

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: FC

From: CHO

Date: 29 May 1994

CASE NO.: IC PR-98-41-1
EXHIBIT NO.: DB 113
DATE ADMITTED: 25-06-2004
TENDERED BY: DEFENCE
NAME OF WITNESS: DCH

Subject: MEETING BETWEEN HAC- REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PREFET OF KIGALI- REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF - REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENDARMERIE

1. The above mentioned meeting was held between 1000 hrs and 1315 hrs 29 May, 1994 at the Milles Collines Hotel in Kigali. In attendance were the following persons:

- a. Colonel Yaache, CHO;
- b. A representative of the Prefect of Kigali;
- c. Colonel HAGIRIMANA Edouard, Representative of the Chief of Staff of the Rwandese Army;
- d. Lieutenant Colonel RWABALINDA Major Cyiza of the Gendarmerie;
- f. Major MacNeil and Captain Demers, UNAMIR HAC; and
- h. Lt Col Moigny, UNAMIR LO to RGF.

AIM

2. The aim of the meeting was to clarify points concerning the transfer of displaced persons between the opposing forces due to difficulties experienced in conducting the operation on 28 May.

SECURITY

3. Colonel Yaache in his opening remarks indicated that the convoy moving through Cayahafi cross roads had been fired upon four times the previous day and that two UNAMIR vehicles had been hit. He indicated that he could not put the displaced persons and UNAMIR troops in such danger and that if the convoy was fired upon in the future then the exercise would have to be discontinued. He said that information collected on the incident indicated that both the RGF and the RPF had engaged the convoy. This was supported by a UNAMIR UNMO who was travelling with the convoy who confirmed that both sides had engaged the convoy.

4. Colonel Hagirimana confirmed that if UNAMIR would convince the RPF to respect the truce then the RGF would also respect the truce until the operation was completed. It was agreed that the operation would resume on 30 May and that the RGF would observe

a truce from 0700 hrs to 1800 hrs.

5. The point was raised by Colonel Yaache that the roadblocks were stopping the convoy in the dangerous area of Cayahafi cross roads. The Gendarmerie indicated that this practice would not be continued for future convoys.

DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENTS ON THE OVERALL OPERATION

6. Colonel Hagirimana expressed the view that the RGF viewed the evacuation of displaced persons as separate operations between successive camps. It was his view that the Milles Collines and the Amahoro Stadium would be emptied and that the operation would end simultaneously. The operation would then be repeated with two more camps.

7. Colonel Yaache explained that it was UNAMIR's understanding of the agreement that it was rather the entire operation that would end simultaneously. He explained the practical difficulties of simultaneous movement of 7000 and 500 persons from two areas.

8. After extensive discussion the following agreements were reached:

- a. The operation would continue as per the understanding of the two parties. Efforts would however be made to empty the Amahoro Stadium and Milles Collines Hotel pending a final agreement on the issue.
- b. UNAMIR would dedicate additional lift resources to the Amahoro Stadium to demonstrate an intention to complete the evacuation simultaneously.
- c. UNAMIR would obtain a written agreement from the RPF to the effect that should the main operation not end simultaneously then they would not hold as hostage the remaining people in the RPF held areas.
- d. The preferred sequence of evacuation would be as follows:
 - (1) The Milles Collines and the Amahoro Stadium,
 - (2) The King Faycal Hospital and the Sainte Famille Camp, and
 - (3) The Meridien and other places in Kigali.
- e. The listing of displaced persons would continue but one list would suffice and this would be passed to the Gendarmerie or a burgmeister at the release point.
- f. As of the moment only those persons presently in the Milles Collines and the Amahoro Stadium would be considered as within the present operation.

- g. Colonel Hagirimana indicated that some people were moving from other displaced camps to the Milles Collines to benefit from a quicker evacuation. It was agreed that persons in other displaced camps would be discouraged from this practice to avoid complicating the operation.

9. Colonel Yaache stated that although seven trucks were available to evacuate persons at the Amahoro Stadium for the last planned evacuation the day before only two trucks were needed for the number of people who presented themselves. He said he raised the point for interest only indicating that the reason could have been fear due to the convoy being engaged by fire or that they had heard that the camp selected by the Government was not a good one. The representative of the Prefet indicated that coercion from the RPF may be the reason but in any case he indicated that UNAMIR should continue to protect them until they decided what they wanted to do. It was decided that this issue should be monitored closely using the next evacuation as an indicator.

EVACUATION BY AIR

10. Colonel Yaache asked whether there was any disagreement with allowing those who wanted to leave Rwanda by air to do so. All agreed that they saw no problem with this and that UNAMIR should insist upon the same response from the RPF.

ORPHANAGES

11. Colonel Yaache raised the issue of the inclusion of the orphanages in the Kigali area in the operation. He indicated that the orphans had been sponsored by some countries and could be evacuated quickly from danger through airlift. It was agreed that the Government would submit its views on the issue to UNAMIR as soon as possible.

ZAIRIANS/TANZANIANS

12. It was agreed that the ex-patriates of Zaire and Tanzania could be incorporated into the operation and that a list of the evacuees would be provided to both sides.

EVACUATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MERIDIAN TO RGF AREAS.

13. Colonel Yaache indicated that some of the displaced persons in the Milles Collines wished to be evacuated to areas under the control of the Government. In addition, there were some that wished to remain at the hotel. It was agreed that UNAMIR would evacuate these displaced persons to areas in the Government controlled area as long as the distance to the area chosen did not exceed 25 kilometers from the centre of Kigali. It was further agreed that UNAMIR would continue to provide security to

displaced persons who wished to remain at the hotel.

CONCLUSION

14. The meeting ended with a promise of a truce for the 30 May when the operation would continue with loading of displaced persons at 0800 hrs in the morning.

D.J. MacNeil
Maj
for CHO