

# Clinton condemns deaths of African leaders

Reuters, April 7, 1994

WASHINGTON, April 7 (Reuters) - President Clinton condemned Thursday the deaths of President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi, whose plane was downed by rocket fire.

In a statement, Clinton also condemned the killing of Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana by "elements" of the Rwandan security forces. "I strongly condemn these actions and I call on all parties to cease any such actions immediately," he said.

The president said he was "shocked and deeply saddened" to learn of the deaths of the African presidents, whose plane was hit Wednesday as they returned to Rwanda from a regional summit of African leaders in

the Tanzanian capital Dar Es Salaam.

"Both presidents were seeking means to end the bloodshed in their troubled countries and facilitate a movement toward peace and democracy," Clinton said, adding that their deaths were "a tragic blow to the long-suffering Rwandan and Burundian people."

"I am equally horrified that elements of the Rwandan security forces have sought out and murdered Rwandan officials, including the prime minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana," Clinton said in the statement released by the White House.

"These tragedies must not derail Rwanda and Burundi from pursuing national reconciliation and democracy," Clinton said.

(c) Reuters Limited 1994