

United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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## INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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DECL: OADR

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: P - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: AF - Edward Brynn, Acting

SUBJECT: U.S. Delegation to Burundi and Uganda

SUMMARY

We have sent an interagency delegation to Burundi and Rwanda to (1) help bolster Burundi's fragile democracy; (2) discuss humanitarian aid concerns; (3) enlist the support of Burundi and Uganda in pressing the Rwandans for a cease-fire; and (4) discuss plans for expansion of the UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda. U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda David Rawson is heading the delegation.

DISCUSSION

A three-person delegation composed of Ambassador Rawson, AF/RA senior politico-military advisor Scott Fisher, and Col. Jean Michael Beraud, regional director for Africa in OSD's Office of Foreign Civil-Military Affairs, will arrive in Burundi on June 15. They will be joined by Rwanda Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) leader Kate Farnsworth and our regional Defense Attache LTC Charles Vuckovic. In Burundi, the team will pursue the following goals:

- o Reassure the Burundians that the U.S. and international community are engaged and concerned about Burundi's fragile stability. There has been a recent upsurge in the incidence of violence in Burundi. We have found that high-level visits to Burundi often reduce tensions and inhibit outbreaks of violence, and regular visits are an important component of the overall multilateral strategy for Burundi which you approved in April.

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- o Review progress in talks among the government, the ruling, Hutu-dominated FRODEBU party, and the Tutsi-dominated opposition to select a successor to President Ntaryamira, and encourage the parties to continue peaceful dialogue to resolve the issue.
- o Review humanitarian relief needs with the Burundi authorities and discuss their preparedness for possible new refugee flows. Burundi is still recovering from last October's failed coup attempt and coping with the hundreds of thousands of persons displaced by the ensuing violence. In addition, the country is facing an influx of Rwandan refugees (about 85,000 so far) and 385,000 Burundi refugees returning from Rwanda and Tanzania. With the RPF advancing south and west in Rwanda, the possibility looms of huge new flows of Rwandan refugees into Burundi.
- o Seek to enlist Burundi authorities in our efforts to put pressure on the warring parties in Rwanda to agree to a cease-fire. In this regard, the Tutsi-dominated Burundi military may have special influence with the Tutsi-led RPF. A massive influx of Rwandan refugees could upset the fragile situation in Burundi. Burundians thus have a strong interest in seeing an end to the fighting in Rwanda.
- o Reinforce the efforts of UN SYG Special Representative Abdallah to gain Burundian agreement to use Burundi as a logistical base to support the expanded UNAMIR peacekeeping effort. With much of the threatened populations amassed in the southwestern portion of Rwanda, Burundi would be a logical entry point for the troops.

At the end of the week, the team will travel to Uganda to discuss the relief effort and urge the Ugandan government to put pressure on the RPF (with which it has very close relations) to agree to a cease-fire. The team also hopes to travel to Kabale in southern Uganda to view first-hand the cross-border relief effort based there.

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