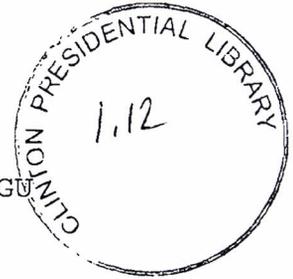


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MEETING WITH RWANDAN PRESIDENT PASTEUR BIZIMUNGU

CONTEXT OF MEETING

President Pasteur Bizimungu, a moderate Hutu and member of the (mainly Tutsi) RPF has been in power since the then-guerrilla RPA took Kigali in July, 1994. His family and political supporters suffered at the hands of extremist Hutus during the events of April, 1994. The RPF-led coalition government has brought a large measure of stability to the country. The USG has supported the current government. We have given over \$600 million in emergency and humanitarian aid to the sub-region; AID has given substantial sums in development aid, DOD has provided humanitarian assistance and IMET training; various agencies have contributed money and personnel to efforts to ready the International Tribunal and Rwandan court system to try those suspected of crimes against humanity, including genocide. We have also supported the Rwandan government at the UN, including support for lifting the arms embargo against Rwanda. European governments believe that the USG is especially credible with the GOR.

Despite considerable progress under very difficult circumstances, President Bizimungu's government has encountered several significant problems since taking power. The judicial system was decimated in 1994. There are over 55,000 prisoners in Rwandan jails in horrific conditions, most arrested since Bizimungu took office. Members of Congress, NGOs and the international community are concerned about this problem, and the GOR's apparent lack of response to it. Zaire has given Rwanda and the UNHCR until December 31 to show substantial progress on repatriating the one million Rwandans in Zaire, at which time Zaire threatens to repatriate them involuntarily, as they started to do in August. Rwandan troops have committed atrocities in April at Kibeho and again in September near Gisenyi, resulting in the deaths of several hundreds. Both incidents were promptly investigated with the full participation of the government (the investigation into the September incidents is not yet complete).

The Government of Rwanda is keenly interested in receiving further development aid and diplomatic/political support from the USG. They have indicated an interest in obtaining non-lethal military equipment from DOD stocks. President Bizimungu has met with Defense Secretary Perry, AID Administrator Atwood, and Assistant Secretary of State George

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Moose during his visit, and also met Secretary Christopher, Vice President Gore and President Clinton as one of the six Africare honorees.

OBJECTIVES

- o To assure President Bizimungu that the USG supports the Government of Rwanda and its goals of repatriation, reconciliation, reconstruction and bringing those guilty of genocide to justice.
- o To discuss the future direction of U.S./Rwanda relations with President Bizimungu.
- o To reaffirm to the President that we are very interested in seeing a successful repatriation of Rwanda refugees, and note that a key step towards this goal would be reducing the prison population so that refugees feel less of a threat of arrest and imprisonment.

TALKING POINTS

- o We wish to reaffirm our support for your government. The situation in Rwanda has not been easy. Despite the very difficult problems you have had to face, you have brought a measure of stability to your country, and we wish to continue to work with you.
- o What do you see as the future direction of U.S./Rwanda relations? We would like a relationship where we can be candid and honest with each other like true friends; where we can support and criticize each other as necessary, but always with the purpose of helping each other.
- o It is very important that there be a successful and timely voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees in Zaire. An involuntary repatriation, as threatened by the Zairians if they do not see progress before January 1, would be chaotic and potentially destabilizing to the region. We will continue to work with you and UNHCR to see that this does not happen.
- o In order to encourage voluntary repatriation, it is essential that conditions be created inside Rwanda which will encourage refugees to return. There has been progress, but it is particularly important that measurable progress be taken towards reducing the prison population. This is of growing concern to the human rights community.

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The large numbers of prisoners in Rwanda, and their conditions, are being used by the extremist Hutus to make refugees fear for their safety upon return.

If Asked:

- o Military Equipment: We will consider requests for acquisition of non-lethal U.S. military equipment by Rwanda on a case-by-case basis. However, we note that public concern about prisons, especially on Capitol Hill, could limit our ability to act.
- o UNAMIR: We note that UNAMIR's mandate comes up for renewal on December 8. What does your government consider to be the best way to provide for security of returning refugees, security for the International Tribunal, military observers and human rights monitors?

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