

## EMBASSY OF BELGIUM



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DATE : le 27 avril 1994.

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P Géo 04, CAE

*UDMT*

Objet: Rwanda

Dans l'éventualité où vous n'en n'auriez pas déjà possession ou bien au cas où cette version différerait d'autres textes similaires, je vous fais tenir la note diplomatique que l'ambassade du Rwanda à Washington diffuse dans cette capitale.

La thèse étayée dans les paragraphes 22 à 30 est que des faits et coïncidences troublantes alimentent la croyance de l'opinion publique que la Belgique est d'une manière ou d'une autre impliquée dans l'attentat contre feu Président Habyarimana. Ces faits et coïncidences doivent être examinés selon la note.

*Cu Local 920  
application de sa  
régime dans  
l'attentat  
(point 22)*



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ANNEXE  
OBJET

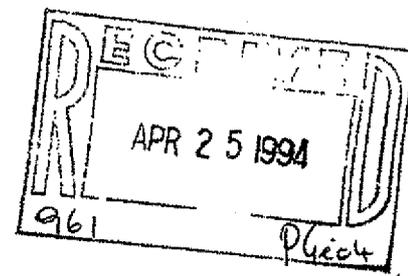
*The Embassy of the Rwandese Republic presents its compliments to the Diplomatic and Consular Missions accredited to the United States and to International Organizations in Washington, D.C. and has the honor to enclose a document prepared by the Rwandese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation entitled "A Definition of the Rwandese Tragedy" dated April 15, 1994.*

*The Embassy of the Rwandese Republic takes this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic and Consular Missions and to International Organizations the assurance of its highest consideration.*

Washington, D.C.



**ALL DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR MISSIONS  
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
Washington, D.C.**



**RWANDESE REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND COOPERATION  
KIGALI**

**A DEFINITION OF THE RWANDESE TRAGEDY**

1. *At the moment RWANDA is living a nightmare after the criminal act that claimed the life of President Juvenal HABYARIMANA and following the renewal of hostilities by the Rwandese Patriotic Front.*
2. *On April 6, 1994 at 8:30 P.M., as he was returning home from Dar-Es-Salaam where he had just attended a sub-regional Summit intended to address security problems in the region, Major-General Juvenal HABYARIMANA died in the company of his Burundian counterpart, Mr. Cyprien NYARYAMIRA.*
3. *The presidential aircraft was hit in the wing by a missile just as it was preparing to land at the Gregoire KAYIBANDA International Airport in Kigali (Kanombe).*
4. *The pilot continued landing maneuvers but hit once more by two other projectiles, the plane exploded when it was flying right over the tarmac.*
5. *All the people on board were killed and -as life's irony would have it- the dead bodies landed in the gardens of the presidential palace not far from there.*
6. *After this plane crash which also cost the life of the Rwandese Commanding Chief of Staff, the RPF rebels stationed inside the National Assembly building -under UNAMIR surveillance- thought it the right time to attack the military camp of the presidential guard positioned in KIMIHURURA. This was the night of April 6, 1994. The Army riposted.*
7. *During the same day of April 6, 1994 towards 2:00 PM, armed RPF insurgents deployed inside the city particularly at the Meridien Hotel with some Rwandese civilians.*
8. *Later in the same night of April 6, 1994, the Rwandese population was seething with excitement specially in the city neighborhoods where violence had exploded, aimed at eliminating RPF pawns commonly known as "IBYITSO".*

9. *This surge of violence reached the countryside in some regions where armed RFP sympathizers and infiltrated RPF rebels were targeted.*
10. *On the day following President HABYARIMANA's assassination, the RPF declared itself no longer bound by the Arusha Agreements which they had, in any case, flagrantly violated in resuming the war in the northern part of the country and in the assault of the capital by the battalion camped in the National Assembly building, when according to the KINIHIRA Protocol, this battalion was designated to protect the RPF officials.*
11. *In the face of this predicament, an emergency committee was formed by the High Command of the Army. To offset the power void in Rwanda, the National Assembly, jointly with the Rwandese Army High Command, asked the President of the National Assembly to assume the charge by acceding to the supreme magistrature as constitutionally stipulated in the Fundamental Law of June 10, 1991. Thus Dr. Theodore SINDIKUBWABO became President of the Republic.*
12. *The five political parties participating in the transitional government according to the Agreement Protocol of April 16, 1992, were asked to form a government to carry on negotiations with the RPF aimed at setting in place the Broad-based Transitional Institutions.*
13. *The political party, M.D.R., nominated Mr Jean KAMBANDA for the office of Prime Minister which was accepted by the other parties.*
14. *The Government composition was determined as presented in the attached list.*
15. *This Government has received the mandate of restoring order in the country, continue negotiations with the RPF, launch an international appeal to help the Rwandese people specially in southern Rwanda, who are suffering from hunger, misery and all kinds of disease, the consequences of three years of war. This Government will also continue the work of repatriating refugees and reintegrating war-displaced persons.*
16. *To cope with the declaration of war launched by the RPF, the Rwandese Government offered the peaceful solution of dialogue, and proposed a cease-fire to the RPF.*
17. *The RPF has pursued its campaign of misinformation and brainwashing of the international public opinion -deluding itself with illusions of seizing the capital by force and take complete hold of power. It is along this vein that the media supporters of the RPF and its international allies have taken turns to relay the excessively gross lies, like*

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- the taking over of the capital, undoubtedly to discourage the irresolute support by some individuals of Mr KAMBANDA's government.*
18. *One would imagine that warfare engaged in by the RPF would be of the guerrilla type; consequently, simple sporadic shooting orchestrated by RPF members from several corners of the city is regarded by RPF propaganda to be the effective take-over of the city.*
  19. *The Rwandese Army has the situation in hand on all fronts. It has succeeded in dislodging the enemy holed up in the capital and withstood opposing forces in the North.*
  20. *For its part, the civilian population that has risen "as one man" is fiercely resisting the RPF and has greatly contributed to ensure the safety of individuals and property; it has also exposed RPF rebels who had infiltrated many areas of the city. The people's support is entirely pledged to the Army.*
  21. *Even in the face of RPF conflicting ambitions, the Rwandese Army remains united and there has been no mutiny in the presidential guard, contrary to reports from international media sources brainwashed by the RPF.*
  22. *As to involvement of the RPF and other enemies of the nation in the Rwandese tragedy, it must be pointed out that all declarations -indeed contradictory- that have been made so far are only based on speculation. Where some are concerned, these speculations are simply designed to hide the truth. Nevertheless, the Rwandese Government will open an investigation shortly to clear up the responsibility of the Belgian peacekeepers suspected by Rwandese public opinion to have been mixed up in the assassination plot of the Rwandese Head of State.*
  23. *It is true that responsibility for security in the vicinity of the Airport from where the missiles appear to have been shot at the presidential plane lay with the Belgian contingent of the UNAMIR (United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda).*
  24. *Three suspects of this same Belgian contingent were apprehended at the time a group of 8 UNAMIR peacekeeping troops tried to forcibly take the black box from the plane wreckage.*
  25. *The results of the analyses of the black box will be made known during the investigation; while awaiting these expert findings however, it would be foolhardy to draw definite*

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conclusions regarding the culprit in the crime that claimed the life of President HABYARIMANA.

26. On the issue of evacuation of foreigners, it must be pointed out that the Belgian, French, and American Governments informed the Rwandese Government that each one intended to take care of repatriating its own citizens. The Rwandese Government consented to this arrangement.
27. In this connection the American Government sent about 400 marines and 8 airplanes which stood by in Bujumbura. Evacuation of Americans, Canadians and Germans was carried out in two stages. First overland from Kigali to Bujumbura, then from there by plane.
- The other foreigners -Belgians and French- were evacuated from the Gregoire Kayibanda international airport by aircraft that had been duly cleared for landing and takeoff.
28. Only one discordant note marked the Belgian evacuation operations, while for the other countries, there was nothing to report.
- Indeed, big Belgian aircraft unloaded in KANOMBE heavy equipment such as combat tanks. To us this heavy material seemed unnecessary to carry out a simple operation of evacuating people. Besides, this material was never reloaded after the operations were completed. The Government therefore had not respected the understanding with the Rwandese authorities on the issue of operations to evacuate its citizens.
29. Military sources claim that some Belgian members of the UNAMIR actively participated in the fighting in some sections of the city. Evidently, this contradicts the Arusha Agreements and is contrary to the mission assigned to UNAMIR in RWANDA. Two Belgian soldiers were killed in the battlefield in Mont Jari -site of the radio transmitters- very close to KIGALI.
30. It is also possible to assume that the UNAMIR (Belgian contingent) did not exercise strict surveillance on the RPF insurgents stationed inside the National Assembly building since they were able to stock up on weapons, move about easily, go out and launch assaults against the civilian population of the Capital and against military objectives.

**Signed in Kigali, on April 15, 1994.**

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation**

**Président of the Rwandese Republic ad interim:**

**H.E. Dr. SINDIKUBWABO Théodore**

**Prime Minister :**

**H.E. Monsieur KAMBANDA Jean**

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**Mr. BICAMUMPAKA Jérôme:**
2. **Minister of Interior and Communal Development:**  
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**Mrs. NTAMABYALIRO Agnès**
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**Mr. BIZIMANA Augustin**
5. **Minister of Agriculture and Livestock:**  
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**Dr. RWAMAKUBA André**
7. **Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Culture:**  
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**Mrs. NYIRAMASUHUKO Pauline**
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**Mr. NZABONIMANA Callixte**

