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Washington, D.C. 20520

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April 7, 1994

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ROBERT P. MCALEER, USMC
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**SUBJECT: Request for Contingency Planning for Possible
Military-Assisted Evacuation Operation of American
Citizens in Rwanda**

The situation in Kigali, Rwanda has deteriorated rapidly. Fighting has broken out as a result of the deaths of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, who were aboard a commercial aircraft that is believed to have been downed by hostile fire as it approached the Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. Personnel assigned to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) have been killed, and fighting has broken out in Kigali between government military forces and forces of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Currently all official Americans in Rwanda are reported to be safe and have been directed to remain in their residences. The total number of U.S. citizens in Rwanda is estimated between 210 and 350. The Department of State requests the Department of Defense immediately begin active contingency planning for a possible military-assisted evacuation operation of all U.S. citizens in Rwanda. Planning should include a full range of options. We request that this planning take into consideration possible combined operations with allied countries that have citizens in Rwanda, such as France and Belgium. This planning should also consider the possible evacuation of allied civilians in Rwanda.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

for Marc Grossman
Executive Secretary

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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