

Canadian general ready to answer probe on Rwanda killings

AFP, September 24, 1997

BRUSSELS, Sept 24 (AFP) - Canada's General Romeo Dallaire is ready to answer questions by a Belgian parliamentary committee inquiring into the 1994 genocide in Rwanda while he commanded a UN mission there, a member of the probe committee said Wednesday.

The Belgian Senate invited Dallaire to answer questions about the deaths of 10 Belgian UN soldiers in Kigali, who were murdered along with Rwanda's then prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana in April 1994 at the start of the wave of genocide.

The request was turned down by the United Nations secretariat.

However Dallaire says he is now ready to testify in writing, through the intermediary of the United Nations, if he gets authorisation to do so, Senator Alain Destexhe told AFP.

The Canadian general is a key witness in the soldiers' deaths and events in the run-up to the four-month genocide in Rwanda, when between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred, Destexhe said.

bpi/jb/jp/ma