

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON RWANDA

The people of the United States are shocked and appalled by the horrors of civil war and the mass killings of civilians which have taken place in Rwanda since the tragic deaths of Rwandan President Habyarimana and Burundian President Ntaryamira on April 6.

The Government of Rwanda and military leaders must make it clear to every Rwandan that attacks on civilians are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All responsible officials and military officers are obligated to bring offending troops and units under control immediately. We call personally on the leadership of the Rwandan Armed Forces and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to do everything in their power to end the violence immediately.

At the same time, we strongly urge the Government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) to agree to an immediate cease-fire and a return to negotiations on implementing the Arusha Peace Accord.

We call on all parties to guarantee the protection of displaced persons and refugees inside Rwanda, to allow those seeking refuge outside Rwanda to cross the borders, and to assure safe passage for all humanitarian assistance.

We applaud the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of regional leaders who are actively engaged in the search for peace.

We reaffirm the American commitment to participate, as in the past, in renewed negotiations in the context of the Arusha Agreement of August 4, 1993. The principles of a negotiated agreement and power-sharing in that agreement remain the best hope for a return to peace in Rwanda.

May 5, 1994

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 21 APR 2003 200201521

84-97-0304,3

UNCLASSIFIED