

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

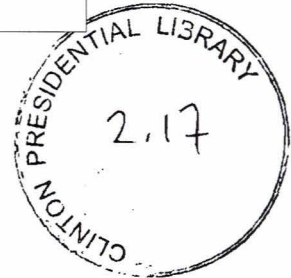
DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

1567

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-040, document no. 38  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: March 18, 2014

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER  
STEPHANIE STREET

*SYLVIA MATHEWS*

SUBJECT: Possible Stop in Rwanda on Your Trip to Africa

Purpose

To decide whether you will make a tarmac stop in Rwanda.

Background

The Government of Rwanda has invited you to make a short tarmac stop at Kigali International Airport so that you might make an historic gesture -- condemnation of genocide wherever it occurs -- to Africa and to the world. After a week of careful deliberations, the Rwandan Government has decided that -- absent your visiting Rwanda itself -- attending the Kampala Summit and discussing the genocide there is politically and symbolically too problematic. The Rwandans feel it is essential that American condemnation of the Rwandan genocide be articulated on Rwandan soil. We have indications that other regional leaders share this perspective and view this as a critical signal of a new U.S. policy toward Africa, building on Madeleine's pledge that the United States would stand against the resurgence of genocide in Africa. In addition, a Kigali tarmac stop would ensure Rwandan Government participation in the Regional Summit.

There are important moral, symbolic and political reasons for you to consider making this stop. It would allow you to dramatically commemorate victims of genocide, as you have in Bosnia and Germany. You could highlight our recent efforts to help break the cycle of impunity and restore the rule of law to the region. More importantly, you could send a powerful message to the continent -- and the world -- that genocide in Africa is no different than genocide in Europe. You could also strengthen our message about the international community's responsibility in the 1994 genocide, stressing our commitment to work with other countries and alone if necessary to check genocide and address impending mass human rights abuses. This message would

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Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 3/3/08

cc: Vice President  
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

*Ember, Chicago  
If we go to  
Rwanda that  
they will come to  
to summit*

*Chairs  
to be set up*

*doesn't want  
to come  
empty  
make clear  
this is  
scene  
to summit*



rebound throughout the continent, the world, and back to the United States, where key constituencies -- particularly African-American and human rights activists -- believe that African lives are not viewed as being as important to Americans or American policy-makers as those from other continents.

As you have pointed out, a stop in Rwanda would indeed raise the ghosts of our inaction in April-June 1994. Nevertheless, this perception might be better addressed by focusing on what we are now doing in the region and making the case for lessons learned from the 1994 experience. This approach received uniformly positive media coverage during Madeleine's visit. Additionally, relations with Rwanda have progressed far beyond recriminations over past mistakes. President Bizimungu made clear in his personal invitation to you that the people of Rwanda view continued U.S. engagement, as well as Madeleine's words, as important indications of America's strong resolve on the issue of genocide. All signs indicate that the Rwandans want to look towards the future while commemorating the past.

**ISSUE FOR DECISION: SHOULD YOU MAKE A TARMAC STOP IN RWANDA?**

*We propose you do a discussion by a statement*  
*with genocide survivors and m. followed*  
*one event*  
*need U.S.S.*  
~~The Secret Service sees no problem with a short stop on the tarmac in Rwanda. A ceremony or event involving genocide survivors and a short speech are all that would be required. The Rwandans have indicated a bilat in Rwanda would not be necessary. The impact of your stop would resonate throughout the continent and the world, and more than any other stop on the trip would truly underscore that we are committed to a new partnership with a new Africa.~~

To accommodate this stop in your schedule, we propose cancelling the roundtable discussion with women emerging from conflict, presently scheduled for the second day in Kampala. *Instead,* that ~~morning~~ you would travel to Rwanda, approximately one hour flight time, and return early that afternoon for the Summit.

RECOMMENDATION

That you make a tarmac stop in Rwanda.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

Tab A Letter from President Bizimungu