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Lettre de Deogratias Nsabimana au Ministre de la Defense en date du 30 Mars 94. Objet: Compte-rendu de reunion du 29 mars 94 portant l'auto-défense populaire. Document émanant du Bureau du G3

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Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Defence
Army
General Staff
G3

Kigali, 30 March 1994

Ref. no 0599 /G3.92

H.E. Minister of Defence,
Kigali

Re: Minutes

Your Excellency,

I have the honour of forwarding for your attention the findings of the meeting I chaired on 29 March 1994 at the Army General Staff HQ and to which had been invited the *Préfet* of PVK [*Préfecture* Kigali-ville] and the Ops Commander for the city of Kigali.

The purpose of the meeting was to hone the civilian self-defence plan. Those soldiers who live outside the camps constitute the framework of said plan.

The findings of the meetings are as follows:

1. The *cellule* was chosen as an organisational unit equivalent to a platoon. Based on this criterion, the Ops City Commander will establish an organisational chart of those soldiers who live outside [the camps] *cellule* by *cellule*.
2. In addition to the list of soldiers, the *Préfet* of PVK was asked to make available the list of reservists and other reliable civilians who will work with the soldiers to defend their neighbourhoods.
3. It has been decided that for those *cellules* with few or no soldiers, reservists would be the first ones to be called upon, following that reliable civilians who would have to be trained.
4. Operational *cellules* thus trained would initially be assigned by the Ops City Commander to defend their neighbourhoods and subsequently to search for and neutralise infiltrators in the various neighbourhoods of the city.

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5. An experienced soldier will be appointed at the head of each *cellule* and will have to work closely with the administrative authorities for the defence of a given neighbourhood.
6. To ensure that people know one another and know their missions, the Kigali Ops City Commander will organise meetings between military personnel and civilians concerned in the camps closest to their residences and will provide operational directives.
7. MINADEF (Ministry of Defence) and MININTER (Ministry of Interior) will be contacted so as to make weapons available for distribution to selected civilian personnel.
8. The Ops City Commander will formulate the following requisitions list for those *cellules* which are already organised
 - Ammunition for three days of fighting,
 - Weapons,
 - Notebooks to establish calling lists, neighbourhood by neighbourhood.With respect to liaison between the Commander and these units and between the units and the Army General Staff, the existing telephone network shall be used with a few modifications for military purposes.
9. Those soldiers who live outside camps will in principle remain with the people to defend the neighbourhoods. This entails that Unit and Camp Commanders will first have to ensure that there are enough soldiers residing inside the camps for their defence before assigning their military personnel to civilian self-defence. In view of this, it has been decided that officers and indispensable specialists must always remain in the camps. This also applies to officers from the Presidential Guard Battalion and the PM Battalion as well as all Unit Commanders. In all circumstances, this will allow for continuity of command.
10. It was suggested that *Bourgmestres* instruct the population in traditional weapons (swords, spears, machetes, bows and arrows) handling, as there are insufficient firearms available. The efforts undertaken by the Ops Section Commanders neighbouring the DMZ in the framework of civilian self-defence will continue with the collaboration of local administrative authorities.
11. It has been recommended that the Ops City Commander take into account the civilian self-defence concept in the preparation of the Defence plan of the city of Kigali, accelerate the drafting of the lists (military and civilian personnel) and forward them without delay.

Sincerely,

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[Signature]
Déo Gratias Nsabimana,
Major General
Army Chief of Staff

Cc: PVK *Préfet*
Ops Commander, Kigali-ville
G1, G2, G4 Army Staff.