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SUBJECT: OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ISSUES PRESS STATEMENT ON RWANDA

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM HAS REACTED TO PROPOSED DRAFT OF JOINT STATEMENT ON RWANDAN CRISIS, AND PROPOSED TWO CHANGES, WHICH WERE ACCEPTED. REVISED TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:
ON MAY 5, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM, RECEIVED PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ENVOY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HUMAN

RIGHTS JOHN SHATTUCK AND HIS DELEGATION FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. BOTH PARTIES AGREED THAT THE HORRORS OF MASS KILLINGS AND CIVIL WAR IN RWANDA WERE MATTERS OF URGENT AND UNIVERSAL CONCERN. THEY AGREED THAT RWANDAN LEADERS MUST END VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS IMMEDIATELY, AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE AND RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS. THE TWO SIDES CONCLUDED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN RWANDA WAS NEEDED TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS, TO ALLOW THOSE SEEKING REFUGE OUTSIDE RWANDA TO CROSS BORDERS SAFELY AND TO ASSURE SECURITY FOR ALL HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOBILIZING AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, WHICH, IN THE VIEW OF THE OAU SECRETARY GENERAL, SHOULD BE UNDER UNITED NATIONS DIRECTION.

THE PARTIES ALSO AGREED THAT AN OBJECTIVE, INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE OUTBREAK OF MASS KILLINGS AND GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN RWANDA FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA WAS URGENTLY REQUIRED. THEY BELIEVED THAT A VISIT TO REGION OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AYALA LASSO COULD ACCELERATE THE LAUNCHING OF SUCH AN INVESTIGATION.

WHILE REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN RENEWED RWANDAN NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 4, 1993 AND TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGIC CIVIL WAR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK ALSO EXPRESSED

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND OF REGIONAL LEADERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND THE ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING CAUSED BY WAR.

