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OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: BARIL, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

FROM: DALLAIRE, UNAMIR, KIGALI, RWANDA

DATE: 7 APRIL 1994

NUMBER: 001-~~212~~ 212-963-6460

SUBJECT: SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT - REPORTED DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF RWANDA

REFERENCE: MIR - 722

*3/7/94*  
*916 V 8 1111*

1. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED AND CONFIRMED BY RGF AND GENDARMERIE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF RWANDA AND THE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI WERE KILLED IN AN AIRPLANE CRASH AT KIGALI AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 2040 HOURS - 6-APRIL-1994. THE DEATHS HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY UNAMIR PERSONNEL BUT DUE TO THE STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF LEADING RGF AND GENDARMERIE LEADERS THIS REPORT IS CONSIDERED TRUE. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE RGF WAS ALSO IN THE AIRCRAFT. WE BELIEVE 9 PERSONS WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH.
2. AT APPROXIMATELY 2040 HOURS UNMOs AT KANOMBE (KIGALI INTERNATIONAL) AIRPORT REPORTED A LARGE EXPLOSION FROM THE AREA OF CAMP KANOMBE WHICH IS A MILITARY CAMP NEAR THE AIRPORT. INITIAL REPORTS STATED IT WAS AN EXPLOSION OF MUNITIONS. HOWEVER, WITHIN MINUTES GENDARMERIE AND RGF PERSONNEL AT THE AIRPORT BEGAN TO PANIC IN THE AREA OF THE AIRPORT. THE UNMOs REQUESTED AN ARMED ESCORT INVESTIGATE THE EXPLOSION.
3. AT 2118 HOURS A PLATOON OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD ESTABLISHED A ROADBLOCK AT THE MERIDIEN TRAFFIC CIRCLE AND BLOCKED TRAFFIC. SEVERAL SHOTS WERE FIRED. NO REPORTED CASUALTIES. THE GUARDS APPEARED BY UNAMIR OBSERVATION TO BE NERVOUS AND DANGEROUS.
4. AT 2130 HOURS A REPORT FROM UNMOs AT THE AIRPORT STATED THE TOWER HAD DECLARED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRPLANE HAD CRASHED. IT WAS NOT AT THIS TIME CONFIRMED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS ON THE AIRCRAFT. A TELEPHONE CALL TO THE RPF LOS LIVING WITH UNAMIR STAFF AT THE MERIDIEN HOTEL DISCOVERED ALL THE LOS HAD DEPARTED THE MERIDIEN HOTEL APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES EARLIER. THE FC DISPATCHED THE DCOO TO THE RPF\CND COMPOUND TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THEM AND ORDERED THE DFC\COS TO THE HEADQUARTERS.
5. AT 2135 HOURS KIGALI SECTOR HQ REPORTED THAT THE ARMED

PATROL SENT TO INVESTIGATE THE CRASH HAD BEEN STOPPED, DISARMED AND WERE BEING HELD AT THE AIRPORT. IN ADDITION THE UNMOs AT THE AIRPORT WERE CONFINED TO A ROOM AT THE AIRPORT. THE FC PLACED UNAMIR ON RED ALERT AND PLACED THE FORCE RESERVE ON 30 MINUTES NOTICE TO MOVE.

6. CONSTANT TELEPHONE CALLS WERE RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD BY THE FC AND FORCE HQ FROM MINISTERS REQUESTING ARMED UN PROTECTION. IN ADDITION AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT WAS RECEIVED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI WAS ALSO IN THE AIRCRAFT. THE RGF LO WAS IN CONSTANT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION FROM ARMY HQ WITH THE FC AND REPORTED THE CRASH HAD OCCURRED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED FC PRESENCE AT THE RGF ARMY HQ.

7. A CALL FROM MR RIZA IN NEW YORK WAS RECEIVED AND THE UNCONFIRMED INFORMATION AS KNOWN AT THAT TIME WAS PASSED TO HIM AT 2210 HOURS. THE FC MOVED TO RGF ARMY HQ AT 2230 HOURS.

8. TRANSITING THE CITY IT WAS VOID OF INHABITANTS OR TRAFFIC. ROADBLOCKS MANNED BY RGF SOLDIERS WERE LOCATED NEAR THE RGF HQ. FC ARRIVED AT 2250 HOURS AND WAS MET BY THE CHEF DE CABINET OF THE MND OF RWANDA (THE MND IS IN CAMEROON AT A CONFERENCE), THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENDARMERIE AND THE KEY STAFF APPOINTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND GENDARMERIE. THE CHEF DE CABINET SPOKE FOR THE GROUP.

9. HE STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY WERE ON THE PLANE AND THAT THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS FROM THE AIRPLANE CRASH. HE COULD NOT AT THIS POINT CONFIRM THE OTHER PASSENGERS. THE FC OFFERED NO INFORMATION (IE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI). HE STATED APPARENTLY THE AIRCRAFT EXPLODED IN THE AIR AND CRASHED ON THE GROUND IN THE PRESIDENTS GARDEN NEAR THE AIRPORT. IT WAS SUSPECTED BUT NOT CONFIRMED THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN.

10. DURING HIS DISCOURSE REPORTS CONTINUED TO ARRIVE BY PHONE WHICH UPDATED THE SITUATION. THE CHEF STATED THE ARMY AND GENDARMERIE WERE PREPARED TO KEEP THEIR POSITION FOR THE COUNTRY AND FOR PEACE. WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT HE STATED THEIR WAS NO GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE POPULATION HAD TO BE REASSURED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN THE NATION. HE REQUESTED UNAMIR SUPPORT IN THEIR ACTIONS. THE FC STATED EVEN WITH THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT THERE WAS STILL A GOVERNMENT UNDER PM AGATHE. THE OFFICERS SCOFFED AND STATED SHE AND HER GROUP WERE NOT A GOVERNMENT. THE FC DID NOT PURSUE THAT CONVERSATION BUT ASKED WHAT TYPE OF SUPPORT THEY WERE REQUESTING. THE CHEF STATED JOINT UNAMIR GENDARMERIE AND RGF PATROLS AND A STATEMENT TO THE POPULATION. THE FC STATED THAT THE RGF MUST REMAIN IN ITS BARRACKS AND THAT THE GENDARMERIE MUST DO ITS JOB OF MAINTAINING ORDER. THE FC STATED THE RPF WERE CALM AND UNAMIR WOULD MONITOR THEM CLOSELY AND THAT IT WAS CRITICAL THAT UNAMIR BE ALLOWED TO INVESTIGATE THE CRASH SITE AND THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD RETURN TO THEIR GARRISON. NO COMMITMENT WAS MADE AT THIS POINT.

11. AT 1107 HOURS THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENDARMERIE REPORTED THE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI HAD BEEN ON THE AIRCRAFT.

HE STATED THIS GROUP DID NOT WANT POWER BUT ONLY WANTED TO REASSURE THE POPULATION AS THE POPULATION WAS TIRED OF THIS DANCING AROUND. THE FC ASKED WHO WOULD SPEAK TO THE POPULATION AND SUGGESTED THE PM AGATHE. HE ALSO ASKED IF ANYONE HAD SPOKEN TO THE PM AND THE CABINET. THE CHEF AVOIDED THE QUESTION BY STATING THE NATION NEEDED A TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY TO HANDOVER TO THE POLITICIANS AT ANYTIME THEY WERE PREPARED TO GOVERN. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED ORDER HAD TO BE MAINTAINED TONIGHT AND THAT UNAMIR ASSISTANCE WAS CRITICAL.

12. THE FC STATED THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND HE MUST CONSULT WITH THE SRSG. HOWEVER HE STATED ANY ACTION HE WOULD TAKE WOULD ONLY BE WITH HIS PERMISSION. A JOINT COORDINATED PLAN WAS ESSENTIAL. IT MUST BE TRANSPARENT AND CONTROLLED. THE FC ASKED WHAT WAS THE THREAT AT THIS MOMENT.

13. THE CHEF STATED WHAT DID UNAMIR WANT THEM TO DO.

14. THE FC STATED RGF TROOPS MUST BE CONFINED TO THEIR BARRACKS AND ONLY THE GENDARMERIE MUST MAINTAIN ORDER.

15. THE CHEF ASKED TO PLACE TROOPS ON ALERT FOR POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT BUT THEY WOULD REMAIN IN THEIR BARRACKS.

16. AT 2330 HOURS THE FC CONSULTED WITH THE SRSG BY TELEPHONE. HE RETURNED TO THE MEETING AND LISTENED TO THE COS GENDARMERIE ENHANCED SECURITY PLAN TO CONSIST OF ONE ARMORED CAR AND EXTRA GENDARMES AT THE RADIO STATION, ONE ARMORED CAR AND EXTRA GENDARMES AT THE TELCON AND EXTRA GENDARMES AT THE ELECTROGAZ AND THE CITY FUEL TANKS IN CASE OF SABOTAGE. IN ADDITION HE REQUESTED SATURATED PATROLLING WITH JOINT GENDARME AND UNAMIR PATROLS. THE FC AGREED TO THE ABOVE REQUESTS AND STATED THE GROUP MUST REASSURE THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY, KEEP THE RGF IN ITS BARRACKS AND ORDER THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD BACK TO ITS BARRACKS. THE CHEF ADDED THAT THEY WOULD SPEAK TO THE RPF THE NEXT DAY WHEN THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS CLEARER. THE FC OFFERED TO STAY AT THE HEADQUARTERS TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES UNTIL KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER COULD ARRIVE TO COORDINATE DETAILS.

17. AT 2400 HOURS THE FC WAS CONSULTING WITH THE SRSG BY TELEPHONE WHEN THE CHEF STATED HE WANTED TO SEE THE SRSG WITH THE FC. THE FC, AFTER ACCEPTANCE BY THE SRSG, ESCORTED THE CHEF TO THE SRSG HOME WHILE KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER COORDINATED THE ENHANCED JOINT SECURITY MEASURES WITH THE COS OF THE GENDARMERIE AND THE STAFF OF THE RGF AND GENDARMERIE. BEFORE LEAVING, THE FC ASKED THEM TO RECONSIDER AGAIN SPEAKING TO PM AGATHE.

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19. AT 0200 THE FC RETURNED TO RGF HQ WITH THE CHEF FROM HIS MEETING WITH THE SRSG AND CONFIRMED THE SECURITY DETAILS WITH THE KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER. THE FC REITERATED THE NECESSITY OF GETTING A UNAMIR PRESENCE TO THE CRASH SITE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. THE COS GENDARMERIE AND RGF LO TO UNAMIR COORDINATED THIS MATTER WITH THE KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER AS ROAD BLOCKS STILL BLOCKED ACCESS OF UNAMIR FORCES TO THE CRASH SITE. THE CHEF STATED THE GROUP WOULD PREPARE A COMMUNIQUE FOR THE RADIO AND PRESS. THE FC INSISTED ON SEEING THE COMMUNIQUE BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED. AT 0230 HOURS KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER STATED THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE SUPPOSEDLY ON THE AIRCRAFT:

- A. PRESIDENT OF RWANDA.
- B. PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI.
- C. TWO BURUNDIAN MINISTERS.
- D. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE RGF (MGEN NSABIMANA).
- E. COL SAGATWA (STAFF OFFICER).
- F. DR AKINGENEYE (PERSONAL PHYSICIAN OF THE PRESIDENT).

20. AT 0245 HOURS THE HEAD OF THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION AND ANOTHER FRENCH OFFICER ARRIVED AT THE RGF HQ AND STATED THEY HAD DIRECTION PARIS TO ENSURE A QUALIFIED CRASH INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED OF THE CRASH. FC ASSURED THEM IT WOULD BE. THEY OFFERED THEIR MILITARY TECHNICAL TEAM CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING 6 HOURS AWAY AT BANGUI.

21. AT 0300 THE FC MOVED TO FORCE HQ AND CONSULTED WITH HIS PRIMARY STAFF OFFICERS. AT 0530 THE SOUND OF SPORADIC MACHINE GUNS, ROCKET AND GRENADE FIRE WAS HEARD IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE CITY. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION THE RPF RETURNED FIRE AIMED AT THEM.

22. AT 0600 INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED THAT THE FM HAD CANCELLED HER RADIO ADDRESS AT 0530 AND WAS REMAINING AT HER HOME. THE GUARD ON HER HOME WAS INCREASED. IN ADDITION THE FM REPORTED THAT THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED WITH THEIR FAMILIES BY THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD.

23. ATTEMPTS BY FC TO GET THE RADIO STATIONS TO CARRY AN ADDRESS BY THE FM OR BY UNAMIR OVER THE PHONES WERE REFUSED. RADIO RWANDA TECHNICIANS WERE WARNED NOT TO BROADCAST ANY ADDRESS AND ARE PLAYING CLASSICAL MUSIC. RTLM SUPPOSEDLY BROADCASTED A MESSAGE FROM THE MND (WHO IS OUT OF COUNTRY) BUT DETAILS COULD NOT BE OBTAINED AS IT WAS IN KINYARWANDA. IN ADDITION RTLM WOULD NOT ALLOW FC TO BROADCAST. THEY ACCUSED UNAMIR OF KILLING RWANDESE WHICH IS TOTALLY UNTRUE AS UP TO THAT POINT UNAMIR HAD NOT FIRED A SHOT.

24. SRSG, FC AND VARIOUS AMBASSADORS HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE COMMUNICATION AND ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE A MEETING AT THE US

AMBASSADORS HOME AT 0900. AT 0730 HOURS IT WAS REPORTED BUT NOT CONFIRMED THAT THE HOME OF MINISTER LANDO (LIBERAL PARTY) HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND UN (GHANA) SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED. A RESERVE PATROL WAS SENT TO HIS HOME.

25. RPF REMAINED CALM AND PASSED INFORMATION TO UNAMIR THROUGH THE UNAMIR LO. UNAMIR HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THE CRASH SITE. IN ADDITION COMMENCING AT 0730 RGF (POSSIBLY PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS).

26. AT 0830 MORE REPORTS CONTINUED TO ARRIVE OF MINISTERS HOMES BEING ATTACKED BY PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS. AT 0845 THE PM FLED HER HOME AND HER UN GUARD WHICH BOUGHT HER TIME WAS DISARMED AND HELD BUT LATER RELEASED. THE PM TOOK REFUGE IN THE UNDP. AT 0920 IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER LANDO AND HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME. THE UN GUARD WAS OVERPOWERED AND ONE GHANIAN SOLDIER WAS REPORTED MISSING.

27. AT 0920 HOURS FC CALLED MR RIZA AT UNNY TO INFORM HIM OF THE ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION AND TO INFORM HIM UNAMIR MIGHT HAVE TO USE FORCE TO SAVE THE PRIME MINISTER. THE ARMED ESCORT ATTEMPTING TO GET TO UNDP TO RESCUE THE PM WAS BLOCKED AND THREATENED WITH FIRE IF THEY ATTEMPTED TO GO TO UNDP. THE FC DISCUSSED RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WITH MR RIZA AND THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WERE CONFIRMED THAT UNAMIR WAS NOT TO FIRE UNTIL FIRED UPON. OUR PERSONNEL WHO WERE OVERPOWERED WITHOUT FIRE.

28. THE AMBASSADORS MEETING AT THE US AMBASSADORS HOUSE WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE THE AMBASSADORS COULD NOT BE SAFELY ESCORTED TO THE MEETING. THE ARMY AND GENDARMERIE GROUP DID APPEAR. FC DISCUSSED MR RIZA'S DIRECTION WITH SRSG.

29. FC CONVENED A STAFF MEETING AT 1000 HOURS. FC TO GO TO ARMY HQ TO MEET ARMY AND GENDARMERIE GROUP TO EMPHASIZE PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS MUST GO TO THEIR BARRACKS, MINISTERS MUST BE RELEASED AND PM RECOGNIZED AS HEAD OF STATE. DFC\COS TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT ACCESS TO CRASH SITE. DCOO TO REMAIN WITH RPF AND KEEP THEM CALM. CMO TO REMAIN AT FORCE HQ AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH OTHER SECTORS. SOUTHERN SECTOR ALL QUIET EXCEPT FIRING IN CYANGUGU. RPF SECTOR ALL QUIET. UNMOS DEPLOYED TO RPF FRONT LINES. SECTOR COMMANDER WITH MGEN KAGAME. RGF SECTOR QUIET.

30. DCOO CONVEYED AT 1005 RPF CALM BUT INSISTING ON INSTALLATION OF BBTG, PM AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTION, END TO VIOLENCE.

31. 1015 REPORT FROM RGF LO THAT 3 UNAMIR PERSONNEL KILLED AT CAMP KAMI. CMO TOOK DECISION TO CALL IN ALL MILOBS FROM MILOB GP HQ TO FORCE HQ. CMO CHECKED AND MILOBS WERE NOT KILLED AND ALL WERE ACCOUNTED FOR.

32. 1030 HOURS UNDP REPORTED PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS ATTEMPTING TO BREAK INTO COMPOUND AND ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT. PATROL BLOCKED BY ROADBLOCK AND UNABLE TO GET THROUGH.

33. 1215 HOURS KIGALI SECTOR COMMANDER DISPATCHED APCs TO GET PM DESIGNATE WHO HAD BEEN LOCATED AT THE HOME OF A US NATIONAL

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BY THE US AMBASSADOR. A TOGOLESE CAPTAIN UNMO REPORTED TO THE FORCE HQ AND STATED HE AND 13 BELGIAN SOLDIERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND TAKEN TO CAMP KIGALI WHERE HE REPORTS THAT 13 BELGIAN SOLDIERS WERE EXECUTED. BELGIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER INFORMED AND INVESTIGATION COMMENCED.

34. FC CALLED AT 1300 TO STATE HE FELT HE HAD NEGOTIATED THE RELEASE OF THE UNDP PERSONNEL. WHETHER OR NOT THE PM AGATHE WAS IN THIS GROUP COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED. COL MARCHAL CALLED TO STATE HE HAD SECURED THE PM DESIGNATE FAUSTIN. CONTINUOUS CALLS FOR HELP FROM THE LOCAL, UN AND EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY BUT DUE TO ROADBLOCKS VERY FEW ACTIONED. TERRIFIED REFUGEES SWAMP THE HQ AND ARE MOVED UNDER ESCORT TO AMAHORO STADIUM UNDER PROTECTION OF RUTBAT. FC CALLED FOR TWO MORE APC'S TO HELP HIS APC EXTRACT UNDP HOSTAGES. DISPATCHED. DFC\COS ORDERED ALL STAFF OFFICERS TO THE FORCE HQ IN CONVOY. ESSENTIAL CIVILIAN STAFF MOVED INTO THE HQ.

35. AT 1315 HOURS MGEN KAGAME MADE A STATEMENT BY RADIO THAT THE RPF UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY OF THE ATTACKS IN KIGALI WERE AIMED AT THEIR SUPPORTERS AND THAT IF THIS CONTINUED HIS SOLDIERS WOULD REACT TO DEFEND THEIR PEOPLE. REPORTED TO FC WHO DIRECTED DCOO WITH RPF AND CND AND RPF SECTOR COMMANDER TO ATTEMPT TO CALM DOWN RPF.