

~~SECRET~~

7576

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12-18-96



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

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-040, document no. 22
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: March 18, 2014

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Eastern Zaire: Update and Next Steps

Situation on the Ground: More than 500,000 refugees have returned to Rwanda from North Kivu, Zaire since Friday. An estimated 30,000-80,000 more remain in that area -- many of whom are former soldiers and their families who will not return to Rwanda. The rest may wish to return but require assistance. Still unaccounted for are several hundred thousand refugees in South Kivu. Imagery reveals no large population masses. Hence, we speculate these refugees may have moved deeper into Zaire or north to join the flow back to Rwanda. Another possibility is that UNHCR's original estimate of 1.2 million refugees may be inflated.

Re-Defining the Mission: I had productive meetings today in Ottawa with senior Canadian defense and foreign affairs officials as well as with PM Chretien. We agreed the mass refugee return necessitated a different, more limited mission focused on assisting the Rwandan Government (GOR) to absorb and reintegrate returnees. If the GOR agrees, we propose to establish an air-bridge immediately through Entebbe, Uganda, to Kigali, Rwanda, to transport any needed relief assistance. JCS estimates the total international personnel required would be about 500 in Entebbe and 200 in Kigali (including the Canadian headquarters, U.S. air control element, civil affairs and psy-ops teams and a civil-military relations cell). This presence would also enable us to respond quickly, if necessary, to any humanitarian requirements in Eastern Zaire. We will continue to monitor population flows in South Kivu to try to determine if there are large numbers of people at risk. We believe no foreign military presence is necessary at this time in Goma.

Incidentally, we detected less enthusiasm among Canadian Government officials for a large mission to Rwanda/Zaire than PM

~~SECRET~~

Classified by: Susan E. Rice

Reason: x4

Declassify On: 11/18/21

Derived From: Multiple Sources

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff
PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Chretien has expressed. Undoubtedly, the PM has been personally inspired by Amb. Raymond Chretien's direct pleas for action. Next Steps: The U.S. pledged \$140 mill. today to assist international agencies and the GOR with refugee relief, reintegration and reconstruction. We have pre-positioned air assets in Europe to respond to any airlift requests, and U.S. personnel are en route to the region to prepare for air lift operations. Before deployment of any multinational force, we must obtain the consent of the GOR, which is likely to accept this limited mission provided there are no French troops in Rwanda. We must also work with Canada to ensure broad international agreement to the redefined mission. A Canadian-led multinational military planning session is still scheduled for Thursday in Stuttgart.

We have agreed with Canada on the designation of an African deputy commander who will be subordinate effectively, if not nominally, to the U.S. Deputy. We hope this position coupled with the inclusion of a significant African presence in the force will allay African concerns.

Finally, we are working to keep the press informed of the evolving mission requirements and the specific U.S. actions underway to address these new requirements. We will also consult with NGO leaders November 19 at the White House.