as the Steering Board, obtaining the necessary consent of the governments in the region, enabling significant African participation in the mission and defining appropriate rules of engagement.

At the same time, we are working with Canada and others to plan for potential airdrops into Zaire. This planning will take several days. During this time, we want to work cooperatively to construct a practical concept of operations for airdrops that is as safe as possible, acceptable to concerned governments and parties in the region and that will encourage refugees to return home. Once that planning is complete, we expect to make a final decision as to what can be accomplished effectively and what precise role the U.S. will play in this effort. In the meantime, the U.S. is putting personnel on alert for potential airdrop operations and taking other steps that would enable the U.S. to respond swiftly in the event that airdrops are required.

The U.S. continues to lend substantial assistance to the Government of Rwanda, UN agencies and NGOs to help reintegrate those refugees that have recently returned. Last week, the U.S. pledged \$140 million for that purpose. At the same time, we are urging that humanitarian organizations be allowed full and immediate access to populations at risk in Zaire. We welcome recent steps taken in that regard, which if sustained, could substantially meet the needs of those refugees and displaced persons in Eastern Zaire.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 3, 1996

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE

December 2, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

The humanitarian situation in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region of eastern Zaire has been a continuing source of international concern. Although approximately 600,000 refugees have recently returned to Rwanda from Zaire, the situation remains uncertain. An estimated 200,000 or more refugees and displaced persons remain scattered in eastern Zaire likely without adequate food, water, shelter, or medical care. Repatriation is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. Urgent action may still be required, however, to supply essential relief to refugees and displaced persons still located in eastern Zaire and to assist those refugees that have returned to Rwanda.

In response to United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1080 (1996), the United States plans to participate in a multinational effort, led by Canada, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the voluntary, orderly repatriation of refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian aid organizations as well as the voluntary return of displaced persons. Pending final consultation with our allies, I expect the United States to contribute personnel and equipment to the headquarters, civil-military affairs and psychological operations units, and other support elements as required.

In furtherance of UNSCR 1080 and the aim of the multinational effort, the United States has already positioned personnel and equipment in furtherance of "Operation Guardian Assistance" (approximately 400 personnel are currently in the region) to conduct non-combat missions, including airlift, air control, and related services in support of ongoing humanitarian efforts by Rwanda and private relief organizations.

Part of the U. S. assistance to the region has been helping locate groups of refugees and displaced persons to ascertain their movement and condition. The United States has used aircraft and other means in an effort to gain accurate and complete information. Although there has been sporadic fire from unknown sources at aircraft over-flying the Great Lakes region, including U.S. Navy aircraft, it is not clear that this fire was intentionally directed at U.S. personnel. This past weekend the United States also deployed an AC-130U aircraft to the area to facilitate this effort through the use of aerial surveys. Although its primary mission is aerial surveys, the aircraft is fully mission-capable and will be available for search and rescue or other force-protection missions, if required. The aircraft will be based in Entebbe Airfield, Uganda, and will conduct aerial surveys throughout the Great Lakes region. The aircraft will remain in the area as long as aerial survey efforts are required by relief efforts.

The United States recognizes that the return of peace and security to the region will ultimately rest on the resolution of long-standing political and social differences and an end to the fighting. The United States is actively supporting the United Nations and the international community to achieve those ends. Humanitarian concerns, however, require that the United States take immediate action to relieve the suffering of innocent victims of the regional instability until those long-term political and social differences can be resolved.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report in accordance with my desire that the Congress be fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action to assist the international community in its humanitarian relief efforts in Central Africa.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 11, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Addition of Rwanda to President's Visit to Africa

During his March 22 - April 2 trip to Africa, President Clinton will visit Rwanda in addition to already announced stops in Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Botswana, and Senegal.

The visit will provide an opportunity for the President to pay respect to the victims of the 1994 genocide and underscore our concern about the impact of the genocide and the importance of ending the cycle of violence in the region.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Moscow, Russia)

For Immediate Release

September 3, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Rwanda Tribunal Verdict

The United States welcomes the landmark decision of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the trial of Jean-Paul Akayesu for the crime of genocide. We hope for further quick and transparent progress in the cases before the ICTR and Rwanda's domestic genocide courts. Reconciliation, security, and regional development will take hold in the Great Lakes region only when the cycle of violence has been broken and accountability established.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 4, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I was deeply saddened to learn of the brutal violence that erupted Monday morning in a nature preserve in Southwestern Uganda. Hillary and I have extended our profound condolences to the families of the victims.

Eight innocent tourists from the United States, Great Britain, and New Zealand were killed. All of the victims were there because they loved Africa. It was a senseless and cowardly murder -- apparently committed by those who perpetrated the Rwandan genocide in 1994. If this attack was intended as a warning to our nation to stop supporting those in the region seeking reconciliation and justice, those who committed it should understand that we will not be deterred in any way.

We will not forget these crimes, nor rest until those who committed them are brought to justice. Already, a team of FBI experts is on the ground, working with Ugandan authorities to gather the relevant evidence so indictments of the perpetrators can be made.

Let me also underscore our commitment to breaking the cycle of violence and impunity that has gripped the Great Lakes region so that all who live in and visit the region can do so without fear.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 22, 2000

FACT SHEET

Background to the Burundi Peace Process

Burundi's recent history has been marked by a destructive struggle between the Tutsi minority and the disenfranchised Hutu majority that has been excluded from political and economic opportunities.

- Burundi's first democratically elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu, was assassinated in 1993. Since then, over 200,000 Burundians have been killed in clashes between Tutsi-dominated governments and Hutu rebels. Hundreds of thousands have been internally displaced or become refugees in neighboring countries, and the Burundi economy has continued to crumble. President Pierre Buyoya, a moderate Tutsi, came to power in a bloodless coup d'etat in July 1996.
- In September 1999, the humanitarian situation deteriorated rapidly when the Government of Burundi forcibly displaced the Hutu population of the Bujumbura Rural province into about 54 regroupment camps, ostensibly to protect them from rebel attacks. These camps, which contain over 350,000 Hutus, lack food, water, shelter, and basic sanitation.
- In response to U.S. and international pressure, the Burundi government announced in January it would begin to dismantle 11 camps holding approximately 55,000 Hutus as soon as the security situation permitted, and has now begun to do so.

The Arusha Peace Process

- The ongoing Arusha peace negotiations, initiated under the leadership of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere in 1996, includes 18 parties. Despite the complexity of the peace process, Dr. Nyerere and the parties had made considerable progress by the end of last year. The talks were given new impetus in December, when former South African President Nelson Mandela was appointed as facilitator to replace Nyerere, who died last October.
- President Mandela organized a February 21-22 plenary session in Arusha, Tanzania, to be attended by all 18 parties. Several regional leaders will join him at the February 21 opening session, and -- at the request of President Mandela -- President Clinton will address the closing session live via video conference February 22 to urge the parties to work towards peace.
- Peace in Burundi is critical to help bring about an end to the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and implementing the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, signed by the parties to that conflict.

U.S. Interests

Given the importance of preventing future mass violence, supporting democracy and human rights, and promoting stability in the Great Lakes region, the U.S. supports the Burundi peace process both diplomatically and financially.

- Former Member of Congress Howard Wolpe serves as President Clinton's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, and has been actively engaged in support of the mediation effort.
- The United States has provided \$40 million in humanitarian assistance to the people of Burundi since 1998, with an additional \$9 million allocated already this year.
- Burundi is included in the President's Great Lakes Justice Initiative, a program which aims to help build the institutions required to break the cycle of violence in central Africa.
- The U.S. has strongly condemned the forced regroupment program, and continues to press the Government of Burundi to dismantle the regroupment camps immediately.

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[View Header](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 22, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
NSC SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS GAYLE SMITH
AND SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE GREAT LAKES HOWARD WOLPE
ON BURUNDI PEACE TALKS IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

11:25 A.M. EST

MR. FALLIN: This is going to be an on-the-record brief. So, before I go further, let me introduce Gayle Smith. Many of you already know her. Gayle Smith is Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs for the National Security Council. And also joining us via phone line the President's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, Howard Wolpe. And we're going to be able to communicate with him -- he'll be able to listen to the questions and Gayle's responses, and if anyone has any questions for him, he's there in Arusha, he'll be able to respond to those questions as well.

This will be on the Burundi peace process and maybe review -- would like to review the President's use of teleconferencing technologies to address folks in Arusha this morning.

With that as an introduction, Gayle Smith.

MS. SMITH: Good morning, everyone. We'll do a test here in a minute and see if Howard is indeed with us. Can we check that yet?

MR. WOLPE: I can hear fine. Thank you, Gayle.

MS. SMITH: That's the voice of the President's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, Howard Wolpe, former member of Congress, who is on the ground in Arusha and has been for this round of the mediation, but also during many, many mediation sessions prior to this one, previously under the chairmanship of the former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have, as you know, and I think you are able to see the President addressed the Arusha peace process being convened in Arusha, Tanzania, yesterday. He did this this morning; it was a live satellite hook-up between the President and President Mandela, who is the facilitator of the talks.

Q One question for you or for Mr. Wolpe. What's your reaction to the Burundi President's offer for direct talks with the rebels? Is this a major step forward?

MS. SMITH: I would like to ask Howard to respond. I would say at a general level, we think it's an extremely positive thing that the government and other parties are giving the signal that they are prepared, indeed, to sit down with one another, and we believe that the Arusha process provides the forum for this. So, all in all, I would say that's a good sign.

Howard, would you like to add anything?

MR. WOLPE: Yes. The government has, in fact, been wanting to enter into direct discussions with rebel groups, in any forum and by any means. And in fact, as the principal Buyoya affirmed today in his own press conference here, there have actually been discussions between the government and the FDD, one of the principal rebel groups not yet at the table in Arusha.

The effort now that is being made is to arrange direct talks between the leadership of the FDD and another of the rebel groups with President Mandela, so as to begin an engagement. And precisely how that will be organized remains to be seen, but that's the effort that is currently underway.

Q Other than the FDD, are there any signs from any of the other rebel groups that have held out so far from these talks that they're actually willing to begin talking?

MS. SMITH: Howard, you're there on the ground. Why don't you go ahead?

MR. WOLPE: I'm afraid I didn't hear that question, Gayle.

Q Any other groups?

MS. SMITH: The question, if you want to go ahead and repeat it into this microphone, we'll see if he can hear it.

Q Sure. The question was, other than the FDD, are there any signs from any of the other rebel groups, who have so far refused to participate in the peace talks, that they may actually step forward and take part in them?

MR. WOLPE: I still didn't quite hear the question.

MS. SMITH: Howard, the question -- have you seen any signs on the ground out there that other groups who have not yet been participating intend to do so?

MR. WOLPE: We've seen some indications from the rebel groups -- and, in one instance, from people who purport to be speaking on behalf of another rebel group, but which we're not clear about the internal organization of that particular group yet -- but we've seen them say that they want to sit down with President Mandela and begin that dialogue. That's obviously encouraging.

Q What kind of support is the President offering?

MS. SMITH: Special Envoy Wolpe, who you've just heard on the line, has been engaged since these peace talks were initiated a couple of years ago. We have also funded the Arusha process and will continue to do that. And I believe that he will remain directly engaged with President Mandela. They have spoken on the telephone and met in person about Mandela's work as facilitator of this peace process, and I believe he intends to continue in that role.

Q That's what he means by support?

MS. SMITH: Yes.

Q He doesn't mean grants and funds and loans?

MS. SMITH: Well, we are providing a major amount of humanitarian assistance to Burundi and have been doing so for some time. The President also indicated this morning that if, indeed, there is a peace agreement, we will do what we can to ensure that, indeed, the peace is consolidated. In addition, we provide assistance to Burundi under the President's Great Lakes Justice Initiative, which aims at building the institutions needed to break this cycle of violence. So we will continue our assistance on all of those fronts.

Q Gayle, realistically, they're bringing in major power to try to solve this ethnic war and they've brought in Nelson Mandela. But Mandela threw it off somewhat toward the end of his statement by saying that President Clinton, you're one of the major world powers and you're helping, but we rely on you for a speedy and urgent resolution to this. Realistically, is the U.S. going to be the catalyst for ending this, and do you really see an end to this soon?

MS. SMITH: I think part of what President Mandela is looking for -- and it's something we strongly support -- is a way to convey to the people of Burundi and all of the parties involved in this conflict that, indeed, the international community is engaged, supports the peace process, cares about whether or not they're successful and, indeed, wants them to be successful.

I don't know if you've ever traveled to Burundi -- it is an extremely insular country and society, and I think this exposure of the message sent by President Clinton today, the messages sent yesterday by representatives and leaders of governments in the region -- of the French, of the Belgian, of the British -- are extremely important to let people know that in this extremely difficult and complex negotiation, they do, indeed, have the support of the international community.

I don't think any of us thinks that this war's going to be wrapped up this afternoon or tomorrow. It is, indeed, a complex process. They made substantial progress under the leadership of President Nyerere and I think President Mandela has injected a great deal of momentum into the process since he took over the reins in January.

The negotiations will continue, but I think the signs we see from Arusha are that, indeed, the parties do feel like this strong sign of international support can help give them the foundation they need, from which to make some real progress.

I'd like to ask Howard if he wants to add anything specifically on the mediation. Howard?

MR. WOLPE: Well, it was really fascinating to watch the reactions of Burundians these past two days, to have the foreign representations that were made here, to have the international focus on Burundi. These are people who are engaged in a very scary process. This is probably one of the most intractable conflicts on the face of the African continent; people that have suffered massively in terms of bloodletting, communal massacres, genocide, in which there's hardly a family that has not been touched by the violence. And to have the sense that the international community cares, is involved, and wants to be supportive, helps build confidence among the people that are trying to make peace. So it's had an enormously positive psychological impact.

Q What was the reaction to the President's remarks? Does he know?

MS. SMITH: Howard, do you want to speak about the reaction on the ground to the President's remarks?

MR. WOLPE: It was wonderful. All around me, people were coming up and just expressing their appreciation. One of the delegations that was sitting right behind me wanted assurances again that we had offered earlier that the Burundians themselves would be able to see this on Burundian television and hear it on Burundian radio. There was just absolute delight, and just a real sense of appreciation for that expression of support, concern and engagement.

Q The President spoke of a disaster befalling the people of Burundi if the peace conference were not successful. What did he mean by that, a disaster? There's already been a disaster, 200,000 dead.

MS. SMITH: Well, I think he means that an even worse disaster is the threat and the risk that we all face if, indeed, the Arusha process is not successful.

I would make one slight correction in terms of this conference. This conference is, I believe, the ninth session of this mediation process. I will ask Howard to correct me if I've got that wrong -- or at least the ninth summit of the regional leadership in working towards an end to this conflict. And in each one they have made progress. And again, we believe that they have and will make progress in this particular session.

It is not this conference that is going to tie this up in a bow ultimately and finally. But I think the view is that with people having taken the steps that they have -- and as Howard suggests, it takes a great deal of courage, given what's happened in the recent past in Burundi -- to get as far as they've come, to fail now could signal another round of death and killing and insecurity in Burundi. And we very much would like to do what we can to prevent that.

MR. WOLPE: I would only add one comment which is that, to those of us who have been tracking the policy -- rather the process -- over the last several years, literally -- I've been watching matters in Burundi going back to June of 1996 -- only a couple of years ago, many of the people sitting around the table today were so demonized by one another that it was inconceivable that you could even bring together that collection of individuals and of parties.

I remember a time just a couple of years ago when it was hugely controversial whether to use the term "negotiations" instead of "dialogue." Just to give you a sense of the tremendous barriers of mistrust, suspicion, and fear that have to be overcome in this process.

But now we are seeing convergence on some critical issues -- all the core issues are, in fact, on the table; people are talking about them not only in Arusha, but in Burundi itself. And one of the important things that happened in the process in this ninth gathering of the regional summit was that the Arusha process was, for the first time, more publicly and clearly linked to Burundi itself, because a lot of the people in Burundi have been wondering what is happening in Arusha, and this was an opening up, an airing of issues in a more public way, which I think is enormously important to build the base on the ground that could sustain any agreement that would ultimately be fashioned in the Arusha process.

MS. SMITH: Just to clarify Special Envoy Wolpe's point, we were able to help see that this was broadcast, indeed, yesterday's opening session with the African leaders and representatives from Europe and today's inside Burundi and elsewhere in Africa, which is a real first in terms of this process, as he suggests.

Q The government of Burundi represents -- of the population, the Tutsis. Do you find any willingness on its part to actually consider sharing power with the majority of the population, the Hutus?

MS. SMITH: Well, I believe that by their participation thus far in the Arusha process, it is clear that they are willing to grapple with those difficult issues of what representation should and must be in Burundi, and how to deal with a situation where you have a small minority and a much larger majority.

President Buyoya, as Howard suggested, has given a couple of press conferences out there. Howard has been meeting with the Burundi delegation and I think he'll agree with this, but Howard, I wonder if you want to add anything.

MR. WOLPE: Absolutely. All of the issues are being discussed; there are literally negotiations taking place now. All parties accept the principle of power-sharing. All parties accept that, in fact, the principle that democratic principles must be a core element of the new arrangement of power, but that they also must find a means of giving a sense of security to minorities within that very -- what has been a historically very polarized society. So issues of the political system are very much on the table -- the process of negotiation, likewise, the army. There's a broad understanding of the need to create a generally national army, of creating security arrangements that will provide a sense of confidence that all Burundi will be protected, minority and majority alike.

Q You say there's a need for security arrangements. You spoke of the army. Either one of you can answer this. What's the feasibility in these last few months of the Clinton administration that there will be some type of U.S. involvement military-wise to help over there?

MS. SMITH: The need for security, I think, was in reference to the instability that's plagued Burundi, and arrangements for the security forces and the army in Burundi to be such that people don't, indeed, live in fear of them. So that was --

Q But will there be some type of United States military involvement to help foster this security that he's talking about?

MS. SMITH: Howard, the question is whether there would be U.S. military involvement to help foster the kind of environment that everyone hopes for in Burundi. I think at this point, it is our view, and I believe shared by President Mandela and the facilitation team in Arusha, that our most constructive role is, again, to do as much as we can to strengthen the peace process. If there is a peace agreement, we will certainly look at what the international community should do to help consolidate that process. But at this point in time, I think our priority effort is clearly on this Arusha process.

Q Do they have an army?

MS. SMITH: Yes, they do indeed have an army.

Q Does the United States regard the bloodshed in Burundi in the same -- as being the kind of genocide that took place in Rwanda?

MS. SMITH: Well, if you look at the past of Burundi, there was, indeed, in the past something that many people do refer to as a genocide in Burundi. Certainly, the stakes are such, combination of factors are such, and the recent history is such, that the risk of mass killing, communal violence and genocide is always there. And again, I think that's one of the reasons that the President this morning joined President Mandela and other leaders in the region to do what we can to help bring the people of Burundi together.

Howard, would you like to add anything? I think we're almost finished here.

MR. WOLPE: No, no, what you said is essentially correct. I mean, there has been, as in both genocide and communal massacres, actually, Burundi debate greatly which event would be defined as genocide, which would be defined as communal massacre. The reality is, though, that both Hutu and Tutsi have been terribly victimized by mass killing. And that's what -- all of the Burundi are struggling to try to figure out a way to end the culture of impunity.

Q Should Mandela be endorsing Senate candidates, like he did today?

MS. SMITH: I think President Mandela is a good friend of the President and Mrs. Clinton, and I think he just wished to convey his friendship. You can direct that question to him or his people.

Q And wished her success.

MR. FALLIN: Just to point out, there is a transcript -- or there will be a transcript available of the President's video-teleconference session remarks. That will be available back in the bins. And the Burundi fact sheet is also back there in the bins.

Q Thanks, Jim. Thanks, Gayle.

MS. SMITH: Thank you all very much. Thank you, Howard.

MR. WOLPE: Thank you.

MS. SMITH: It's very odd not being able to see you, but we appreciate your being with us.

Q Did the President get involved in Burundi because he didn't get involved in Rwanda and it was criticized so much?

END 11:52 A.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 22, 2000

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM CLINTON
AND PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA
THROUGH TELECONFERENCE TO THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS

9:50 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT MANDELA: (In progress) -- the leadership of Burundi. I must assure you that in Burundi we have a leadership that is committed, that are helping us to solve this matter and to bring peace to that country. Your contribution will also give further momentum to the peace process.

I now leave the matter to you.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, thank you very much. First of all, President Mandela, let me thank you for the efforts you are making for peace in Burundi. I know that all the parties there appreciate it, and I can assure you that people all around the world appreciate your efforts.

I also want to say that I am joined here by our Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright; my National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger; my Chief of Staff, John Podesta. We want you to know how important the United States believes it is for a peace to be achieved in Burundi.

This work began under President Nyerere, and we thank you for continuing the effort. I want to also say to the people of Burundi, America cares about the peace process there and America wants all the parties to succeed. I also want to pay tribute to President Mkapa and the people of Tanzania for hosting the talks and being good neighbors. And I thank the facilitators from the Nyerere Foundation who work each day to help their brothers and sisters from Burundi to achieve peace.

I am very glad that I can speak to you because of this modern technology. It's a symbol of our growing interdependence. And I'm thrilled that the sounds and the images of these deliberations are being beamed back to the people of Burundi.

I want to say that, in a way, my speaking to you through this technology shows that the greater openness of people and borders makes us more interdependent in ways that are positive and particularly negative, as well. As the world shrinks, we are all more vulnerable to the problems of those beyond our borders -- all those with whom we share this small planet Earth. All of us benefit when others build peace; all suffer when others suffer.

That is why you are there, Mr. President, and why I am honored to be joining you in this way today. We understand what is at stake, first, for the people of Burundi who have suffered so much death, fear and insecurity; for all of Africa and, indeed, for the rest of the world.

Just last week I attended the opening in Washington of our National Summit on Africa. More than 2,000 Americans participated; people from all 50 of our states, from every walk of life and every racial and ethnic background. All came because they believe in Africa's promise, and because they want to work with Africans to realize it, by building a more open world trading system, by standing with young democracies, by lifting the burden of debt, by supporting education in Africa and fighting malaria, TB and, of course, AIDS.

The United States wants to build a common future with all of Africa. The real question for the leaders from Burundi who have gathered with you in Arusha is whether your country will share in the promise of this future. Will you lead the way to a lasting settlement for the larger conflicts in the Great Lakes region? Will you show the way for other societies in Europe and Asia that are also victimized by these kinds of ethnic conflicts? Or will you hesitate and falter?

If that were to happen, I am afraid a disaster would befall your people, and it would seep beyond your borders. We have seen how a spark lit in one small part of this region can engulf the whole.

To most of us outsiders, the choice is clear. I know that to our friends from Burundi, who are burdened with painful memories, it is more complicated. Yet I have found that all the great peacemakers somehow find a way to let their real grievances and pain go, and walk away -- not just from imagined, but from very real grievances.

The late Israeli Prime Minister, my friend, Yitzhak Rabin, said, "you do not make peace with your friends." And, Mr. President, of course, your own life is the most powerful example of the good that comes from letting go of legitimate grievances and harm.

So I ask the people who are gathered there to remember the examples of what works in this new and exciting world, and to let go of their old hurts, even if they are legitimate -- perhaps especially if they are legitimate, because nothing that happened yesterday will take care of today and tomorrow, and the children of Burundi deserve leaders who are looking to today, and especially to tomorrow.

It requires vision to believe that in the end we'll all be better off if we work together; that people of different tribes and ethnic groups, different races and religions, all need one another; that violence is bad because it just breeds more violence; and that sustainable peace and security can be achieved only by negotiation, by what you are doing there; that everyone comes out ahead when all members of society feel that they have a common stake in the nation.

It requires courage for these leaders to accept the risks of peacemaking. It's easy for me, half a world away, to tell the leaders of the various parties they should do this. But I know they have to go back and explain it to those whom they represent. So, even though it's easy for me and hard for them doesn't change the fact that it's still true -- the courageous and brave thing to do is to find reconciliation, and to give everyone a role to play in Burundi's future.

Of course, there are those who doubt that you will succeed. There are those who believe some places are simply cursed by their past and condemned to a future of endless conflict. But, Mr. President, if that were true, your old cell on Robben Island would still be occupied today, instead of being the site that all the tourists want to see.

We can change; all of us can change. And I thank you again for helping the people of Burundi to change. I applaud the effort of all who are gathered there in Arusha, and the vision and courage that brought you there. I support the efforts to form a new social compact and a single, indivisible, democratic nation.

I call upon those armed groups still using violence to suspend hostilities and come to the negotiating table. You do not have to abandon your points of view, just to defend them with the force of argument, not the force of arms.

And let me say to all our Burundian friends who are present there, the United States and our partners will do all we can to ensure that these talks to succeed, and to help create the economic conditions essential to a sustainable peace. My Special Envoy, Howard Wolpe, will continue to work with you. And I thank him for his dedication. We will do this because it's the right thing to do and because we, too, have a stake in your future. We will do it because we have faith in you, President Mandela, and in other African nations who have pledged to see this process through.

Ultimately, of course, the people of Burundi and their representatives will have to decide what to do. You have all known fear and insecurity and loss. I ask you, do not condemn your young children to what you have known in the past. Seize this chance to give them a different future. Give them a country where they can sleep in their homes, walk to their schools, worship in their churches and rise to their potential without being at war with their neighbors; a country that helps to fulfill the promise of Africa, that is part of the life of the world.

This will be a long and difficult journey. But as you go forward, I want the people of Burundi to know the people of the United States are prepared to walk with you. We will reach our destination together. Turikumwe -- I am with you. And I thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MANDELA: My President, I thank you very much for the remarks that you've made. I am sure your remarks will be a source not only of encouragement, but of tremendous strength to all those who are searching for peace, especially to the leadership of Burundi.

I can assure you from the Internet discussions I've had with them on the 16th of January, and yesterday and today, that you have leaders of real commitment, of caliber and who are -- and who are thinking about the people of Burundi.

For us to have the support of one of the world's superpowers is something which encourages us, because we want the support of the powerful and mighty in this exercise because, unfortunately, we have not got the resources that you and other powers have. We rely on you to make sure that this process proceeds speedily, but at the same time with a sense of urgency. And I will now be approaching you, Mr. President, to say if we can raise more funds for this process, because from the point of view of the facilitation, they have informed me that we have sufficient resources only for this session, and we want to prevent that.

I think that the leaders of Burundi have heeded my appeal, that whatever we do we must do so with speed, without being reckless. To give every leader here the opportunity to study the documents that are going to come, we have more or less agreed that the next stage is that the facilitation should have the compromised proposals which are going to be considered by the leadership, because we want to round up this process.

Because the more we delay, the more people that are going to be killed. And they're killed by groups who are not attacking the military -- I don't say it's correct for them to attack the military, but if they have to conduct operations, those operations must be aimed at the military, not innocent civilians -- children who are killed without knowing why they are being deprived of the most priceless gift in creation: life. Attacking women, the aged, the disabled.

Can these be the people of Burundi? Or are these elements being manipulated by forces outside Burundi? Can a Burundian have the courage to slaughter innocent civilians? These are questions that we are considering. I have invited these groups so that I can discuss with them, and I hope I'll be able to persuade them to work with us in order to bring peace in Burundi.

But, my President, I don't know whether I'm the right person to thank you because of what you have done to me as an individual and as the leader of my organization, and then later as the leader of my country. The support that you have given me long before I was President of the country, and throughout out my presidency, is beyond words.

But I think of the statement that you made when you paid a visit to my country. You said, we Americans have been asking the wrong questions: What can we do for Africa? You say the right question to ask is: What can we do with Africa? That's a fundamental change in the foreign policy of the United States of America. And since then you have been consistent. And I admire you and I think you are doing a remarkable job.

You are now serving your last term. And it is good that a man, a head of state of your stature, should make sure that during your lifetime, you bring happiness, joy and stability to every country in the world. And that is what you're doing. And that is why we are so indebted to you.

And you are supported by Madeleine, who is a ball of energy, and we'd like to give her all the support that we can. And I forget that she is an attractive young lady -- (laughter) -- I'm just talking about her contributions. And you, Mr. President, you have got my full support in everything that you do, especially in the initiative that you have taken in the Middle East.

But I would like you to listen to my advice that the Western powers must speak with one voice in regard to the Middle East initiative. And you are the right person to mobilize everybody to speak with one voice -- to speak to Britain, France, Russia, Egypt, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and all other people who can make it possible for us to have a breakthrough in regard to the Middle East. But I am very appreciative of the role that you're playing. And I think everybody here is tremendously encouraged by your intervention.

And lastly, I want you to give my love to Hillary and to Chelsea, and to wish Hillary, and to tell her, that we wish her success in the endeavor in which she has launched now.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. Let me just say very briefly how much I appreciate those remarks, and again, how much I appreciate all the parties being in Arusha. And you may be sure that the United States will continue to support this process. And if the process achieves an agreement which brings peace, we want to support Burundi. And we want to use this process, and your role in it, Mr. President, as a shining example to other troubled countries in Africa and throughout the world that there is a way to walk away from war toward a peaceful future.

So, again, I thank you; I pledge my support; and I am very impressed by what all of you have done. I urge you to stay there and keep working at it. You can do it, and the United States will be with you. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Well, good-bye, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Good-bye.

PRESIDENT MANDELA: Good-bye, Mr. President. Thank you.

END 10:13 A.M. EST

This is historical material, "frozen in time." The web site is no longer updated and links to external web sites and some internal pages will not work.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 16, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

President Mandela has invited President Clinton to join him in Arusha, Tanzania on August 28 in support of the Burundi peace process, which President Mandela is facilitating. President Clinton has accepted the invitation. While in Arusha, he will meet with President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania.

30-30-30

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Arusha, Tanzania)

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ADDRESS AT BURUNDI PEACE TALKS

Simba Hall
Arusha International Conference Center
Arusha, Tanzania

8:10 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, President Museveni, President Mkapa, distinguished leaders of the OAU and various African nations and other nations supporting this peace process. It is a great honor for me to be here today with a large delegation from the United States, including a significant number of members of our Congress, and my Special Envoy to Africa, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Howard Wolpe and others who have worked on this for a long time.

This is a special day in America and for Reverend Jackson. I think I should just mention it in passing. This is the 37th anniversary of the most important civil rights meeting we ever had: the great March on Washington, where Jesse Jackson was present and Martin Luther King gave his "I Have A Dream" speech. I say that not because I think the situations are analogous, but because everybody needs a dream, and I think whether you all decide to sign this or not depends in part on what your dream is.

I thank my friend, President Mandela, for coming in to replace the marvelous late President Nyerere, to involve himself in this process. After 27 years in prison and four years as President of his country -- which some people think is another form of prison -- (laughter) -- he could be forgiven if he had pursued other things. But he came here because he believes in peace and reconciliation. He knows there is no guarantee of success; but if you don't try, there is a guarantee of failure. And failure is not an acceptable option.

So I thank him, I thank the OAU and, Mr. President, you are here today. I thank the regional leaders, in addition to Presidents Museveni and Mkapa, President Moi, President Kagame, Prime Minister Meles, for their work. I thank the Nyerere Foundation, Judge Bomani, Judge Warioba and I thank the people of Tanzania for hosting us here in a city that has become the Geneva of Africa, thanks to many of you. (Applause.)

I say again, I am honored to be in a place that is a tribute to the memory of President Nyerere, and I'm glad that Madam Nyerere is here today. I met her a few moments ago, and I thank her for her presence. (Applause.)

I thank President Buyoya and all the Burundians from all the parties who have come to Arusha and for the efforts you have made.

Peacemaking requires courage and vision -- courage because there are risks involved, and vision because you have to see beyond the risks to understand that however large they are, they are smaller than the price of unending violence. That you have come so far suggests you have the courage and vision to finish the job, and we pray that you will.

I confess that I come here with some humility. I have spent a great deal of time in the last eight years trying to talk people into laying down their arms and opening their hands to one another -- from the Middle East to Northern Ireland to the Balkans. I have had some measure of success and known some enormously painful failures. But I have not been here with you all this long time -- and maybe I have nothing to add to your deliberations, but I would like to share some things that I have learned in eight years of seeing people die, seeing people fight with one another because they're of different ethnic or racial or tribal or religious groups, and of seeing the miracles that come from normal peace.

First, to state the obvious; there will be no agreement unless there is a compromise. People hate compromise because it requires all those who participate in it to be less than satisfied. So it is, by definition, not completely satisfying. And those who don't go along can always point their finger at you and claim that you sold out: Oh, it goes too fast in establishing democracy. Oh, it goes too slow in establishing democracy. It has absolutely too many protections for minority rights. No, it doesn't have enough protections for minority rights.

And there's always a crowd that never wants a compromise -- a small group that actually would, by their own definition, at least, benefit from continued turmoil and fighting. So if you put the compromise on the table, they will use it like salt being rubbed into old wounds. And they're always very good. They know just where the break points are to strike fear into the hearts of people who have to make the hard decisions. I have seen this all over the world.

But I know that honorable compromise is important, and requires people only to acknowledge that no one has the whole truth, that they have made a decision to live together, and that the basic aspirations of all sides can be fulfilled by simply saying no one will be asked to accept complete defeat.

Now, no one ever compromises until they decide it's better than the alternative. So I ask you to think about the alternative. You're not being asked today to sign a comprehensive agreement, you're being asked to sign on to a process which permits you to specify the areas in which you still have disagreements, but which will be a process that we all hope is completely irreversible.

Now, if you don't do it, what is the price? If you don't do it, what is the chance that the progress you have made will unravel? If you come back in five or 10 years, will the issues have changed? I think not. The gulf between you won't narrow, but the gulf between Burundi and the rest of the world, I assure you, will grow wider if you let this moment slip away. More lives will be lost. And I have a few basic questions. I admit, I am an outsider. I admit, I have not been here with you. But I have studied this situation fairly closely. I don't understand how continued violence will build schools of your children, bring water to your villages, make your crops grow, or bring you into the new economy. I think it is impossible that that will happen.

Now, I do think it is absolutely certain that if you let this moment slip away, it will dig the well of bitterness deeper and pile the mountain of grievances higher, so that some day, when somebody else has to come here and sit at a table like this, they will have an even harder job than you do. So I urge you to work with President Mandela; I urge you to work with each other to seize the opportunity that exists right now.

And I urge those groups, including the rebels who are not now part of this process, to join it and begin taking your own risks for peace. No one can have a free ride here. Now that there is a process for resolving differences peacefully, they should lay down their arms.

Now, if you take this step today, it is a first step. It can't restore the bonds of trust by itself. It can't restore the sense of understanding that is necessary for people to live together. So I will also acknowledge that success depends not only on what you say or sign in Arusha, also what you do in the weeks and months and years ahead in Burundi. The agreements you reach have to be respected and implemented both in letter and spirit. Again, I say, if you decide to do this, everyone must acknowledge there must be no victors and no vanquished. If one side feels defeated, it will be likely to fight again, and no Burundian will be secure. And, after all, security for all is one of the main arguments for doing this.

Now, let me say something else. Of course, you must confront the past with honesty. There is hardly a Burundian family that has not felt the sorrow of losing a loved one to violence. The history must be told, the causes must be understood. Those responsible for violence against innocent people must be held accountable. But what is the goal here? The goal must be to end the cycle of violence, not perpetuate it.

So I plead with you; I've seen this a lot of places, and it's always the same. You have to help your children remember their history, but you must not force them to relive their history. They deserve to live in their tomorrows, not in your yesterdays. (Applause.) Let me just make one other point. When all is said and done, only you can bring an end to the bloodshed and sorrow your country has suffered. Nelson Mandela will be a force for peace. The United States will try to be a force for peace. But no one can force peace; you must choose it.

Now, again, I say, I watched the parties in Ireland fight for 30 years. I've watched the parties in the Middle East fight for 50 years. I've watched the parties in the Balkans now go at it and then quit and then go at it again, and then I've watched -- saw a million people driven out of Kosovo. And when we began to talk about peace in Bosnia, the three different ethnic and religious groups didn't even want to sit down together in the same room.

But when it's all said and done, it always comes down to the same thing. You have to find a way to support democracy and respect for the majority, and their desires. You have to have minority rights, including security. You have to have shared decision-making, and there must be shared benefits from your living together.

Now, you can walk away from all this and fight some more and worry about it, and let somebody come back here 10 years from now. No matter how long you take, when it comes down to it, they'll still be dealing with the same issues. And I say, if you let anybody else die because you can't bring this together now, all you will do is make it harder for people to make the same decisions you're going to have to make here anyway.

So I will say again: If you decide, if you choose, not because anybody is forcing you, but because you know it is right to give your children their tomorrows; if you choose peace, the United States and the world community will be there to help you make it pay off. (Applause.) We will strongly support an appropriate role for the U.N. in helping to implement it. We will support your efforts to demobilize combatants and to integrate them into a national army. We will help you bring refugees home and to meet the needs of displaced children and orphans. (Applause.)

We will help you to create the economic and social conditions essential to a sustainable peace -- from agricultural development to child immunization, to the prevention of AIDS. I know this is hard, but I believe you can do it. Consider the case of Mozambique. A civil war there took a million lives, most of them innocent civilians. Of every five infants born in Mozambique during the civil war, three -- three -- died before their fifth birthday, either murdered or stricken by disease.

Those who survived grew up knowing nothing but war. Yet today, Mozambique is at peace. It has found a way to include everyone in its political life, and out of the devastation. Last year it had one of the five fastest-growing economies in the entire world. (Applause.) Now, you can do that. But you have to choose. And you have to decide if you're going to embrace that. You have to create a lot of room in your mind and heart and spirit for that kind of future. So you have to let some things go.

Now, Mr. Mandela -- he's the world's greatest example of letting things go. (Applause.) But when we got to be friends, I said to him one day, in a friendly way, I said, you know, Mandela, you're a great friend, but you're also a great politician. It was quite smart to invite your jailers to your inauguration. Good politics. But tell me the truth, now. When they let you out of jail the last time and you were walking to freedom, didn't you have a moment when you were really, really angry at them again? You know what he said? He said, yes, I did -- a moment. then I realized I had been in prison for 27 years, and if I hated them after I got out, I would still be their prisoner, and I wanted to be free. (Applause.)

Sooner or later, hatred, vengeance, the illusion that power over another group of people will bring security in life, these feelings can be just as iron, just as confining as the doors of a prison cell. I don't ask you to forget what you went through in the bitter years. But I hope you will go home to Burundi not as prisoners of the past, but builders of the future. I will say again, if you decide, America and the world will be with you. but you, and only you, must decide whether to give your children their own tomorrows.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 8:30 P.M. (L)