

RELEASED IN FULL

*pw
press
statement*
(A9)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

July 18, 1994

STATEMENT BY DAVID JOHNSON, ACTING SPOKESMAN

\$19 MILLION FOR REFUGEES FROM RWANDA AND BURUNDI

The President authorized on July 17 the use of up to \$19 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet the unexpected and urgent needs of refugees, returnees, and conflict victims from Rwanda and Burundi.

The number of refugees who have fled the conflict in Rwanda to the neighboring countries of Tanzania, Zaire, Uganda, and Burundi has now reached over 2 million. The flow of almost a million people into the Goma area of Zaire over the last few days is unprecedented. Moreover, there are as many as 3 million displaced people inside Rwanda. The needs are enormous and international relief agencies are overwhelmed. The continued outflow threatens the stability of the region.

This funding reaffirms our commitment to assist the humanitarian relief effort caused by the Rwanda crisis. It will be made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is coordinating basic assistance to Rwandan and Burundi refugees throughout the region; and to other international organizations providing critical relief in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire.

This new funding is in addition to the \$100 million which the U.S. has already contributed since April and to 80 new Department of Defense airlift missions which will begin this week with flights into Goma.

U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Brian Atwood, who is also the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance, visited Goma today to assess relief efforts and the need for enhanced assistance caused by the wave of new refugees across the border from Rwanda into Zaire.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
EDWARD W. HOLMES

972241 1880

"RWANDA PRESS Release JUL 94"