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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1996

Dear Mr. President:

As the new year begins, I extend my best wishes and those of the American people to you and the people of Rwanda.

These remain difficult times for Rwanda, and I want you to know I follow events in your country closely. Rwanda needs peace and its people need security to enable political and economic development to flourish. Ambassador Albright's visit at this time is a reflection of the United States' interest in ensuring lasting peace and security in your country.

Be assured the United States is ready to continue its strong support for reconstruction and development in Rwanda as long as Rwanda moves steadily forward toward achieving peace and stability. The greatest challenge in this regard is to nourish the healing process in the aftermath of the genocide, to bring justice through the International War Crimes Tribunal, to make every effort to bring together the peoples of Rwanda and to lay the groundwork so there will never again be a repetition of those horrific events.

We continue to believe that as a crucial part of this process, your government must fulfill its pledge to take all necessary steps to enable the early repatriation of Rwandan refugees in neighboring countries. In addition, and in accordance with the commitments your government made in Bujumbura, Cairo and Geneva, Rwanda should take immediate measures to alleviate the inhumane overcrowding in Rwanda's prisons. We also think it essential to ensure adequate security for the War Crimes Tribunal and other international personnel after UNAMIR's mandate expires in March.

We remain prepared to play an energetic diplomatic role to achieve those ends. We recognize that they represent a major challenge. However, as I know you agree, the alternative -- more suffering for the people of Rwanda -- is unacceptable.

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I welcome your thoughts on how the United States and the international community, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, can assist you and your government in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*

His Excellency  
Pasteur Bizimungu  
President of the Republic of Rwanda  
Kigali