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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

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June 1, 1994

RELEASED IN FULL

The Honorable Warren M. Christopher
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request that you take appropriate steps with our allies in the United Nations to jam the Rwandan radio broadcasts that are continuing to incite genocide of the Tutsi people. It is my understanding that the Pentagon possesses technology that can jam radio transmissions from either the air or the ground. I urge you to put this technology at the disposal of the United Nations forces working to end the tragic violence in Rwanda.

According to reports by Human Rights Watch, as recently as May 25, Radio Mille Collines (a private station affiliated with an extremist Hutu political party), was broadcasting messages to Rwandans to return to ethnically cleansed areas to kill all remaining Tutsi children. The official Radio Rwanda station has also urged incitements to slaughter.

Radio Mille Collines played an influential role in encouraging ethnic violence even before the April 6 plane crash. In the weeks before the event that triggered the genocide, Radio Mille Collines and Radio Rwanda incited the assassination of opposition political figures and prominent Tutsis. During the past seven weeks, Radio Mille Collines has broadcast exhortations to "Take up your machetes; the graves are only half full! Who will help us fill them?" Announcers have also reportedly ordered the militias to impede the evacuation of Rwandan hostages by the United Nations.

Radio broadcasts in Rwanda are highly influential. Illiterate, roaming gangs of militia members are taking their cues from the calls for the mass slaughter. On a single day in mid-May, Radio Mille Collines broadcast an appeal for an end to the killing, apparently because of the impending visit of U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Jose Ayallo Lasso. On that day, human rights organizations noted a marked drop in the number of civilian deaths. Yet almost immediately upon Ayallo Lasso's departure the exhortations to mass killings resumed -- as did the killings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 31 JAN 2002 199903054

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It is my understanding that the "Volant Solo" aircraft that was used in Desert Storm to provide communications mechanisms to the United Nations has the capability to jam such radio broadcasts from an adjoining country and could be made readily available.

In light of the continuing bloodshed in Rwanda, I hope that an effective way can be found as soon as possible to halt the unconscionable incitement to genocide.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

cc: The Honorable William J. Perry
The Honorable Anthony Lake

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