

Φ Rwanda R #6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR JPO Date: 11/27/96

RELEASE       DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE       DECLASSIFY  
 DENY      IN PART  
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info

MR Cases Only:  
EO Citations \_\_\_\_\_

FOIA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_ TS authority to:  
 CLASSIFY as       S or  C  
PA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  DOWNGRADE TS to  S or  C

Statement of Mr. John Blaney, the Deputy Representative of the United States in the Economic and Social Council, before the Economic and Social Council Special Session on the Question of Human Rights in Rwanda, June 6, 1994

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since April 6, over 200,000 people have been hunted down and killed in politically-motivated ethnic violence and possible act of genocide. Hundreds of thousands more have been forced to flee to neighboring countries.

The international community must work to bring solace to the suffering population of Rwanda. To this end, my delegation full supports the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission in special session.

The international community has several immediate tasks: to stop the killing, achieve a cease-fire, provide humanitarian relief, facilitate meaningful negotiations and assist in investigation of human rights atrocities. But the world community must also consider steps that will permit long-term reconciliation and repair the damage that this carnage has done to the moral and legal fabric of our world.

This is why the United States Government strongly supported High Commissioner Ayala Lasso's recommendation for the UNHRC special session on Rwanda. We commend the High Commissioner for his courageous visit to Rwanda last month. We salute the leadership of the governments of Cameroon, Canada, and Nigeria during the special session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva last month.

We welcome the significant contributions of the Security Council, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, General Dallaire and his staff and forces, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative Booh-Booh toward addressing this multifaceted disaster. We must also commend the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross in protecting civilians and displaced persons inside Rwanda.

The U.S. will continue to do our part. We strongly support the UN resolution placing an arms embargo on Rwanda as well as authorizing expansion of UNAMIR to facilitate bringing humanitarian aid and protection to threatened civilian populations. Since the tragic crash that took the lives of Presidents Habyarimana and Ntaryamira, the United States has provided over 50 million dollars in humanitarian relief to the subregion, along with repeated U.S. airlifts of aid supplies. We call on all governments to consider what they can do in support of humanitarian relief operations.

In addition to political and humanitarian action, human rights concerns and programs must be an integral part of any and every UN action taken on Rwanda, because only by a resolute focus on the human rights dimension of this horror, of the inalienable rights and dignity of every Rwandan man, woman and child, will the parties, and the international community be able to forge a workable end to the fighting that will carry over into the future. High Commissioner for Human Rights Ayala Lasso's role as coordinator of human rights issues throughout the UN system is of course vital in this regard.

Specifically, we are pleased that a highly skilled special rapporteur has been named and is ready to undertake his mandate. We also call for the immediate dispatch of a team of human rights monitors operating under the auspices of the UN. Not only will the monitors gather information on the ground; their very presence will facilitate the negotiations, inasmuch as parties will more willingly lay down their arms to the extent that they are under international scrutiny.

Gathering information is only the first step. Our goal must be individual accountability and responsibility for gross violations of human rights, in Rwanda and elsewhere, now and in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we sit here today, over a quarter of a million refugees from Rwanda are huddled in Tanzania alone. Corpses still float daily down the Kagera River. We must seize this moment to reaffirm our commitment to the universality of human rights.

responsibility on those who have directed these acts of violence. In so doing we can transform revenge into justice, affirm the rule of law, and bring this horrible cycle of violence to a merciful close.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the United States regrets that nearly two weeks has been lost in implementing this vital mandate of the Commission on Human Rights. We recommend that ways be found to make the process more expeditious, particularly in emergency situations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.