

RELEASED IN FULL

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

5559

A11B

July 9, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Emergency Fund Drawdown for Refugees, Returnees,
and Conflict Victims from Rwanda and Burundi

This memorandum recommends that the President authorize the use of up to \$20,000,000 from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (the Fund) for urgent and unforeseen needs of refugees, returnees, and conflict victims from Rwanda and Burundi.

To date as many as 500,000 people have been killed and up to 2 million people have been displaced in Rwanda. Since April, 540,000 Rwandan refugees have sought safety in neighboring countries. The continued outflow threatens regional stability. Of the over 600,000 Burundi refugees from the October 1993 coup attempt in Burundi, the 300,000 who had sought refuge in Rwanda have now been scattered by the Rwandan conflict. Taking into account Rwandan and Burundi refugees and returnees generated since last October, urgent assistance for over one million refugees is required at present.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is coordinating basic emergency assistance to Rwandan and Burundi refugees throughout the region and estimates its needs during 1994 to be over \$150,000,000. The World Food Program (WFP) is providing food aid to refugees, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is assisting displaced persons in Rwanda and Burundi. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with local Red Cross societies, is providing critical relief in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire. Also, many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working with the refugees. A drawdown of \$20,000,000 is proposed to respond to these urgent requirements.

The current balance of the Fund is \$44,299,633. With this drawdown, only \$24,299,633 will remain. The Haitian migrant operation entails substantial direct operating costs as well as cost reimbursements and other payments to other governments. Apart from the remaining availabilities in the Fund, the Department of State has only very limited Economic Support

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

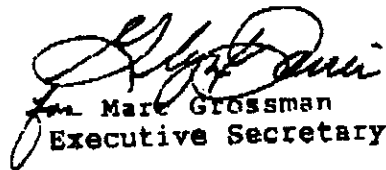
REVIEW AUTHORITY:
EDWARD W. HOLMES

Fund and refugee funds available for Haiti. If the \$20,000,000 is drawn down for Rwanda, therefore, it will be necessary for other agencies to bear a greater portion of the costs for Haiti. On balance, however, we believe the urgent needs in Rwanda and Burundi are so overwhelming that we should proceed with this drawdown.

The President may draw against the Fund to meet "unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs" whenever he determines that it is "important to the national interest" to do so. The Department of State believes that the President is justified in authorizing up to \$20,000,000 from the Fund for the unexpected urgent life support needs of refugees, returnees, and conflict victims from Rwanda and Burundi. This drawdown furthers the U.S. national interest by providing humanitarian support where it is urgently needed and counters further regional instability.

The Department of State recommends that the President sign the attached Presidential Determination (Tab 1), and in so doing approve the attached Statement of Justification (Tab 2).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.


for Marc Grossman
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Tab 1: Presidential Determination
- Tab 2: Statement of Justification