

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-040, document no. 7
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: March 18, 2014



Hall, Wilma G.

From: Steinberg, Donald K.
To: @UP - APNSA Special Assistants
Cc: /R, Record at A1; @GLOBAL - Global Affairs; @AFRICA - African Affairs;
@DEMOCRACY - Democracy Affairs
Subject: Efforts to Ease Tensions in Burundi [CONFIDENTIAL]
Date: Friday, February 03, 1995 10:27AM
Priority: High

Tony/Nancy:

To follow-up on Burundi: Our efforts to keep ethnic tensions in check in Burundi have intensified since the outbreak of killings in Rwanda. We have sought to build up the core of moderates, ease the external pressures and keep the country in the spotlight. We have enhanced our aid program focussed largely on national reconciliation, maintained a steady stream of visitors (including the Presidential mission in September and your visit in December), encouraged Ambassador Krueger to be a visible presence and urged the UN, OAU and private groups to support these efforts. Given the history of ethnic violence and the pressure that society is under, the absence of a major blow-up in the past year is an achievement. At present, in addition to your letter to Ntibantunganya, the strong press statement from State and Krueger's powerful speech, we have the following activities in train:

- o We are helping fund the regional refugee conference in Bujumbura from February 15-17, in part to have the positive effects of the presence of 750 international experts in the country. This is a joint UNHCR/OAU activity that will address the issues of Rwandan and Burundian refugees. A/S Phyllis Oakley will head a large American delegation. In addition, we are scheduling a meeting of the major donors to Burundi on the margins of this conference to consider additional efforts.
- o The Western ambassadors in Bujumbura are working together to call on all the senior leaders of the Government and opposition to urge restraint. Today, for example, they are doing a joint demarche on the defense minister. The UN Special Representative Abdullah has been equally active.
- o The 45 OAU human rights monitors have been moving more actively throughout the country to demonstrate a more visible presence. As you know, their mandate has been renewed until at least June.
- o We are supporting a conference, now taking place this week in London, where key Burundians have been drawn together from across the political spectrum by the International Alert (an NGO with expertise in conflict management), with the goal of creating a core group of moderates.
- o I met with the Carter Center Africa director yesterday, in part to discuss the Center sending out another mission to Burundi, as they did last year when Obassanjo, Deng and others went out on a democracy mission. They are considering the request. AF/C officer director Arlene Render has also been meeting with a wide variety of NGO's to see if there are other activities they can undertake.

If you think it appropriate, additional steps could go to the Presidential level. A letter or brief phone call to Ntibantunganya; a taped message of reconciliation like the one we did for Rwanda for broadcast by VOA into Burundi; a letter to the delegates to the refugee conference or at least a strong White House/Presidential statement -- any of these would seem appropriate. What do you think?