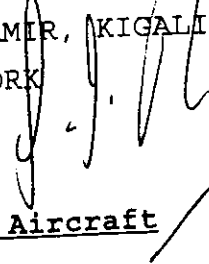


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OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: BOOH-BOOH/DALLAIRE, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 14 April 1994
NUMBER: **1125**
SUBJECT: Attack on Presidential Aircraft



HTH P B HU

00111

1. You have been receiving copies of press articles from here. You might have noticed from the reports in the Daily Telegraph of 12 April that UNAMIR officers were quoted as saying that they witnessed the attack on the aircraft (paras sidelined).
2. Will you kindly let us have immediately whatever reports or information you can send on this critical point. Since the article mentions Belgian officers who might be leaving soon, it would be essential to identify them immediately and obtain a full report/debriefing to be sent to Headquarters.

Many thanks and best regards.

Violence lurks round every corner - it is random and inescapable

Scott Peterson in Kigali, Rwanda, joins evacuees on their journey through a widespread carnage that the world is powerless to prevent

A CROWD of Rwandans lining the muddy road were silent, stopping momentarily from their bloody work like children caught stealing from a biscuit tin, as we passed with a French military convoy.

Armed with cudgels and machetes and long knives, their handiwork was nearby — three corpses, bleeding in the dirt.

An hour later, when we returned with a group of Belgian evacuees, the number of those killed by the silent crowd had risen to 11.

One Belgian woman peered over the edge of the lorry and grimaced with fear: "Oh God," she gasped. "Is it like that everywhere?"

Despite the arrival of hundreds of Belgian and French troops to evacuate foreigners — and more than 2,000 United Nations "peacekeepers" already in Rwanda — the savage killing continues in the capital.

The brutality among the lush green hills is inescapable. No one is safe and violence is random, lurking around corners along muddy trails and behind thick undergrowth.

A short ceasefire came into effect late on Sunday night so that expatriates could be evacuated, but it is

no one's mandate to end the tribal bloodshed that has already cost tens of thousands of lives in Kigali.

Two mass graves are being dug. Witnesses say that rooms at the hospital are stuffed full with hundreds of bodies.

The ceasefire ended towards dusk when government mortars blasted positions of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front in the north of the city.

UN forces are in Rwanda to monitor peace accords signed between rebels and the government last August.

But they and other forces can do nothing to stop the slaughter which erupted when President Juvénal Habyarimana was assassinated last week.

"We can't do anything for the civilians. We must stay neutral," said Belgian UN 1st Lieut Oliver Carlens. "I've seen women and children massacred there, in front of our compound, but we cannot intervene."

Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross move each morning around the city to collect the wounded, but theirs is the only emblem respected by those who control the streets.

Belgian forces who arrived on Sunday night dug into position around the airport yesterday. They and the French are expected to depart when all foreigners have been evacuated.

More than 300 non-essential UN staff were evacuated yesterday, including most of the UN military police contingent.

French military escorts have been collecting traumatised expatriates at the French school, where each relates horrible tales of killing and looting. Marie Helene Adot, a Spanish nun from the Life and Peace Order, said that seven Presidential Guard soldiers — whose units are blamed for beginning the carnage — came to her mission on Thursday near Kigali stadium and separated Rwandans from the foreigners and herded them into a room.

One of the black berets then said: "There are people who wanted to see a bloodbath in this country. Now we are going to do it."

The soldiers tossed a grenade into the room, killing 17 sisters, Jesuit priests and monks. The victims were from both Hutu and Tutsi tribes.

Fighting began between three factions in the military, vying to take control in the anarchy, and then spread to include attacks on a 600-strong rebel garrison, stationed in the capital as part of the earlier peace accords.

Confirmation that President Habyarimana's plane was shot down by his own airborne units — and not the mainly-Tutsi rebels — came yesterday from Belgian UN officers who witnessed the attack on the plane.

Two rockets were fired at the presidential jet from the main airborne base at Kanombe, bringing it down three miles of the airport.

No one knew when the plane was landing or that it carried the President — except Rwanda's most elite units.

Government radio had linked Belgian UN troops to the plane crash, stirring up bad blood towards the Belgians — the former colonial rulers of Rwanda. A guard unit disarmed a 10-man Belgian UN military escort of the Prime Minister, and executed each one of them.

They were found, Belgian evacuees say, badly mutilated.

However, the Belgian and other forces have held their fire, and allowed the violence between Rwandans to rage on.

They will leave when the expatriates are gone, and with relief agencies pulling out, there will be few independent eyes to witness — and describe — the daily carnage.

With the rebels set to advance at any moment to assist their embattled garrison in the city, there seems little immediate hope of peace.

A Red Cross worker among the evacuees predicted: "The worst is yet to come."

al rebels of destroying the plane with rockets and launched attacks on Tutsis in the capital.

But foreign specialists today said it seemed at least as likely that Habyarimana's plane was downed by Hutu hard-liners opposed to his recent efforts at peacemaking with the Tutsis. Rwanda's estimated 7.5 million people are 85 percent Hutu and 14 percent Tutsi, and the tribes' rivalry has defined—and bloodied—the nation's history.

Rwanda, a region of grassy uplands and hills, was long a Tutsi-ruled feudal monarchy, but, after decades of German and Belgian colonial rule, the Hutu majority revolted and established a Hutu-dominated state in 1961. Since then, the two tribes have periodically fought vicious wars that forced hundreds of thousands of Tutsis into exile.

In recent years, the Rwanda Patriotic Front has built a guerrilla army estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 people, which independent analysts have rated better organized than the Hutu-dominated army. After the rebels seized parts of northern Rwanda in 1990, Habyarimana opened talks with them and a range of opposition parties—an effort that met resistance in his own Hutu-dominated party.

Habyarimana was returning to Kigali from Hutu-Tutsi peace talks in Tanzania when his plane crashed, killing him and the president of neighboring Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira. Burundi has the same ethnic makeup as Rwanda but is calm.

A truce negotiated by Habyarimana had permitted the Rwanda Patriotic Front to base 600 of its fighters in Kigali. It is this force that has been battling the government army—in particular the elite, Hutu-led Presidential Guard—in the city since Thursday. The front's reinforcements have moved south from its northern stronghold to join the battle.

Some of the opposition parties said Sunday that Hutu hard-liners in the government and military were using Habyarimana's death as a pretext to hunt down all opponents—especially Tutsis. Foreigners interviewed in the last two days agreed.

"At the heart of this it was a coup d'etat" by Hutu hard-liners, said Allison Desforges, a human rights analyst who monitors Rwanda. She noted that top political leaders executed in the first days of violence—including the supreme court chief and the prime minister—had been those who favored accommodation with the opposition.

Rebels Advance in Rwanda, Vow to Take Over Capital

More Foreigners Flee Central African Nation's Tribal Slaughter

By Jennifer Parmelee
Special to The Washington Post

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, April 11—Rebels advanced to the edge of Rwanda's capital today and vowed to take power as fighting between the central African country's two main tribes raged for a fifth day, news reports and evacuees reported.

As artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire pounded neighborhoods of the capital, Kigali, Belgian and French troop convoys snaked through the city to evacuate foreign residents. Many foreigners, as well as Rwandans, were reported still in hiding from the chaos that has killed thousands.

A brief lull in the fighting this morning allowed some people to go out into the blood-stained streets to look for food, a BBC reporter said. But later, the government army, dominated by the majority Hutu tribe, and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front, formed largely from the country's Tutsi tribal minority, fought what appeared to be the heaviest battles in several days. Gangs of Hutu men and youths, some drunk, were reported continuing to rampage through neighborhoods, bludgeoning and stabbing Tutsis.

The rebels said part of a force of 2,400 fighters had reached Kigali's outskirts to relieve a smaller rebel unit in the city's center. The few foreign reporters in Kigali said the rebels appeared to have pushed the fighting closer to government strongholds today—and Western military officers there suggested that their advance was likely to continue, advising reporters to leave the city. A French commander told the Reuter news agency that the rebels were 1½ miles from a French school in central Kigali where foreigners were assembling for evacuation.

At Mulindi, 45 miles north of Kigali, Rwanda Patriotic Front officials told reporters they intend to seize the capital, restore order and hold talks with other groups on a new government. The front's chairman, Alexis Kanyarengwe, declared: "Our forces are advancing. . . . Government soldiers do not have the will to put up resistance."

Amid mist and rain, French and Belgian convoys drove through muddy streets, evacuating hundreds of terrified foreigners to the airport, which is under the control of French troops. To avoid heavy fighting on the main road to the airport, "a Belgian convoy wound through . . . side streets littered with bodies and echoing to the

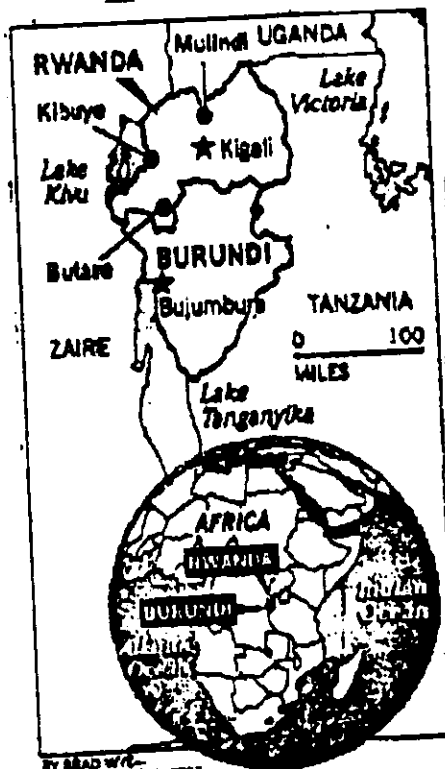
moans of . . . the wounded," Reuter correspondent Peter Smerdon reported. "A woman, both her legs sliced off at the thigh but still alive, cried out for help. None came."

Sketchy reports said fighting has spread to Rwanda's countryside. A Spanish radio station interviewed Spanish nuns in the western town of Kibuye, who said gangs there also were rampaging and "killing all over the place."

Here in Bujumbura, 100 miles southwest of Kigali, evacuees arrived in shock at the slaughter, much of it by gangs armed with clubs and kitchen knives. "We saw people go out and grab their victims and slash them with knives," said Arnold Deschartzen, a worker with a French aid group who had brought 13 Rwandan orphans out with him. The children gathered around him, wide-eyed and holding hands as he described their escape from Kigali. On one 2½-mile stretch of road to the airport, he said, he had counted 100 bodies.

The gangs "would go into a house and [if they] didn't get what they wanted, they started hacking people to death," said Tony Wood, a British businessman and honorary consul who has lived in Kigali for 25 years.

Rwanda's plunge into anarchy has killed as many as 10,000 people, aid workers there have estimated. It began Wednesday night, when President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was killed in the crash of his plane at Kigali's airport. Hutu officials accused Tut-



BY BRAD WOLF
THE WASHINGTON POST

Rebels advance as Kigali slaughter goes on

FROM CATHERINE BOND
IN KIGALI

REBEL troops were on the verge of taking Kigali, the Rwandan capital, last night but a rebel victory is unlikely to bring an end to the killing.

There was no slackening in the acts of brutality in the city yesterday. Rwandan soldiers bayoneted to death two patients at Kigali's central hospital on Monday amid the dying. The attack took place in full view of hospital staff and people waiting for treatment. At the back of the hospital compound about 40 bodies were piled high, rotting in the drizzle. A young naked woman lay on the top of the fly-covered pile, her limbs stiff. Most of the dead were men but there were also several children — boys and girls with knife wounds.

Returning to the airport in a convoy of Belgian evacuees, we witnessed a scene of a type that has become horrifyingly normal. French paratroopers halted the convoy to wait for gangs carrying kitchen knives, machetes, hammers and clubs to finish killing a number of adults on the road ahead. We waited for perhaps ten minutes.

On our departure from the airport an hour earlier, we had seen the bleeding corpses of two people — a man and a woman — the woman with her legs cut off, a mutilation witnessed in massacres 30 years ago and sometimes described as a Hutu form of contempt for the taller Tutsi tribe. On our return, four more women had been butchered just ahead of our convoy

in the same place outside a mud hut. Four men had also been killed with machetes and their bodies were lying in grassy ditches by the road.

The event produced in me a mixture of nausea and tears. Seemingly unmoved, however, the French paratroopers I was travelling with turned up the volume of the disco music on their car cassette. The attackers lined the road, cheering the French troops and heckling the Belgians.

Nick Hughes, a British cameraman for World Television News, filmed a similar scene from the French school. Half a mile away, men were beating women to death. "They brought women, old or middle-aged women, out of the houses and on to the street and made them sit in a pile of bodies, wounded and dying people," he said. "For about 20 minutes the women pleaded for their lives with a group of men who walked up and down the street chatting. They clubbed one woman to death, then the other. It was the most horrific thing I have ever seen."

Soldiers of the Rwandan army passed the school in lorries looking as if they were heading to prepare a mass grave with the help of a road digger. Rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, who are mainly from the minority Tutsi tribe, claimed that resistance from government forces was crumbling. The rebels regard as their main enemy, the 2,000-strong presidential guard, which they blame for most of the killing in Kigali since the death of President Habyarimana's Hutu in a plane crash last Wednesday

Yesterday two European officers serving with the United Nations said 89 Tutsis who sought sanctuary in a church near the UN compound were killed on Thursday by Hutu civilians brought to the church by government soldiers. They died in the presence of the UN officers.

Other religious institutions, for decades considered a refuge for educated Tutsis, have become a target for members of the presidential guard, soldiers and Hutu youths. A Spanish nun, Sister Mary Helene Adot, told a Belgian reporter that 17 people, whom she described as mostly Tutsi and including eight nuns, had been killed in their compound in the heart of the capital by the presidential guard. The killings take place casually, under the noses of UN, French and Belgian troops, within the range of television cameras, and just yards from expatriates being evacuated. Although it is impossible for outsiders to identify who is murdering who, most of the killing is probably not random but carried out along ethnic and political lines. The victims are likely to be Tutsi as well Hutu, who made the now-fatal mistake of openly supporting opposition parties. The rebels are probably mindful of the fact that a 48-hour ceasefire may help the evacuation of foreigners. But it is possible that by stalling a rebel advance, the killing has been prolonged.

The military rebel leader, Paul Kagame, has announced that two battalions are advancing to reinforce a 600-strong battalion in the city. However, for most of the day the ceasefire seemed irrelevant. Gunfire could be heard, apparently by government troops at rebel positions.