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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 22, 1994

Statement by the Press Secretary

The President's National Security Advisor, Anthony Lake, met today with Rwandan human rights monitor Monique Mujawamarija at the White House. Mr. Lake expressed his deep satisfaction that Ms. Mujawamarija had escaped harm and expressed deep concern over the violence that continues to rage in Rwanda following the tragic deaths of Rwandan President Habyarimana and Burundian President Ntaryamira two weeks ago. He said that the horrors of civil war and mass killings of civilians since then have shocked and appalled the world community. All responsible officials and military officers must bring offending troops and units under control immediately.

We call on the Rwandan army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to agree on an immediate ceasefire and return to negotiations called for and facilitated by the Government of Tanzania. We applaud the efforts of regional leaders who are actively engaged in the search for peace and call on the people of the region to support their quest. The United States is prepared to participate, as in the past, in renewed negotiation in the context of the Arusha Agreement of August 4, 1993. The principles of a negotiated agreement and power-sharing in that agreement remain valid bases for a return to peace in Rwanda.

We call on the leadership of the Rwandan armed forces, including Army Commander-in-Chief Col. Augustin Bizimungu, Col. Nkundiyé, Capt. Pascal Simbikangwa and Col. Bagosora, to do everything in their power to end the violence immediately.

In line with the U.N. Security Council resolution yesterday, we believe that the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has an important continued role to perform in Rwanda in attempting to secure a ceasefire between the parties, assisting humanitarian relief operations and protecting Rwandans under their care. We share the belief that the reduction of UNAMIR personnel, in recognition of the need to ensure their safety and security, must not put at risk the lives of Rwandans under UN protection.

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