

**Document 8** (19.11.96)

**Source: United States Information Agency**

Date : 19 Nov 1996

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## **U.S .Reduces Number of Troops for Central African Mission**

\*96111901.POL

(Perry says the situation "remains fluid") (640)

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

USIA Security Affairs Writer

Washington -- Defense Secretary Perry says the U.S. contribution to the Canadian-led multinational force for Central Africa will be fewer than 1,000 troops.

The participating U.S. military personnel will be logistics experts and not combat troops, he announced November 19 at the U.S. Army's annual Procurement Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. "This force will operate chiefly in Rwanda," he said.

Because of the "very positive development" of the peaceful return of more than 500,000 refugees to Rwanda in recent days, Perry explained, the planned level of U.S. participation has been adjusted downward since last week when the U.S. was considering providing as many 5,000 combat troops.

"We are modifying our plans based on this dramatic change," Perry noted, but the United States still intends to support the Canadian-led operation which has been authorized by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1080.

The focus of the mission will be on facilitating "the voluntary, orderly

repatriation of refugees by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees," Perry said. The U.S. military force "will require considerably fewer troops than originally envisioned and will operate chiefly in Rwanda," he said.

"The approach that we are taking is designed to help those who have returned (to Rwanda)," Perry explained, "while at the same time leaving the multinational force prepared to help inside Zaire, if that were to become necessary."

Planning for the multinational effort continues, with input from European and African allies, the secretary said, and the Canadians will convene a key meeting on the subject in Stuttgart, Germany, on November 21.

Perry said a U.S. military team will remain in Kigali, Rwanda, to provide assessments on the ever-changing situation there while "running a civil-military operation" and maintaining liaison with key contacts.

The secretary said the U.S. has dispatched three advance planning elements, known as TALCEs (Tanker Airlift Control Elements), to airfields in Kigali; Mombasa, Kenya; and Entebbe, Uganda. TALCEs are designed to provide air traffic control support and, in this case, they will assist the voluntary repatriation effort, pending multinational planning decisions.

The dispatch of the TALCEs also provides "the basis for a large mission should that become necessary," Perry said, noting that the situation "remains fluid."

Asked what U.S. interests are linked to the operation in Central Africa, Perry said U.S. military actions there "are humanitarian-based."

The secretary emphasized that it is necessary to evaluate carefully situations where humanitarian relief efforts may be conducted. Humanitarian

relief is only dispensed in "exceptional cases," he said, where there has been "a catastrophe of large proportions," for example.

The evaluation must take into account whether U.S. military forces have "something unique that they can provide," he stressed, like the combination of superior airlift capabilities, water-purification equipment, and specialized Army engineers that were sent into Central Africa in 1994 when thousands of people a day were dying from cholera.

The final requirements for U.S. involvement in a humanitarian operation are that it present an "acceptably low-risk" for American troops," and that the military leadership have a precisely defined "exit strategy," he explained.

He said these are "the criteria that we would be applying to any humanitarian operation (in) which we get involved in Africa."

Perry contrasted U.S. humanitarian interests in Africa with "vital national security interests" which were threatened in the Persian Gulf when American troops were deployed there to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. The secretary also cited U.S. national security interests in Bosnia, where there is an absence of military conflict, but where U.S. military personnel are needed to enforce the Dayton peace agreement.

**Document 54** (20.11.96)

**Source: United States Information Agency**

Date : 23 Nov 1996

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**Transcript: Canadian general briefs press on Zaire crisis after Stuttgart summit**

STUTTGART, Germany -- Representatives from 35 nations along with humanitarian specialists are sharing their information on the Eastern Zaire crisis to determine response options for a multinational force to be sent there, Canadian Lieutenant General Maurice Baril, told reporters November 22.

Briefing reporters at the European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, where the meetings are taking place, Baril reminded everyone that such thorough planning is essential because "Funding for any multinational force depends critically on a clear picture of the situation on the ground."

That situation, he added, is complex because of varying estimates of refugees and the fact that many of the refugees are on the move.

Following is a Defense-Link transcript of General Baril's remarks:

(BEGIN TEXT)

Transmission of Press Conference with Lt. Gen. Maurice Baril,

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Friday, Nov. 22, 1996 - 9:30 a.m. (EST)

(This event comes following a planning meeting of some 35 nations participating in the multinational force in Stuttgart, Germany. )

General Baril: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Madames, monsieurs, bon jour. Guttentag.

It is a pleasure to be here today. Let me begin by saying thank you to our hosts at European Command headquarters and the German officials here in Stuttgart for their hospitality. All have made us feel very welcome in a difficult time.

We began our military planning conference this morning. The purpose of this conference is to develop military options for possible multinational force deployment in response to the United Nations Resolution 1080. I must emphasize we are in the planning process and it will be at least another day before we can give a precise shape to the outcome of our deliberations.

We began this morning with a productive session attended by military representatives from 35 nations together with humanitarian organizations who are fully involved in our discussion and planning. We began by exchanging information about the situation in Eastern Zaire to help us determine the level of security assistance required. We are particularly concerned about the number, condition and location of refugees in Eastern Zaire that might need the assistance of a multinational force.

Assessments at the meeting varied, both as [to] the number and location of refugees. Some thought there were more than 500,000 refugees with the largest concentration northwest of Bukavu. Some delegations said they have observed perhaps 250,000. For my part, when I flew over a 60 kilometer corridor along the Zaire-Rwanda border from Lake Edwards to Uvira, I observed on the order of a 100,000 plus -- it's rather difficult to count from the air at high speed -- just west of Lake Kivu.

Funding for any multinational force depends critically on a clear picture

of the situation on the ground. For that reason I have established a multinational assessment group, including NGOs, [and] UN agencies, to give us a better appreciation of the situation as we see it. That group is sitting now.

We also reviewed potential national force contributions to the multinational force with the understanding that firm commitments can only be made later by governments after they have considered the force options. This afternoon, we will begin the process of developing detailed military options for a multinational force. These options will be designed in light of what we know of conditions on the ground, to fulfill the tasks already agreed for the multinational force, and tailored to the military resources potentially available. They will necessarily be revised as the information becomes clearer, and as the situation changes on the ground.

I would hope by the end of the weekend -- and earlier if we can -- we will have developed a full slate of options. These options will then be referred to the governments for the decision on which, if any, they wish to implement.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now answer your questions.

Q: (Inaudible).

A: (Provided in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: For the first part of your question, I think there is still, and from the briefings and the discussion that we have heard from the humanitarians. They are really concerned for large group that can go from a 100,000 to 250,000, and in the corridor that we're talking about. And the second part

of your question you'll have to ask the country.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: Probably a combination of all. They will need the supplies to go in. But the reason that we are looking at and planning for a multinational force is because humanitarian organizations cannot reach them because they're moving too fast or because of the fighting that has been on the ground. But the idea and mission and the mandate that we have, is to open corridors to reach those who really need it with the humanitarians. We're not here to feed them or transport, we're there to open the corridor.

(Next six questions and answers in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: The accurate situation of the refugees -- where they are, what condition and what numbers -- has to be the basis of the decision of how they are going to deploy the multinational force, when and in what state we're going to do it. I think we're deploying a lot of means now -- very sophisticated -- as to where they are, find them and also what number they are. We're asking all the countries and all the agencies to share the information that they have and that's why I said at the beginning that's there's a large group of them -- militaries, NGOs and UN agencies -- who are all locked up in a room now and they're not going to come out until they start figuring out and agreeing on what it is. And if they can't agree we'll (inaudible).

Q: (Inaudible)

A: Well, I'm afraid there might be a divergent view if we ask Zaire, of course they would like to see the force there, and, by the way, many of the countries around the world feel the same way. If I talk to Rwanda. Well

they think that have (inaudible) the problem of refugees -- more than half a million have returned to their country and they believe that a hundred or so are ready to go back in. But from their point of view, and only their point of view, they feel its not necessary. But I don't think those two countries who will decide. It's those who are going to provide the troops and also a very definite assessment of what is the condition on the ground.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: (Provided in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: Well if we have to go through the territory of Rwanda... Rwanda is a sovereign state. It certainly... We don't have a Chapter 7 to operate in Rwanda. We have a Chapter 7 to operate in Eastern Zaire.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: (Provided in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: I don't think it will add very much to the debate if we tell you which agencies because I didn't write it down. But it went from about 500,000 down to 100,000 depending who it is. If we (inaudible) to some of the countries we might have a higher number or lower. What is the reason? Maybe the sensors that they have used; the information that they have gathered or some other reason, that I don't know. But we're going to find out before we commit any troops.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: Well I don't like the word 'conference' first of all. It's a planning session that we're doing and we're starting as soon as I get away. My mandate, and what we're going to do from this afternoon and tomorrow and Sunday if we have to -- we are going to work out options. What are the troops required -- and we will present those options to the group of countries who are going to decide which option is going to be implemented, when and at what speed.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: No, I don't think I should be discussing what I will be discussing privately with them when I meet in New York at (inaudible).

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: (Provided in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: (Provided in French. Translation not available.)

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: If you tell me what kind of fighting is going on, I'll tell you how I'm going to handle it.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: At our event planning center that has been made available by U.S. European Command.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: In Stuttgart. Here.

A: Yes, we have an event planning headquarters that has been activated in here, and we have about 50 staff officers and other specialists who are here. Part of it was deployed last week and I just came back to this headquarters for a few days before returning to another headquarters element that we have in Entebbe, Uganda. We also have some forward in elements in communication in Kigali, Rwanda.

Q:

A: Well I think my intention is to give you some of the results as soon as we have them here this weekend, and hopefully be to give you some more information on what we have reached and as much as I can tell you about the ops.

Q: (Inaudible.)

A: It would be rather surprising that we go into the territory of Rwanda without having their specific agreement. The Chapter 7 that we have is to allow cooperation if regional conflict in Eastern Zaire, and was certainly not made to violate the country -- the sovereignty of the country to go in. But I've discussed [this] with the vice president of Rwanda personally last Tuesday. And I put the scenario to him that if this situation carried on, would he allow me to stage the troops through his country and use his air force, and he told me yes.

(Last three questions and answers in French. Translation not available.)

Well I thank you very much for attention and the good questions and I hope

to come back and give you some more information before we send all the planning... not the planning teams, but the delegations that we have from the countries who want to provide troops. I thank you very much.

-END

**Document 30/41** (19.03.97)

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 19 Mar 1997 -----  
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## **US official says Mobutu becoming increasingly 'irrelevant'**

\*97031901.AAF

(3/19 State Department background briefing) (800)

By Jane A. Morse USIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, reportedly gravely ill in Europe, "has basically become irrelevant," says a U.S. government official who briefed reporters at the State Department.

Meanwhile, said the official, who did not wish to be identified, the United States continues to search for some way to bring the current government of Zaire to the negotiating table with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

According to various press reports, Mobutu is so weakened by treatments for prostate cancer that he is incoherent and can "barely write his name," the official said. Mobutu was admitted to a hospital in Monaco for serious internal bleeding, but has spent most of his time in France. "He's a very ill man, and he's not going to be around much longer -- how much longer, I don't know," the official said.

Mobutu's "irrelevancy" is "becoming increasingly apparent each day that goes by," the official said. But members of the "Mobutu clique," the official said, "are very hard-line, and don't want to negotiate with Kabila." Kabila and his followers have gained some 1,600 kilometers of territory in eastern Zaire, including the strategically important city of Kisangani.

Mobutu supporters, the official said, "keep hoping and thinking that somehow the French, the Belgians, somebody, is going to come and save the day. The basic problem is these folks just don't want to face the reality that Kabila is on the move, he has the momentum."

What the United States wants to see happen in Zaire, the official said, "is a cease-fire, some direct negotiations...a transitional arrangement, and then elections."

Kabila has indicated that he is willing to work within a negotiated transitional arrangement leading to elections, the official said, but it is not clear who within the Mobutu camp would participate. Mobutu's family and key decision-makers are fleeing Zaire, the official noted. "There's a power vacuum there right now," he said.

Leon Kengo wa Dondo, Mobutu's prime minister, has been effectively governing since 1994. But his part Tutsi heritage has undermined his authority in the view of many Zairians, the official said. "Kengo is viewed as being responsible for the fact that the army hasn't gotten the resources to fight the war" against the rebels. "Kengo is the easy scapegoat," the official added.

Zaire's Parliament voted on March 18 to oust Kengo just after he left Kinshasa to attend a regional meeting looking for a way to end the hostilities in eastern Zaire. But, the official explained, it is uncertain whether the Parliament's actions meet Zaire's own constitutional requirements. "It's basically Mobutu who has to put the last signature on the paper to dismiss the prime minister," he said. "There were calls by some of the opposition parliamentarians that this was not a constitutional vote, there wasn't a quorum.... But at least until this stuff sorts itself out, we are adhering to the fact that Kengo is the prime minister."

Kabila, who is gaining a great deal of support among the people of Zaire, is little known to American officials. "We know he was a Marxist; we know he hung out quite a bit with Che Guevara and some others," the official said. "But of late he's been sounding all these wonderful themes of smaller government, democracy, government representative of the people."

The United States is hoping to be able to get the two sides somehow to negotiate a transitional government leading to elections. But the big question, the official said, is who would negotiate: "We still recognize Kengo, but we don't know what type of authority he really has."

The official reported that the meeting Kengo attended in Nairobi in search of a settlement "did not go well" in that Kengo and his foreign minister refused to consider talking to Kabila until there is an effective a cease-fire in place.

Kabila has indicated his willingness to negotiate with the Mobutu government. "The problem here is the Zairian government has not agreed to direct discussions with Kabila," the official said.

A March 25 summit, scheduled to be held in Lome, Togo, will bring together members of the Organization of African Unity's "Conflict Resolution Mechanism." It is hoped that the heads of state will be able to persuade Mobutu's people to "negotiate before it is too late," the official said. Kabila, however, not a head of state, is not invited to attend.

Contingency plans are being formulated to evacuate the some 650 Americans currently in Zaire, the official said. Although dependents of U.S. Embassy personnel have been granted permission to leave the country voluntarily, few have left, and the situation in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, remains calm.

**Document 33/16 (04.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 04 Apr 1997 -----  
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## **Killings of Tutsis and Others on Rise in Rwanda**

97040401.AAF

(Tutsis singled out for assassination by ex-FAR) (350) By Wendy Lubetkin USIA Staff  
Writer

GENEVA -- The U.N. Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) says it is seriously concerned about the growing number of killings and other attacks against people of Tutsi origin.

During the first three months of 1997, HRFOR received reports of the killing of 45 genocide survivors and persons associated with them, according to a status report made available in Geneva.

In addition, 28 persons were killed in three separate incidents because of their presumed Tutsi origin, HRFOR said.

The status report provides a detailed account of an attack on a primary school in Kivumu Commune in which six students and a night guard were killed and 20 others were wounded.

The assailants, who were dressed in the uniforms of the former Forces Armes Rwandaises (ex-FAR), reportedly attacked the school to kill students of Tutsi origin. Many ex-FAR who participated in the 1994 genocide have returned to Rwanda along with hundreds of thousands of other refugees since the end of last year.

According to eyewitness statements gathered by HRFOR, the attackers entered the school compound and first shot at the guards, killing one of them.

A group of four attackers entered the classroom and asked the students to separate themselves according to their ethnic origin. When no one moved, the attackers started shooting at everyone. Two female students were killed.

The assailants then entered a second classroom and ordered the students who were hiding under their desks to identify the Hutus and Tutsis among them. "When the students refused, the attackers chose a young girl who presumably looked Tutsi, and executed her with two shots to the head," the HRFOR report says.

After reloading their guns, the assailants executed another female student, and ordered all the Hutu students to leave. When all the students left together, the assailants threw a grenade and shot in the direction of the students who were running away, killing one of them.

**Document 33/18 (04.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 04 Apr 1997 -----  
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For educational use only :

## **UNHCR Says 120 Refugees Dying Each Day South of Kisangani**

97040402.AAF

(Government, rebels urged to consider the vulnerable) (450) By Wendy Lubetkin USIA Staff Writer

GENEVA -- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that at least 120 Rwandan refugees are dying each day in Zaire and is urging rebel forces to allow the United Nations to airlift those most vulnerable out of Kisangani.

UNHCR spokeswoman Pamela O'Toole said UNHCR and its partners have been desperately working to save the lives of refugees at two makeshift refugee camps south of Kisangani.

UNHCR is negotiating with the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Zaire to try to get permission to airlift the most vulnerable refugees via Kisangani, which is under rebel control.

U.N. agencies and the European Union issued a joint statement April 4 urging both the Zairian government and the rebels to consider the plight of the "hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced Zairians stranded in the war zone."

"At least 20,000 children, women, the sick, and the elderly are in urgent need of evacuation," O'Toole told reporters April 4.

Many of the weakest have already perished by the roadsides as they first fled Ubundu in the direction Kisangani, and then were pushed back by rebel forces who did not want them to enter the city.

"So far about 650 bodies have been collected in refugee sites between Ubundu and Kisangani," O'Toole said.

After visiting the two sites south of Kisangani April 3, UNHCR's medical coordinator, Dr. Zohra Labdi, said people arriving there are in very bad shape, some of them near death from hunger, exhaustion, and various diseases.

"Many of the refugees have reached a stage that has become irreversible," Labdi said. "What's sad is that most of those in this state are children. They are just skin and bones. Everywhere you see walking cadavers."

Labdi, who formerly worked in the camps at Bukavu, said she recognized some of the same refugees she knew there at the sites south of Kisangani. "I have stopped listening to their stories because they make me cry," she said.

O'Toole said the same planes used to transport relief into Kisangani could easily be used to bring out 150 refugees on each outbound flight if allowed to do so.

She said UNHCR is "hopeful" that the negotiations with the rebels now under way in Goma will result in an agreement that will allow it to begin evacuating the most vulnerable from Kisangani.

In the Goma region, O'Toole said, a group of 20,000 to 30,000 refugees have reportedly massed at Karuba. UNHCR has transported 5,400 of them back to Rwanda over the past three days, she said.

**Document 34/04 (07.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 07 Apr 1997 -----  
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**U.S.Pleased with UNHCR Access to Refugees in Zaire**

\*97040704.AAF

(Weakest of refugees to be airlifted) (290) By Jane Morse USIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The United States is pleased with Zairian rebel leader Laurent Kabila's recent decision to give the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees access to the estimated 80,000 Rwandan refugees in makeshift camps along the Kisangani-Ubundu railroad, the U.S. State Department announced April 7.

Briefing reporters, Nicholas Burns, the department spokesman, said the weakest of the refugees will be airlifted from the Kisangani airport to Rwanda; the rest will be repatriated via land routes. The United States, he noted, has contributed \$3 million to the effort.

"We think the airlift might be able to begin later this week, and we hope that the truck convoy could proceed sooner than that," Burns said. An estimated 120 refugees are dying each day in the camps, he noted.

Although the situation in Zaire continues to deteriorate, especially with fighting around Zaire's second-largest city of Lubumbashi, there are no immediate plans to evacuate U.S. citizens, Burns said. U.S. military personnel are available in Gabon and Congo if an evacuation becomes necessary, he noted. Currently, dependents of U.S. Embassy employees may leave voluntarily.

Burns refuted Kabila's allegations that the presence of American military forces in the region is a threat to the territorial integrity of Zaire. "The United States has no intention -- zero -- of intervening militarily in Zaire to affect the course of the fighting," Burns said.

"We support the territorial integrity of Zaire. We think foreign forces ought to stay out; and we've warned, of course, the governments in Central Africa as well as the government of Angola to keep foreign forces out."

**Document 34/11 (08.04.97)**

Source: U.S. Agency for International Development Date: 08 Apr 1997 -----  
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### **Zaire Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #9, FY 1997**

Note: The last fact sheet was dated April 3, 1997.

Background: In mid-October 1996, fighting broke out in South Kivu, Zaire between the Zairian army (FAZ) and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (Alliance) led by Laurent Kabila. The fighting caused Rwandan and Burundian refugees to flee, forcing over 700,000 Rwandans and 62,000 Burundians to repatriate by the end of 1996. Hundreds of thousands of refugees also fled west, scattering in small groups deeper into Zaire. The fighting spread north, west, and south, with the Alliance gaining territory on all fronts. The Alliance now controls the eastern third of Zaire. On March 15, the Alliance captured Kisangani. As the Alliance advances towards its next stated goal of Lubumbashi, it has already seized Kamina, a strategic rail junction located to the northwest of Lubumbashi, and Kasenga, 200 km northeast of Lubumbashi. The Alliance captured Mbuji-Mayi, the diamond capital of Zaire, on April 5 and Kipushi, 30 km west of Lubumbashi, on April 7. Talks between Alliance and Zairian government authorities began in South Africa on April 5.

Haut-Zaire Province: Approximately 89,000 Rwandan refugees are clustered in three groups along the 125 km rail line west of the Zaire River, south of Kisangani: 57,000 at km 25, 31,000 at km 41, and 1,000 at km 82. Humanitarian agencies have set up food, water sources, medical facilities, and services for unaccompanied children at each site. Relief organizations are concerned about high rates of severe malnutrition, dehydration and high fever, presumably caused by malaria. The United Nations (U.N.) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation plan, approved by the Alliance on April 5, envisions flying the most vulnerable refugees from Kisangani to Goma, where they will be trucked to Gisenyi, Rwanda. Rwandan army soldiers will then screen the refugees at the Nkamira transit center before they are transported home. UNHCR hopes that the balance of the refugees can also be repatriated by air. Displaced and war-affected Zairians are also receiving assistance. Missionary sources report that 4,000 of the 39,000 registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kisangani have returned home. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also planning to airlift some of the remaining IDPs to Goma or Bukavu. Foraging by the refugees, ex-FAR, and Interahamwe has affected food availability in villages between Ubundu and km 25. WFP has begun food distributions to these affected Zairians. To help coordinate movements of refugees and IDPs, the British Overseas Development Agency is establishing an air logistics center in Goma and a ground logistics center in Kisangani.

Kivu Province: On March 31, UNHCR reported that 20,000 - 30,000 Rwandan refugees emerged at Karuba, 13 km west of Sake. Another 2,500 emerged at Tongo, west of the former camps of Katale and Kahindo, north of Goma. Once the refugees are screened by Alliance forces, UNHCR trucks them directly to the Rwandan border. On April 4 - 5, 4,166 refugees

repatriated, including 151 unaccompanied children, 3,819 refugees from Karuba, 168 from Tongo, 19 from Sake, and 12 spontaneous repatriations.

Kasai-Oriental Province: Before the Alliance seizure of Mbuji-Mayi, there were reports of 2,000 refugees near the town. At least 30,000 refugees are moving towards Angola. They are believed to be the group who fled the Shabunda area camps in South Kivu. U.S. Government (USG) Assistance: On March 14, USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) arrived in the region to help advance relief efforts in eastern Zaire. USAID/DART installed an information officer in Nairobi, a field officer in Goma, and a field officer in Kisangani. On April 5, USAID/DART assessed the condition of refugees at km 25, accompanied by UNDHA and EU officials. Two doctors from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention arrived on April 5 in Goma and have been seconded to UNICEF. BHR/OFDA has provided grants to ICRC to assist internally displaced Zairians and repatriating Rwandan refugees and to Save the Children/UK for assistance to vulnerable Rwandan and Zairian unaccompanied children. The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration has provided funding to ICRC and to UNHCR for IDPs and refugees in eastern Zaire. Between December and February, BHR's Office of Food for Peace provided roughly 2,500 MT of food to eastern Zaire from the Rwanda Regional Program. Total OFDA Assistance (to date) \$5,548,118 Other USG Assistance (to date) \$7,750,000 TOTAL USG FY 1997 Humanitarian Assistance (to date)\$13,298,118

**Document 34/18 (08.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 08 Apr 1997 -----  
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### **UNHCR Preparing to Airlift Rwandan Refugees from Kisangani**

\*97040801.AAF

(Air repatriation may be largest ever) (470) By Wendy Lubetkin USIA European Correspondent

GENEVA -- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has begun preparations for one of the biggest -- and possibly the most complex -- air repatriation operations it has ever undertaken.

UNHCR spokeswoman Pam O'Toole said elaborate preparations are under way to fly up to 100,000 Hutu refugees from Zaire to Rwanda. The rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), headed by Laurent Kabila, announced April 5 that it would allow UNHCR to move ahead with the airlift through Kisangani.

UNHCR says conditions remain "appalling" at two sites south of Kisangani, where some 80,000 refugees have gathered in makeshift camps at Kasese and Biaro. Thousands more are scattered along the route between Kisangani and Ubundu.

Medical workers at the camps reported 180 deaths on April 6 and 96 deaths on April 7. "The deaths were from prolonged effects of malnutrition, exhaustion, and diseases," O'Toole said at a press briefing April 8.

"Our main job at the moment is to stabilize the situation in the camps -- this could take at least two weeks because they are in such bad shape," O'Toole said. "However, that doesn't mean that no one will be airlifted out until then."

UNHCR has already airlifted 304 displaced Zairians from Kisangani to Goma since April 4. "We need to get some of these people cleared from the airport, where 3,500 have been camping out -- otherwise we could have riots," O'Toole said.

Once the refugee airlift gets under way, priority will be given to the evacuation of some 600 unaccompanied children identified by UNHCR in the camps.

The big question now is whether the refugees will be airlifted to Goma at the border, or whether they will be flown directly to Kigali, as UNHCR would prefer to do. Most of the refugees in the Kisangani region come from south of Kisangani, O'Toole noted.

Further negotiations are required with the Rwandan government to determine whether the airlift can fly directly to Kigali. A Rwandan presidential adviser is set to visit Kisangani April 9 "for talks on this and on other key issues, which will determine how soon we can begin the airlift and on what scale," she said.

O'Toole noted that the United States has pledged \$3 million to support the airlift, and the United Kingdom has promised \$1.6 million for logistical support. As its plans evolve, UNHCR may also be seeking contributions in kind, including use of trucks to bring the refugees from the camps to Kisangani, or additional planes, depending on how many people Rwanda will accept on a daily basis. UNHCR currently has one Ilyushin plane in the region, which can carry up to 170 people.

**Document 34/21 (09.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 09 Apr 1997 -----  
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**Era of Mobutuism in Zaire has come to an end, United States says**

\*97040904.AAF

(McCurry briefs press on situation there) (560) By Wendy Ross USIA White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The era of President Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire has come to an end because "the status quo is not functioning for the people of Zaire and it needs to change," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said April 9.

The United States, McCurry said, "has not suggested that Mr. Mobutu should resign or go into exile. That is, in fact, for the people of Zaire to decide. But we have suggested that the era of Mobutuism in Zaire is over because the status quo is no longer tenable given the dire conditions that exist for the people of Zaire."

Asked to define what he means by "Mobutuism," McCurry said, it "is the state of disrepair of the Zairian political economy, the sad conditions that many people in Zaire live in now, the lack of effective political representation that the people of Zaire have suffered under for some time, the condition that has allowed now a sizable portion of the eastern part of the country to fall to the hands of a rebel faction, the sad state of a country that needs a more orderly government."

The political situation in Zaire "is very unclear as of this moment," McCurry said at his afternoon briefing for the White House press corps. There are "conflicting reports on the status of Prime Minister-designate Etienne Tshisekedi; there have been some reports that President Mobutu has now named a new prime minister," McCurry said.

But he noted "one encouraging fact," saying that "whatever the status of the prime minister, they have been charged with pursuing the peace negotiations" that have been under way in South Africa under the auspices of the United Nations and the government of South Africa.

The United States, he said, has been pressing for a negotiated solution to the ongoing conflict between the government and the rebel factions for some time, and it welcomes "the reports of some progress" in those talks.

The United States wants those negotiations to lead "to settlement of the conflict between the government and the rebels and, secondly, an orderly transition that establishes a government that can function on behalf of the people of Zaire...."

"What we want is an orderly transition, and we want everyone to cooperate to make that orderly transition possible," he said.

The United States has been participating in the work on Zaire that has been done by the U.N. special representative and follows very closely, along with the governments of France and South Africa and other concerned governments, the progress of the negotiations that have been under way, McCurry said. He also made note of the work on Zaire of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose and the U.S. special envoy, Howard Wolpe.

Asked why the United States was taking this position on Mobutu, a longtime close ally of the United States, McCurry said, "It's clear that we have to move beyond President Mobutu and think about how we can structure a government that can begin to address the needs of the Zairian people."

Earlier in the day, McCurry noted that "the support for President Mobutu is not sufficient to lead Zaire into the next chapter of its history."

**Document 35/09 (11.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 11 Apr 1997 -----  
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## **Mbeki voices optimism on eventual peace and prosperity in Zaire**

\*97041104.AAF

(Speaks to editors at ASNE convention) (730) By Jim Fisher-Thompson USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- Visiting South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki told journalists April 11 that he is confident that Zaire, despite years of misrule and now civil war, will soon embark on the same journey toward democracy and economic prosperity now under way in other African nations.

Mbeki, who has been hosting peace negotiations in South Africa between representatives of Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel alliance leader Laurent Kabila, spoke at the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) during a private April 10-11 visit to the United States.

The ASNE event featured a public dialogue on Africa's future between Mbeki and former Washington Post Managing Editor Ben Bradlee. Later in the day President Bill Clinton addressed the 75-year-old media organization, which counts most American newspapers among its membership.

Referring to the turmoil in Zaire, where the 31-year rule of ailing strongman Mobutu finally seems to be concluding, Mbeki told journalists, "I believe that in the end," despite its problems, "the most important story to record about Zaire...is its movement into the group of African countries which have opted for democracy."

Mbeki, who some political analysts have called the logical successor to President Nelson Mandela, said, "I am convinced that the new generation that is now taking senior positions in African society is committed to ensuring the continent should no longer be seen as a continent that is holding out a begging bowl."

While much aid to Africa during the past 30 years did not produce results because of the "fallacy of the one-party system and military rule," Mbeki said, "one can now say" that Africans are getting on with the task of building open societies based on democracy and the private sector.

"I believe that Zaire is moving away from that past and moving to a situation like many other African countries that are turning a new leaf," he said.

To further emphasize his point, he noted that in neighboring Angola, "they are installing a government of national unity to mark the end of a conflict that has gone on in that country for over 30 years. They are getting together to say, 'What can we as Angolans do to bring Angola into the new age?'"

Declaring, "I believe the same thing will happen in Zaire," Mbeki said that in the Zairian negotiations last week, "what was encouraging was that both sides agreed that there was something fundamentally wrong -- that you need to introduce democracy in Zaire so that dictatorship doesn't happen again, ensure the respect for human rights, and make sure there is an economy which serves the interests of the people."

Mbeki said he was pleased to see the Zairians "draw up that agenda," and he added that he was "quite certain" that at some point "that agenda will be implemented." When that happens, he said, Zaire will join a number of other countries on the African continent, "like Ghana, Mali, Tunisia, and the majority of countries in southern Africa" that have "turned over a new leaf."

The important thing, Mbeki emphasized, is that "we know that the challenge is to depart from that past, and to part from it is the responsibility of Africans themselves." And certainly for South Africans, he added, "the development of our nation cannot be successful when the rest of the continent is regressing.

"One thing is clear," he said, and "that is that many people on the continent count on South Africa to succeed on political and economic terms." That will send a message that Africans anywhere on the continent are "capable of changing things for the better."

Mbeki said that his "biggest worry" as executive deputy president of South Africa is addressing the economy and, after that, crime.

Asked by Ben Bradlee if he believed he would be President Mandela's political successor, Mbeki responded that "the president and myself work very closely together on all questions."

Responding to a word used by Bradlee, Mbeki said President Mandela has not "withdrawn" from government affairs, but exercises "a division of labor" in regard to issues before him. Basically, this means "leaving the foot work to the foot soldiers," the South African explained.

**Document 35/10** (11.04.97)

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## **Zaire needs permanent cease-fire and transition to democracy**

\*97041101.AAF

(Burns 4/11 State Department briefing) (560) By Charles W. Corey USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- "A transition away from dictatorship towards stability and democracy," coupled with a "permanent cease-fire," is what is urgently needed in Zaire, U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns stressed April 11.

Speaking on the current situation in Zaire at the department's regular noonday briefing, Burns said: "It is hard for us to assess the import of Mr. [Laurent] Kabila's three-day amnesty period," offered to President Mobutu Sese Seko, "and it is hard for us to predict how President Mobutu will react to that. We hope that there can be a permanent cease-fire.

"We know that Mr. Sahnoun [U.N./OAU mediator Mohamed Sahnoun] wants to begin again the peace talks in South Africa between the government and the rebel alliance just in a couple of days," he said. "We hope that they will take the South African government up on that offer -- go back to Pretoria, work out a full cease-fire, a permanent cease-fire, and avoid a fight for the capital, which would obviously cost a lot of people their lives.

"And then we hope they concentrate on the economic and political issues that need to be addressed to effect a transition. That is our proposal," Burns stressed.

Burns also noted that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had met with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki April 10 at the State Department. He reminded the press that Mbeki had just come from the South African-sponsored Zaire peace talks outside of Pretoria.

"The deputy president briefed the secretary on the status of those talks," Burns explained. "The secretary expressed the appreciation of the United States for the leadership of the South African government on the Zaire crisis, particularly that of Mr. Mbeki. She also commended the work of Mr. Sahnoun, the U.N. negotiator."

Additionally, Burns said, Albright discussed with Mbeki "the strengthening of our economic ties with South Africa and emphasized our wish for further trade and investment and a furtherance of our political relationship as well."

Burns called "erroneous" an earlier press report attributed to Kabila which warned the foreign community to leave Kinshasa.

"We just heard it [the report] once," he said. "It was not from Mr. Kabila.... We certainly would have heard it from him and heard it repeatedly had the rebels really wanted to warn the foreign community to leave Kinshasa."

Asked how he knows the report to be "erroneous," Burns stressed: "We are in touch with Mr. Kabila as the situation warrants, as we can find him. Our embassy in Kinshasa has a political officer, a liaison officer in Goma, and that person and others, including people from Washington, have been on the phone with Mr. Kabila. We are in touch with him and will continue to be in touch as much as we can."

When asked if there are signs that Kabila's forces are "staging to move to the west to Kinshasa," Burns reminded the press that "it is a long way from Lubumbashi to Kinshasa, and there are not many, if any, major roads to get from one to the other. I don't think that any kind of attack is imminent, and we certainly hope that it can be averted by a cease-fire."

**Document 35/11 (11.04.97)**

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## **Africanists assess Zaire situation in PBS interview**

\*97041105.AAF

(Cohen, Booker, Rosenblum 4/9 interview) (2820)

(Permission obtained covering republication/translation of the text by USIS/press outside the U.S.)

On title page carry: From The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, April 9, 1997, co-produced by MACNEIL/LEHRER PRODUCTIONS and WETA in association with WNET. Copyright (c) 1997 by MacNeil-Lehrer Productions)

WASHINGTON -- Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen cautions that half of Africa could "go up in flames" if the crisis in Zaire is not resolved peacefully.

One of three guests appearing on the Public Broadcasting Service's "On-Line NewsHour" on April 9 to discuss the crisis in the vast, mineral-rich African nation, Cohen said: "We're talking about a turning point in Africa. If Zaire succeeds and goes democratic, then half of Africa will go the same way. So it's a really pivotal country right now."

Also appearing on the program, moderated by Jim Lehrer, were Peter Rosenblum, project director of Harvard University's Human Rights Program, and Salih Booker, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations' Africa Studies Program.

Booker noted that given the right system of government, Zaire "will be the engine to promote economic growth throughout Central Africa."

According to Rosenblum, Zaire is central to any policy that the United States "might have in Africa. Also, I guess I'm particularly optimistic, having followed the development of the democratic movement in Zaire. It's possible. It's within reach. And, as Salih says, we have a long history there, and one of the effects of that is a little bit of movement on our part has a great deal of impact there on the ground."

Regarding President Mobutu Sese Seko, Cohen said: "His rule is essentially irrelevant, except in the city of Kinshasa, and that's where things can become very dangerous. But the momentum is with [rebel alliance leader Laurent] Kabila, and it looks like it's just a matter of time." Cohen also characterized Mobutu's army as "rag-tag...all they know is to pillage, rape,

and loot. They will not fight, but they can do a lot of destroying before the Kabila people come in."

Booker pointed out that Mobutu has appointed a general as prime minister "and he clearly sees himself as clinging to power. It's not at all just a choice between Mobutu and Kabila. There is a whole pro-democracy movement in Zaire that is not represented either by the rebels at the moment, and certainly it's not represented by the government. And they're being left out of this equation right now."

Noted Rosenblum, "I think the potential at this moment for a settling of accounts in the city of Kinshasa, for a real blood-letting, is extremely strong."

Following is a transcript of the program:

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

Q: JIM LEHRER: Now, three perspectives on this situation in Zaire. Herman Cohen was Assistant Secretary of State for Africa during the Bush administration. He's currently a senior adviser to the Global Coalition for Africa and Intergovernmental Policy Forum promoting economic growth. Peter Rosenblum is the project director of Harvard University's Human Rights Program. Since 1989 he's worked with various organizations, including the United Nations, in setting up field offices in Zaire. Salih Booker is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations' Africa Studies Program. Secretary Cohen, is President Mobutu about to become a creature of history?

A: COHEN: I think he has already. His rule is essentially irrelevant, except in the city of Kinshasa, and that's where things can become very dangerous. But the momentum is with Kabila, and it looks like it's just a matter of time.

Q: LEHRER: A matter of time, Mr. Rosenblum?

ROSENBLUM: Yes, absolutely, but his capacity at this moment for creating further havoc in this period of end game is something that we shouldn't underestimate.

Q: LEHRER: Do you think -- in other words, you think it's unlikely that he'll go quietly and soon?

A: ROSENBLUM: Yeah, I don't think so. From his most recent steps I think we see him digging in to some degree.

Q: LEHRER: Mr. Booker, how do you read it?

A: BOOKER: I think he is still very much in power. He's still the president. He has the generals reporting to him. He has named a general as the new prime minister. And he clearly sees himself as clinging to power. It's not at all just a choice between Mobutu and Kabila. There is a whole pro-democracy movement in Zaire that is not represented either by the rebels

at the moment, and certainly it's not represented by the government. And they're being left out of this equation right now.

Q: LEHRER: But what do you think -- why do you believe that Mobutu can hang on? What has he got that the rebel movement and the other pro-democracy people do not have going for them at this point?

A: BOOKER: Well, he still has arms. He still has generals loyal to him, and they still have the special forces, the presidential special forces, and the civil guard, better trained forces that have not been involved in the losing battle so far with the rebels.

Q: LEHRER: Secretary Cohen, you don't think that's enough to keep Mobutu in there, right?

COHEN: Absolutely not. None of the special forces that have been deployed so far have done anything in Lubumbashi right now, for example. They're pulling out of the town, and that's -- that's been some of Mobutu's troops. I think the emperor's clothes are now gone and it's quite clear to the population that the army is a paper tiger and just waiting for Kabila to come in. And I think Kabila is the one who's going to call the shots right now, and I think the pro-democratic forces should reach out to him and start making deals.

Q: LEHRER: And you think that's conceivable?

A: COHEN: I think it is conceivable. I'm worried about Kabila making an attempt to rule the country by himself. I agree with Salih Booker. There are a lot of other elements out there that should be taken into consideration. As he moves further to the West, Kabila is going to run into more difficult territory, different tribal orientations, people who suspect him of being a tool of the Rwandans and the Tutsis farther east. So now is the time to reach out and talk rather than try to barrel his way in, which he can do because he has all the cards, but it'll be harder for him as he advances.

Q: LEHRER: Mr. Rosenblum, what scenario do you see, a potential scenario over the next several days, and particularly as it relates to this problem with Kabila, et cetera?

A: ROSENBLUM: I think what Secretary Cohen said is very true. But we're not at that point yet. What Mobutu did in his last acts was to try and create further division within this opposition; he brilliantly named the popular governor of Shaba back into office, Governor Kungu, who's violently opposed to Tshisekedi, both of whom are popular, both of whom have yet to come to terms with Kabila. And now he's put into place a military power in the city of Kinshasa. It's guided by some of his own nearest and dearest, not so much General Ikulja, but the governor of the city of Kinshasa, itself. I think the potential at this moment for a settling of accounts in the city of Kinshasa, for a real blood-letting, is extremely strong. I just spoke to one of the leaders of the civil society in Kinshasa about an hour ago.

Q: LEHRER: What's that? What's the Civil Society?

A: ROSENBLUM: Well, this is the leader of a -- of the National Council of NGOs, of non-governmental organizations, Mr. Homuli. And he has not been able to leave his home all day. He's getting reports from the non-governmental organizations between Mbuji-Mayi, and --

Q: LEHRER: And these are out -- NGOs are outside organizations that have come in there to provide help. They're not related to the government, right?

A: ROSENBLUM: They're not related to the government.

Q: LEHRER: Right.

A: ROSENBLUM: But these are Zairian organizations.

Q: LEHRER: Okay. All right.

A: ROSENBLUM: And he's getting reports of a continuing return of soldiers who are fleeing the front. And as they arrive in Kinshasa, they're stealing cars and going out on the street. They're pillaging. There is a settling of accounts. There are soldiers who have come all the way on foot from Kisangani stealing everything they can along the way. And now they're going to hold up in Kinshasa and they're going to fight for what they can.

A: ROSENBLUM: And what we have to do is we have to get them out of there first.

Q: LEHRER: Who's we?

A: ROSENBLUM: Well, I think we've called for Mobutu to resign, but all that's going to do is going to create further tension unless there's something to back that up.

Q: LEHRER: Yeah. Secretary Cohen, that's a rather grim scenario Mr. Rosenblum has just laid out.

A: COHEN: I'm very worried about Kinshasa. I think that is the last major problem. It could turn out to be a disaster. I don't agree. I don't think the returning troops will fight. I think they're just a rag-tag army that all they know is to pillage, rape, and loot. They will not fight, but they can do a lot of destroying before the Kabila people come in. And I think that's where the United States and the other big powers now have to get involved to make sure that Kinshasa is not destroyed and that the whole thing comes to a soft landing.

Q: LEHRER: How can that be done, Mr. Secretary?

A: COHEN: Well, I think there has to be some very vigorous diplomacy right now in conjunction with the French, the Belgians, and the United Nations mediator, and to focus primarily on Kinshasa, making it an open city, getting the troops out of there, but really very vigorous, building up the forces across the river that are already there. Their three nations have forces. Make them more solid.

Q: LEHRER: You're talking about the American and the other allied forces. They're waiting to evacuate Americans and others if there's a real problem. They're not there to go in to do anything, though, right?

A: COHEN: No, but I think if they were reinforced and made to look stronger, I think that would have a pacifying effect on the city.

Q: LEHRER: Mr. Booker, how do you see this, what role the outside nations, including the United States, could play in avoiding bloodshed in Kinshasa?

A: BOOKER: Well, this crisis really offers a very important opportunity. I think what's lacking right now is leadership, and I think the United States is the best candidate to provide that leadership at the moment.

Q: LEHRER: Why?

A: BOOKER: First of all, we have a deep history in Zaire. We largely created Mobutu. The CIA backed his coup in 1965, and for years, we supported him throughout the Cold War because we saw him as an ally, even though we were aware he was stealing our aid money. He was --

JIM Q: LEHRER: He was anti-communist and that's why he was being --

A: BOOKER: He professed to be an anti-communist. And now we don't have that use for him, but we have to strongly identify with the movement for democracy in Zaire. I also think the French and the Belgians are not trusted at all in Zaire, and that it's left to the United States to try and mobilize an international consensus to support precisely the transitional government of national unity comprised predominantly of the ADFL, Kabila's forces, of the Democratic Political Parties, of Tshisekedi, the UDPS, and Civil Society as well. This also requires talking to the generals, getting their cooperation.

Q: LEHRER: You're talking about Mobutu's generals?

A: BOOKER: To ensure that Kinshasa does not go up in flames.

Q: LEHRER: But if I'm reading this -- what you all are saying -- correctly, Kabila is the man holding all of the guns and the cards right now. Is he likely to welcome an intervention of this kind by the United States, Belgium, and France?

A: BOOKER: Well, and the international community more broadly --

Q: LEHRER: Right.

A: BOOKER: Including some of his own African backers, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, and I think the government of South Africa would be key in facilitating a diplomatic solution. He has not indicated that he's opposed to international efforts to help mediate the conflict. He

doesn't hold all the cards. Certainly he has the important military force, but he's still some distance from Kinshasa. They're occupying a third of the country. But I think, as I said before, it shouldn't be simply a question of who has the most guns. I don't think the United States wants to promote a solution that simply says the end of the Mobutu era, the winner, i.e., the winner on the battlefield will claim all of the goods. I think the United States really does want to promote a democratic transition, but the policy currently has failed to do that.

Q: LEHRER: But you think the United States has the power to do that?

A: BOOKER: I think so, and the influence in the region.

Q: LEHRER: Do you agree, Mr. Rosenblum?

A: ROSENBLUM: Yes, I think so. I think it's very important to emphasize what Salih has said, which is that Kabila does not hold all the cards; not only that he's dependent on his African backers, and also within the alliance, itself, there's a great deal of diversity and division.

Q: LEHRER: Which alliance are you referring to?

A: ROSENBLUM: This is Kabila's alliance.

Q: LEHRER: Kabila's?

A: ROSENBLUM: The rebel alliance, itself.

Q: LEHRER: All right. Okay.

A: ROSENBLUM: And, in fact, if we don't start paying attention to that and to the various factors that compose the armed and unarmed opposition, we risk being in a similar situation even after they take Kinshasa of continued violence without seeing the way out.

Q: LEHRER: All right. Mr. Secretary, explain to those Americans who may be listening who do not follow events in Africa closely and haven't even followed the Zaire situation that closely why Zaire is important to the United States of America.

A: COHEN: Well, Zaire is one of the largest countries in Africa, has a large amount of natural resources. It's not vital to the United States, it hasn't been providing much to the United States in recent years.

Q: LEHRER: Since the end of the Cold War.

A: COHEN: That's right. The last -- our last connection with them was mainly to use their airfields to help the anti-communist rebels in Angola, but that all ended in 1991. But the main significance is that it's so large that the country could really overflow its violence in neighboring countries, and about half of Africa can go up in flames if Zaire goes up in flames.

So we're talking about a turning point in Africa. If Zaire succeeds and goes democratic, then half of Africa will go the same way. So it's a really pivotal country right now.

Q: LEHRER: Do you agree with that, Mr. Booker?

A: BOOKER: Well, I agree that it is very pivotal, and I think our interests are similar to our interests elsewhere in the world. They are security. We have an interest in promoting stability there for the reasons Hank Cohen mentioned in democracy because that represents our own political values and we want to promote an international community based on the rule of law and for economic development. I mean, Zaire is an enormously wealthy country. And given the right system of government, it will be the engine to promote economic growth throughout Central Africa. Finally, we have a historical observation. Zaire is one of our most important and negative legacies of the Cold War in Africa.

Q: LEHRER: Mr. Rosenblum, how important do you think this is to the United States, this situation and resolving it peacefully and moving it on to democracy?

A: ROSENBLUM: I think it's central to any policy that we might have in Africa. Also, I guess I'm particularly optimistic, having followed the development of the democratic movement in Zaire. It's possible. It's within reach. And, as Salih says, we have a long history there, and one of the effects of that is a little bit of movement on our part has a great deal of impact there on the ground.

Q: LEHRER: So it doesn't have to be a blood bath?

A: ROSENBLUM: Absolutely not.

JIM Q: LEHRER: Gentlemen, thank you all three very much.

(END TRANSCRIPT)

**Document 35/42 (15.04.97)**

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## **UNHCR hopes to begin airlift of Rwandan refugees 17 April**

By Wendy Lubetkin USIA Staff Writer

GENEVA -- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it hopes to begin airlifting Rwandan refugees from Kisangani to Goma, beginning April 17 with a group of about 80 unaccompanied children.

"The next day we plan to bring out several hundred adults along with the children," said UNHCR spokeswoman Pam O'Toole.

UNHCR says the airlift will begin on a small scale, but could build up gradually to around 1,200 refugees a day.

Although there have been nine deaths from cholera and 150 cases of cholera in the encampments south of Kisangani, O'Toole said it appears to be a non-virulent strain of the disease and will not lead to any postponement of the repatriation effort.

The overall death rate in the two camps has gone down steadily over the past week: 55 deaths were recorded on April 14, 43 on April 13, and 63 on April 12.

In addition to the refugees in the camps south of Kisangani, there are more than 90,000 refugees on the move in areas still controlled by the government, according to reports received by UNHCR.

"Both the Zairian government and local sources say some 65,000 have been spotted at Ikela, 270 kilometers west of Ubundu and Bokungu, 50 kilometers further west again," O'Toole said. "There have been reports that members of Ex-FAR, the former Rwandan army, are present in these groups," she added.

According to other reports, some 30,000 refugees were spotted several days ago in two groups at Luiza and Tshikapa, O'Toole said.

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## **US urges Zairian Government and rebel alliance to resume talks**

(Also urges permanent cease-fire) (230)

By Charles W. Corey USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- The United States urges representatives of the Zairian government and the rebel alliance "to go to South Africa and negotiate away their differences," U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns stressed April 15.

Speaking to reporters at the department's regular noonday briefing, Burns said that the United States has been unable "to confirm reports that Mr. Kabila [the rebel alliance leader] or members of his entourage have flown to Cape Town for a continuation of the U.N.-sponsored talks."

Burns reiterated a U.S. call for a continuation of the cease-fire in Zaire and asked that it be made permanent.

Asked about conditions in Kinshasa, Burns said the Zairian capital was reported "quiet" April 15 "because it was the second day of the general strike and there were very few people...on the streets."

Commenting on the refugee situation in Zaire, Burns said, "We continue to urge the Rwandan government to fulfill its own humanitarian obligations and to allow the tens of thousands of refugees stranded in Kisangani either to travel to Goma or into Rwanda itself."

He cautioned, however: "We still have no response today from the Rwandan government on the urgent humanitarian appeal to help the refugees near Kisangani."

**Document 36/32 (22.04.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 22 Apr 1997 -----  
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For educational use only:

**State Department's Moose, Cohen are optimistic about Zaire outcome**

\*97042207.AAF

(Speak to USIA at CCA summit, praise Mbeki involvement) (1070) By Jim Fisher-Thompson USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- Two U.S. officials who have been intimately involved in guiding U.S. policy toward Africa over the past eight years, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose and his predecessor Herman Cohen, are both optimistic about the immediate future for crisis-ridden Zaire.

They also are positive about the continent's economic future, based on a new U.S.-African relationship of trade not aid, discussed at a business conference both attended in the countryside of northern Virginia April 19-22.

Moose and Cohen, who served as assistant secretary from 1989 to 1993, were interviewed by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) during the "Attracting Capital to Africa" summit held at the Westfield Conference Center in nearby Chantilly, Virginia. It featured more than 400 African and American government officials and businessmen, who met to discuss business prospects in sub-Saharan Africa, where U.S. investment amounts to only 7 percent of the region's annual intake.

Sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), the summit was described by many as a watershed in U.S. and African relations because of the atmosphere of hope, confidence, and activity surrounding the private sector deals being discussed.

In the past such gatherings focused on donor aid and stalled reforms in African nations, with little movement toward market openness being detected by representatives of U.S. businesses who attended them. But this is changing as post Cold War political and economic reforms take hold, driven by African leaders who realize that 30 years of state control of the economy have made them non-competitive globally.

The feeling voiced by both African leaders and American businessmen at this conference was that Africa finally seemed to be joining regions like Asia that have integrated into the global marketplace and used the private sector to fuel economic growth.

Certainly the presence of U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who gave a speech at the summit's closing dinner and brought a video greeting from President Clinton, seemed to signal that the continent was being treated as seriously now as other regions of the world considered strategically important to the United States.

South African Executive President Thabo Mbeki captured the general air of optimism in a luncheon speech he delivered to the summit April 21, in which he referred to "the rebirth of Zaire" as part of an "African Renaissance [that] is upon us."

Noting that "much has been written about Zaire" indicating doom and gloom for the future of the nation, Mbeki said, "As Africans...we know that, at the end, what all of us will see, thanks to the wisdom of the people of Zaire themselves, is not the heart of darkness, but the light of a new African star."

Asked by a USIA reporter to comment on Mbeki's assessment of Zaire's future, Moose responded: "Well, as you know, he has been intimately involved and has been a key facilitator in the discussions that took place in South Africa last week" between representatives of President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel alliance leader Laurent Kabila.

Moose, who has been involved in attempts to defuse crises in the Great Lakes region for the past two years, added, "I trust his judgment, and I certainly share his belief that out of the current situation there is the real potential for a much better, brighter, and more prosperous future for Zaire."

What Americans need to do, Moose said, is "lend our efforts to ensure that all of that comes about.

"I think all of us are convinced," Moose added, "that this is the moment for serious, real, profound change for Zaire and that this is an opportunity to bring about that change."

At the same time, "this is also an opportunity for Zaire's leaders, all of them, to make that possible by agreeing to sit down around the table and talking through exactly what is necessary to make that happen," he explained. "That is the next stage, and that's the part Deputy President Mbeki has been involved in and that we're giving our full support to."

As someone instrumental in helping the CCA get started five years ago, Moose said: "Those of us in policy positions always make pronouncements about how important Africa is to our interests. But what is a validation of that is the presence here of people from ordinary walks of life, from the private sector, who don't have to be persuaded by our blandishments."

Noting the "many changes and revolutions that have taken place in the last four or five years," the official said: "If you had asked many of us who were involved in the Corporate Council's creation then, 'Could you fill a room up this size with Africans and Americans dedicated to the proposition of improving business and attract luminaries like our secretary of the treasury and our First Lady?' I think people would have said, 'You're crazy.'"

But "it's here and its real," he added. And people are here because "they believe that there is, in fact, a great deal of potential in Africa for Americans and Africans. So, for me, this is a singular event, and I think it is one of the more important events that has occurred in my four years in office."

Herman Cohen, who also served as ambassador to Senegal during his 30-year diplomatic career, told USIA that "the key thing to remember about Zaire is that change is long overdue and must come. The government has not been operating for the past 10 years and so the question is, Will the change come quietly or with violence?"

Cohen indicated that he was optimistic about Zaire eventually joining the ranks of other African nations like "Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, and all of the southern third of Africa," in which U.S. businesses have expressed "strong interest."

He added: "Imagine what it would be like if potentially very wealthy nations like Zaire, Nigeria, and even Sudan moved democratically and welcomed the private sector."

Cohen said he also sensed a new feeling at the CCA summit: not only a growing interest in Africa and a feeling that the United States has a role to play there, but also, "on the business side, that Africans and Americans can make money together."

**Document 39/19 (12.05.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 12 May 1997 -----  
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## **Killings of Refugees Reported Continuing in Eastern Zaire**

\*AEF101 05/12/97 (FR) (U.N. investigators blocked from ADFL-held territory) (690) By Wendy Lubetkin USIA European Correspondent

GENEVA -- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it continues to receive reports of killings and disappearances of Rwandan refugees in all areas of eastern Zaire, but adds it is unable to confirm the reports because the rebel alliance will not permit access to large regions of territory it controls.

"We continue to receive reports of refugees further to the south and to the west of Biaro and of horrific things happening in these areas" as well, said UNHCR spokesperson Pam O'Toole.

She also noted that a radio "hate campaign" against the refugees has intensified in recent days.

"There have been broadcasts which accused refugees of trying to exterminate the people of the Congo, this kind of thing, and that has whipped up anti-refugee feeling," she said. "It has intensified the risks in the area, both for refugees and for aid workers."

O'Toole noted that the local population around Biaro has threatened aid workers in the camp, where some 30,000 refugees are awaiting transport back to Rwanda. Locals have also prevented aid agencies from staying in the camp overnight.

UNHCR says conditions in Biaro are "desperate" and it is vital that the refugees be moved out of the camp as quickly as possible to save lives. Between 30 and 45 refugees have died each day at Biaro over the past several days.

O'Toole said plans are under way to significantly step-up the capacity of the airlift out of Zaire with extra aircraft. To date, the largest number of refugees repatriated via airlift in a single day is 2,600. As of the morning of May 9, 13,000 refugees had been airlifted back to Rwanda.

UNHCR said May 9 that it hoped to have a second train running between Biaro and Kisangani by day's end. The additional capacity would allow it to move 2,000 refugees by train each day.

Once more trucks arrive via airlift, UNHCR says it will also attempt to transport as many as 2,000 additional refugees to Kisangani each day by road.

To accommodate the increased numbers, UNHCR plans to expand the capacity of the transit center near Kisangani airport so that it can cope with 6,000 refugees a day, O'Toole said.

Separately, a team of U.N. human rights investigators issued a statement expressing "deep regret" that the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) led by Laurent Kabila has not allowed it to enter eastern Zaire.

The U.N. Joint Investigative Mission to Eastern Zaire and a team of forensic experts have been in Kigali for the past five days hoping for final clearance from the ADFL to allow them to begin their work.

The ADFL proposed May 8 that a group of its own "national experts" participate in the U.N. investigation, a suggestion the U.N. team criticized as tantamount to the ADFL "serving as its own jury."

In a paper presented to the Investigative Mission, the ADFL also expressed "serious reservations" about the participation of Roberto Garreton, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Zaire, whose report to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights earlier this year contained eyewitness accounts of massacres on rebel-held territory. U.N. Human Rights officials have insisted that Garreton's participation in the investigation is not negotiable.

Because of the delay, the Joint Investigative Mission says it no longer believes it will be able to conduct sufficient investigations in Zaire to be able to report to the U.N. General Assembly by June 30.

"It is generally accepted that there have been massacres and other grave violations of the right to life and international humanitarian law in eastern Zaire since September last year," the Investigative Mission said in the statement issued May 9 in Kigali.

"Many of the victims have been refugees from Rwanda, but Zairians have also been targeted. There is evidence that various groups are responsible. It is also clear that violations of human rights are continuing."

**Document 39/35** (14.05.97)

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 14 May 1997 -----  
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## **Burns Expresses U.S. Disappointment that Zaire Talks Don't Occur**

(U.S. wants cease-fire and orderly transition) (330) By Jane Morse USIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The United States government is "extremely disappointed" that a scheduled second round of talks between rebel alliance leader Laurent Kabila and Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko did not take place on May 14.

State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns made that point to reporters May 14 after learning that the scheduled meeting between the two on a South African ship in international waters failed to occur.

Burns told reporters that Kabila had failed to show up -- allegedly for security reasons. The South African government, Burns added, has said it seems unlikely that Kabila will appear for talks April 15 either.

Burns called Kabila's concerns regarding his security "sincere," but noted they should not get in the way of talks that might bring a nonviolent end to the conflict.

If Kabila and President Mobutu cannot agree to a peaceful transition of power, the transition will be violent, Burns warned. If peaceful agreement cannot be reached, Burns said, "The rebel alliance is going to attack the capital city..." and for that reason, "we very strongly advise the American community to leave Zaire."

Burns noted that although 12 official U.S. personnel have left Zaire, 25 U.S. personnel will remain to run the U.S. Embassy in the capital city of Kinshasa. "Our objective is to keep that Embassy open and fully operational throughout this crisis," Burns said.

For the third day in a row, Burns reiterated the U.S. government's plea for all U.S. citizens to leave Zaire. There are an estimated 325 Americans in Zaire, and about two-thirds are located in Kinshasa.

Earlier in the day, White House Spokesman Mike McCurry expressed hopes that both Mobutu and Kabila can find a way to accommodate the international community's desire to see a cease-fire and to see an orderly transition to a new government.

**Document 40/29** (19.05.97)

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 19 May 1997 -----  
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## **U.S.Pleased Refugee Effort Underway in Zaire**

(5/16 statement by Nicholas Burns) (490)

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. government is "pleased that the airlift of Rwandan refugees from the Kisangani area is underway despite numerous remaining challenges," says State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

Burns added in a statement issued by the department on May 16 that "we call on all parties to continue to cooperate toward the common goals of complete refugee repatriation and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

"Relief personnel from all over the world, including Zaire and Rwanda, have saved thousands of lives while working under conditions of extreme hardship and danger," he added. "They deserve our support and protection. We condemn in the strongest terms the recent attack on UNICEF workers in Goma."

Following is the text of Burns' statement:

(BEGIN TEXT)

STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN NICHOLAS BURNS

ZAIRE: STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF RELIEF PERSONNEL

The U.S. government welcomes the recent progress in repatriating Rwandan refugees from eastern Zaire but remains deeply concerned about the overall humanitarian situation. We are pleased that the airlift of Rwandan refugees from the Kisangani area is underway despite numerous remaining challenges. To date, over 26,000 refugees have returned by air from the Kisangani region. The reception by the government of Rwanda and its partners in the relief community is going well. We welcome the continued statements by the government of Rwanda that it wants all of its people to return.

Although there have been strains in the relations between the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (Alliance), the government of Rwanda and the relief community, we call on all parties to continue to cooperate toward the common goals of complete refugee repatriation and the provision of humanitarian assistance. Relief personnel from all over the world, including Zaire and Rwanda, have saved thousands of lives while working under conditions of extreme hardship and danger. They deserve our support and

protection. We condemn in the strongest terms the recent attack on UNICEF workers in Goma.

Reports of human rights abuses, denial of access, and further dispersion of refugee groups are all cause for grave concern. While international attention has been focused on the Kisangani area, we are equally concerned about the welfare of legitimate refugee groups reported to be in the Masisi, Shabunda, Walikale, and Uvira areas and those reported to be seeking to enter third countries. We are aware that among some of the refugees there are numerous armed elements, many of them perpetrators of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. They remain active in parts of eastern Zaire and may be falsely portraying themselves as refugees.

We condemn all violations of human rights in eastern Zaire, regardless of the perpetrators. The Alliance leadership has been receptive to our concerns, although relief personnel continue to have difficulties with local officials. The Alliance has pledged its cooperation with human rights investigators.

**Document 40/34 (20.05.97)**

Source: United States Information Agency Date: 20 May 1997 -----  
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## **U.S. Condemns Acts of Retribution in Former Zaire**

(FR) (People must work together, Burns says) (280) By Jane Morse USIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The United States condemns acts of retribution by rebel alliance supporters in Kinshasa against supporters of former President Mobutu Sese Seko, the U.S. State Department announced May 20.

Speaking to reporters at the department's regular noonday briefing, spokesman Nicholas Burns said there is no place for retribution in a city that needs to rebuild itself. Burns noted that Kabila himself warned on May 16 against acts of retribution. "We think it's very important that people lay down their arms, lay aside their differences and rebuild the country," Burns said.

U.S. Ambassador Dan Simpson has been speaking by phone with advisers to Laurent Kabila, the rebel alliance leader who has taken control of the country (formerly Zaire) now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Burns reported that Simpson was able to put the advisers in touch with Etienne Tshisekedi, a veteran opposition politician. This contact, according to Burns, is "a very good thing, because we're encouraging a broad-based government to be formed in Kinshasa; and Ambassador Simpson looks forward to meeting with Mr. Kabila once Mr. Kabila arrives in Kinshasa."

Kinshasa is relatively calm, Burns said, although American citizens are warned to "keep their heads down." The airport and ferry service are closed.

Burns said reports that two U.S. diplomats have been killed are false. A foreign service national who worked for the U.S. Embassy, however, was killed May 19 in what appears to be a random car-jacking, Burns said. Twenty-five Americans continue to man the U.S. Embassy.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 11 Jun 1997*

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## **U.N. Sending Human Rights Team to New Congo**

AEF303 06/11/97

(Annan says advance team will arrive in DROC June 20) By Judy Aita USIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- The United Nations will be sending a team to investigate allegations of human rights abuses in the eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), Secretary-General Kofi Annan said June 10.

Speaking with journalists after a private meeting with the Security Council, Annan also said that DROC President Laurent Kabila "gave an undertaking" that he will cooperate with the High Commissioner for Refugees as well as name a senior official to work with the U.N. agency to resolve the humanitarian issue involving thousands of Rwandan refugees still remaining in the former Zaire.

The secretary-general said Kabila told U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson during a recent weekend visit that the United Nations can send an advance team into DROC on June 20 and the full team of investigators on July 7.

Annan said that he is working with the high commissioner's office "doing everything possible to get a team in so that we can get the truth and the facts."

The secretary-general briefed the council on the situation in the Great Lakes region, Sierra Leone, Angola, and the African heads of state meeting held recently at the Organization of African Unity Summit in Harare.

Annan told reporters that he is concerned that the recent unrest in DROC and now in Congo-Brazzaville might spill over to other countries in the region.

"As Congo [DROC] appeared to have been settled, we are now seeing difficulties in Congo-Brazzaville. We are worried it could spread to Central Africa. And now, of course, also there are reports of possible fighting in northern Angola," he said.

Annan said that he spoke with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) leader Jonas Savimbi June 10 to try to

calm tensions and "avoid escalation of the conflict in Angola, because we have made progress" in implementing the Angolan peace accords.

Meanwhile, U.N. troops in Angola have arrived at the Angola-DROC border to assess press reports of renewed clashes between Angolan troops and UNITA fighters, he said.

According to Annan, Dos Santos told him that the Angolan military activity at the border was not intended to signal a resumption of the fighting, but rather was "a military exercise to try to monitor what was happening on their border and the Congo refugees."

Dos Santos "seemed concerned that [refugees from DROC] could include armed elements who were not genuinely refugees," the secretary-general said.

"I did agree with him that since the U.N. already had UNAVEM peacekeeping troops on the ground, some of them should be allowed to go to the border to assess the situation for themselves, and that has been agreed," he said.

On Sierra Leone, the secretary-general said he was hopeful that current negotiations between the West African states and coup leaders would be successful. The United Nations is not involved at this stage, "but if it becomes necessary we will not hesitate to get involved," he said.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 17 June 1997*

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## **UNICEF Unable to Operate in Most of Western Rwanda**

(Continuing clashes reported between Rwandan Army and Interahamwe)(420)By Wendy LubetkinUSIA European Correspondent

GENEVA -- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says fighting in western Rwanda between the Rwandan Army and Ex-FAR/Interahamwe militants has intensified and that UNICEF aid workers are now only able to operate freely on a quarter of the territory of the country.

Spokesman Patrick McCormick said UNICEF requires military escort to operate in 50 percent of Rwanda and is completely blocked from the 25 percent of the country where the fighting is most intense.

"This is severely restricting our operations. It is also severely restricting our ability to monitor the condition of returnees in their home communes in many parts of our country," he said at a briefing June 17.

The deteriorating security situation means that UNICEF is unable to monitor the progress or the well-being of some children who have already returned or are now returning to their home communes, he said.

"All we can do is hope for stabilization of the situation," he added. "If the army can stabilize things, then we can do our work. If not, we can't."

"It is a situation which has the whole U.N. community extremely concerned," said John Mills, a spokesman for the Center for Human Rights in Geneva. He noted that U.N. human rights monitors have been unable to operate normally in any of the western provinces since five human rights officers were killed there last February.

It is believed that the ex-FAR/Interahamwe are using large areas of forest in the northwest of the country as a base for their operations, he said.

Although the U.N. is not returning refugees directly to areas of insecurity, significant numbers continue to return to those areas once they arrive in Rwanda, Mills noted.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it is continuing to repatriate refugees to Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) because it fears the alternatives if they remain are worse. UNHCR has airlifted 56,000 refugees back to Rwanda since April 27.

UNHCR spokeswoman Pam O'Toole said refugees face death from "malnutrition,disease, or maybe violent causes" if they stay in the DROC.

O'Toole said the situation in western Rwanda changes from day to day, withsporadic outbreaks of fighting in different areas. "There is no oneparticular road, or town, or village that is the focus of fighting. Thewhole western area is particularly insecure," O'Toole said.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 24 June 1997*

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## **USAID Explores Ways to Help the New Congo**

(9/23 background briefing at the State Department) (830) By Jane A. Morse USIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is exploring ways the United States might help the new Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), say two agency officials just back from a three-week tour of the country.

During a background briefing at the State Department June 23, the officials, who asked not to be identified, said that the government of President Laurent Kabila seems to be serious about ending the corruption that marked the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko. The leaders the two met in the cities of Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Kisangani and in five of the 11 provinces of the DROC that they were able to visit appear to be trying "to weed out the most egregious cases of corrupt individuals...[and] try[ing] to instill a sense of ethical and professional behavior."

The two were encouraged by the vibrancy of the grassroots civil organizations they observed. "I've been involved in transitions in Haiti, Bosnia, Rwanda -- and I think the level of maturity of these civil society groups is much higher in the Congo," one official said.

Kabila's government officials, the USAID official further explained, "felt they had to absolutely include civil society [in their efforts]; they really need their expertise and organizational capacity, certainly on the basic needs level -- water, health, sanitation, education, even some justice issues." Moreover, Kabila's government appears willing to let U.S. and international organizations work directly with the Congo's local and regional officials. "We didn't get the sense, 'No, you can't do that,' or, 'You should be going through us exclusively,'" the official said.

Another, larger team of USAID experts remains in the DROC assessing what the United States can do to help in the near term, talking to national, regional, and local leaders, civil society groups, members of the private sector, church groups, and human rights groups. But the two USAID officials cautioned that there is as yet no defined U.S. aid package.

"We are a long way away from saying an aid program in the next fiscal year would be of a certain size," the official said, adding, "We've identified some money to use with civil society groups, possibly some training for electoral and justice issues, some technical advice."

Initial U.S. aid, the official continued, would "try to foster an inclusive environment and foster a sense of pluralism at the regional level; do some catalytic things to get some momentum and activity going at the local and regional level."

Right now the United States is offering DROC "the promise of potential re-engagement on the part of the United States, and the whole richness that that means, not in terms of dollars but in terms of rejoining the world community and the value that that could provide," the other official said.

The Kabila government, the two acknowledged, is working under tremendous handicaps -- not the least of which is the lack of a national government structure that reaches all areas of the country. In its last days, the Mobutu regime had virtually no control outside the capital of Kinshasa, the officials said. How to install a competent, honest national government while providing local and regional leadership with the authority to attempt innovative development programs is the conundrum facing the DROC, they said.

Of immediate concern, the officials noted, is the Kabila military force, which is not being paid regularly, or, in some areas, not at all. Originally hailed as liberators by the populace, Kabila's soldiers are falling into disrepute as their desperate financial situation causes some to undertake predatory behavior.

"This whole question of control over the military was just a huge issue there," one official observed, noting that contact between military commanders in Kinshasa and those in the outlying regions is seriously hampered by a lack of basic radio communications.

The health situation also "is a nightmare," one of the officials said. "There have been polio epidemics; there is sleeping sickness; the child mortality rate is going through the roof; there are horrible child health problems throughout the country," he added.

Yet despite the country's problems, one of the officials said, "there are three things that make the DROC stand out from other 'crisis countries' or 'transition countries.'" These include "the healthy and mature grassroots non-governmental base"; the enormous potential wealth in natural resources such as diamonds, gold, copper, arable land, and abundant sources of hydroelectric power; and the "brain power" of "a lot of exiles coming back" who are well educated and who will "play a role in the private sector or in the public sector."

The USAID officials concluded, as one put it, that the DROC has "more options, even in the short term, than some of the other countries" in sub-Saharan Africa, which could enable the country to succeed in developing a robust economy.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 08 Jul 1997*

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## **Annan Sending Human Rights Team to DROC**

AEF201 07/08/97

(Attempts to surmount investigation impasse)By Judy AitaUSIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced July 8 that he= is sending a high-level human rights mission to investigate charges of massacres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC).

Annan informed the Security Council of his decision to send the new= team after a mission sent by the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva met= with resistance from Congo President Laurent Kabila and the commission's investigation stalled.

Kabila objected to Roberto Garreton, a Chilean human rights lawyer, as= a member of the team, and insisted that the time period covered by the investigation should be from March 1993 to May 1997. The Human Rights Commission had directed the team to investigate allegations of= massacres and other human rights violations since September 1996.

The commission's advance team has been in Kinshasa since June 20. It= was to be followed by the full team of investigators on July 7.

In drawing up the mandate of the new team, Annan said, "We will, of= course, respect the objective of the commission and also the council -- which= has made three statements on the need for investigations."

The secretary-general has the support of the Security Council for this mission, Council President Peter Osvald of Sweden said after a private council meeting with Annan.

"It was made quite clear in our discussion that the secretary-= general's mission will be independent of the human rights mission from Geneva. It will not replace it; it will not be seen as changing or overriding or taking over the mandate of this mission," the Security Council= president said.

"It wasn't an easy discussion because we are dealing with a sensitive and difficult matter -- a unique situation that requires a unique solution," Annan told journalists of his meeting with the council.

Annan acknowledged that his sending a new team "raises many legal issues" but he stressed that it "also requires us to be practical and get the facts before they are tampered with and to...get Kabila to deal expeditiously with those responsible."

What is important, the secretary-general said, is "to send a message out that impunity cannot be made to stand."

Pleading with journalists not to "talk in terms of who has won and who has lost and who has caved in and who has not caved in," Annan said that "the issues are much more important for us than to play a zero-sum game."

"We owe it to those who have lost relatives; we owe it to send a powerful message to the world that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated," he said.

On extending the investigation to the early 1990s, Annan said that "given the history of the region and the geography of the place and what has happened in the past several years, it is not inconceivable that when the investigators begin to dig they will find bodies who were killed this year, last year, '93, '94."

"I don't think we should get hooked on what date because the evidence will speak for itself and we will use the evidence as appropriate," he said.

The report of the U.N. team will be discussed with the Security Council to determine how the international community will follow up on the investigation, Annan said.

Osvald also issued a statement on behalf of the other 14 council members, stressing that "there was very wide support for [Annan's] proposals, although reservations about the Congo's response."

"There was wide disappointment among the members on the response by the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the human rights mission. The human rights mission now finds itself in a unique situation with possible negative consequences for the future. The council still stands behind its earlier pronouncements on this mission," Osvald said.

The new U.N. mission, he said, will have much the same mandate as that of the stalled Human Rights Commission team: to "establish the facts, to establish the truth about the alleged massacres in the eastern part of the country."

"It was felt among the members of the council that the establishment of these facts are important not only for future national reconciliation of the Congo, but also for the future international relations with the country," Osvald said.

When he met with Kabila in early June, U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson urged the Congo president to allow the Human Rights Commission investigators unfettered access and to provide protection. Richardson told human rights groups and journalists afterwards that he had received assurances from Kabila that a U.N. human rights team could begin an investigation in the Congo by July 7.

U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Africa William Twaddell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee July 8 that the United States' priority "now must be to ensure that a credible international investigative team... gains immediate access to the Congo."

Nevertheless, Twaddell acknowledged the problems facing the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

"The UNHRC does not want to set the precedent that a government under scrutiny for alleged human rights violations can define the terms of the UNHRC investigations," he said.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 08 Jul 1997*

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## **DROC now at the 'turning point' USAID official says**

(Must address challenges and opportunities) (2040)

WASHINGTON -- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) now stands at a "turning point," and thus "the U.S. government, including USAID, believes that we must maximize the opportunities while not ignoring the tremendous challenges" which can now be found in that country.

Richard McCall, chief of staff at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), made that point in testimony July 8 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's African Affairs Subcommittee.

"To not engage is to risk losing the opportunity to make a difference" in DROC as it develops in the post-Mobutu era, McCall told the lawmakers.

"USAID is exploring ways to support the people of the Congo in a transition to increased prosperity through the establishment of a free-market economic system, a political system based on fundamentals of democracy and good governance, and a path of sustainable development," he explained.

"The human and natural resource base make the potential of the Congo appear virtually unlimited. With well-placed interventions from the donor community and good political and economic management from the government, Congo could become one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa," he predicted, while stressing America's commitment to seeing "democratic reform and respect for human rights in the Congo."

Following is the text of McCall's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it is a pleasure to appear before you today to discuss recent events, current problems, and new possibilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I had the honor of accompanying Ambassador Bill Richardson on last month's mission to Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Kisangani. I was able to meet with some key government ministers and with important leaders from the non-governmental community. In addition, USAID sent a five-person assessment team to the Congo during the month of June. These two teams bring a wealth of important information back to Washington about

how the present situation is evolving, not only in the capital city of Kinshasa, but in some of the key regional centers around the country.

I would like to begin by underscoring two statements that Acting Assistant Secretary of State Twaddell made. First, the strategic location of Congo. It can be a source of instability for most of the continent, or serve as a stabilizing influence throughout most of sub-Saharan Africa. Violent change, as opposed to peaceful transitions and a stable security environment, undermines our aid programs throughout the region. Second, the range of U.S. interests that Assistant Secretary Twaddell outlined make it important that we engage in the initial phase of the new Congo's formation. That said, I would also like to say that I too am troubled by the human rights situation in Congo. I am hopeful that the United Nations will be able to begin an investigation into human rights abuses expeditiously. However, that investigation has to address events that transpired beginning in 1993 that planted the seeds for the tragedy which continues to be played out in the region. The progress of such an investigation, will, of course, affect the structure and depth of our assistance plans for Congo.

I would now like to address why we think engaging in Congo is critical for the United States, to provide some impressions of the new government, some of the findings of the USAID assessment team, and proposed next steps.

#### POSSIBILITIES AND PROBLEMS

I returned from the Congo excited by the new possibilities, including:

-- possibilities for democracy, if the new government is inclusive and builds on its initial efforts to promote grassroots pluralism and choice into a genuine transition to democracy by fully involving all representative political elements and especially the vibrant, dynamic Congolese civil society in this process;

-- possibilities for rapid economic growth, if sound economic policies are adopted and private sector initiative is encouraged; especially a reduction of the crippling levels of corruption that Congo has suffered from in the past;

-- possibilities for genuine sustainable development, if basic social services begin to reach the children of the Congo for the first time in many, many years;

-- possibilities for regionally based development, if local public and private actors work together to realize the potential economic dynamism of regions such as Katanga and Kivu.

I also returned deeply sobered by the many problems that remain. These include:

-- problems of deep ethnic tension and hostilities, felt in Kinshasa, but acted upon with great human cost in Kivu and elsewhere;

-- problems of some influential political actors in Kinshasa who appear= somired in ways of thinking set during the Mobutu era that they cannot= yetconsider the possibilities of this new period;

-- problems of a country that has descended so deeply into poverty thatmost parents wonder if they can feed their children even once a day,= whereaccess to safe drinking water, a decent primary school, and the ability= totravel even short distances easily are distant dreams.

## USAID STRATEGY

The Congo is at a turning point. The U.S. government, including USAID, believes that we must maximize the opportunities while not ignoring the tremendous challenges. To not engage is to risk losing the opportunity= to make a difference. USAID is exploring ways to support the people of the Congo in a transition to increased prosperity through the establishment= of a free-market economic system, a political system based on fundamentals= of democracy and good governance, and a path of sustainable development.

The human and natural resource base make the potential of the Congo= appear virtually unlimited. With well-placed interventions from the donor community and good political and economic management from the= government, Congo could become one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa.

**SUPPORTING A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY:** We are committed to democratic= reform and respect for human rights in the Congo. We were pleased that, in mid-June, the new government participated in a constructive fashion in= a weeklong meeting of leaders of Congolese civil society. A member of the USAID assessment team attended much of the meeting and was impressed by= the willingness of the participants to discuss frankly some of the most difficult issues facing Congolese society today, including those= dealing with ethnicity. We hope that this meeting lays a foundation for future dialogue and joint action between the government and Congolese civil society. USAID would like to support this process.

President Kabila has committed his government to a transition to= democracy culminating in national elections in early 1999. However, we are= concerned by present restrictions the government has placed on political= activity. USAID is prepared to work to support constitutional development,= elections, and other important political processes. We also recognize the= importance of restoring integrity to the justice sector, and are exploring ways to promote the rule of law.

Our initial engagement with officials in the new government has been= and will continue to be cautious. We are deeply aware of the political challenges that remain -- as discussed in detail by Acting Assistant Secretary Twaddell. Nevertheless, we are actively exploring ways of harnessing the positive forces within the government and the country.= We are interested in tapping those elements who are committed to finding= ways to bring an end to the abuses and errors committed by other elements of= the government. We believe that it is essential that Congolese civil= society remain a strong and active partner in rebuilding the country.

**PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** By the end of the Mobutu regime, all efforts at promoting sustainable development nationally had ceased. The new government must quickly translate into action its positive rhetoric about promoting economic and social development to meet the fundamental needs of the people of the Congo.

The central government contains some high-quality Ministers -- to give a few examples, Dr. Sondji, the Minister of Health, and Kambale Mututulo, the Minister of Mines, are men of proven integrity. They are a refreshing change from the venal ministers of the Mobutu era.

Our policy of engaging such officials in a dialogue has already proven useful on the economic front. For example, members of Ambassador Richardson's delegation stressed the importance of sound advice on fiscal and monetary policy in meetings with the Minister of Finance. A World Bank team recently was able to complete a successful mission to Kinshasa and President Kabila publicly endorsed the need for the "full assistance and strong support of the World Bank" in his address on June 30, Congolese Independence Day.

State corruption, hyperinflation, and overall abysmal management of the economy during the last decade of the Mobutu regime prevented the emergence of a strong, formal private sector in the Congo. If the new government implements effective fiscal and monetary policies, then an early result should be the renewal of a strong, formal private sector, with both local and international private investment contributing to economic growth. We are working with our colleagues in the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce and other agencies to develop a strategy to promote the strengthening of the private sector in the Congo.

In the area of social services, USAID has a proven track record, especially in the health sector. We are looking for initial opportunities in this key area, such as a national campaign to immunize the children of the Congo.

**WORKING IN KEY REGIONS:** Many of the key issues and opportunities in the Congo are regional. The USAID assessment team traveled to six regions, primarily in the eastern part of the country. The team found committed and competent governmental officials in these regions. After talking with dozens of governmental officials, representatives of civil society, church leaders, and entrepreneurs, the team was struck repeatedly by the intelligence, idealism, competence, and commitment of many of the individuals. These traits have survived in defiance of a system that so thoroughly promoted the opposite.

In tandem with our efforts at the national level, therefore, USAID is planning to focus on regional democratization and development challenges in a number of key regional centers.

**COORDINATING WITH OTHER DONORS:** We are also working with other donors. We are consulting with international organizations (IOs), the international financial institutions (IFIs), other bilateral donors, and international experts on policy and potential programs for the Congo. Administrator Atwood is personally engaged in efforts to foster donor coordination, including this week in meetings in Japan with his counterparts from the leading donor countries.

The World Bank recently announced that it would organize an international donors conference on the Congo in September. We support this initiative. It will not be a pledging conference, however. We see it as an initial important opportunity for an international discussion on how to approach the developmental challenges facing the Congo.

We also plan to work closely with African countries, such as South Africa, who have demonstrated their own keen interest in and commitment to a prosperous, democratic Congo.

#### NEXT STEPS

In designing a strategy, USAID has been part of a well-coordinated interagency process, chaired by the National Security Council. As Acting Assistant Secretary Twaddell stated, we are planning for the allocation of approximately \$10 million during FY 1997 to assist in key transition priorities. We are in the process of refining the overall strategy right now, and will be prepared to share further program details with the Congress soon.

Acting Assistant Secretary Twaddell also described the various restrictions on assistance to the former Zaire; I will not repeat them. But let me echo his assurances to you, Mr. Chairman, that no funds will be committed without thorough consultations with the Congress.

USAID is preparing to move forward and actively engage to promote prosperity and democracy in the Congo. Our ability to do so depends on the policies and actions of the new government. While we retain our cautious optimism, we recognize that the new government faces severe problems and challenges.

Mr. Chairman, the Congo today is a country of daunting problems, but also exciting possibilities. The future of the Congo could be extremely bright, a future of healthy, secure families living in a prosperous democracy. Let us work together to help the people of the Congo put an end to their recent nightmare and realize their hope for a better future.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 11 Jul 1997*

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## **DROC Supports New UN Rights Investigation**

AEF501(Karaha meets Secretary General Kofi Annan)By Judy AitaUSIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- The Democratic Republic of Congo's [DROC] foreign minister has assured the United Nations that his government would cooperate with a new human rights investigation being initiated by Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The newly appointed minister of foreign affairs, Bizima Karaha, told journalists after his meeting with the secretary general that his government will give the members of the U.N. team "all support they need to do their work."

"Our government does not have any problem with the investigation which is supposed to be done in our country," he said.

Annan announced July 8 that he would send a high-level human rights mission to investigate charges of massacres in the Congo, formerly known as Zaire, dating back to 1993. His initiative came after a mission sent by the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva met with resistance from Congo President Laurent Kabila and the commission's investigation stalled.

That mission aimed to investigate sites in eastern Congo where it is estimated that as many as 200,000 Hutu refugees who fled violence in Rwanda may have been massacred.

Kabila objected to including Roberto Garreton, a Chilean human rights lawyer, as a member of the team. He also insisted that the probe be broadened to cover the time period from March 1993 to May 1997.

Karaha indicated that his government would not insist on approving the individual members of Annan's team, as in the case of the Human Rights Commission investigators, or on providing escorts. But he added that "the investigation should be done by mutual people."

"We sincerely believe that the team which will come will come to work with us," the foreign minister said, adding that "We believe more in the investigation than in the individuals."

Karaha said he told the secretary general that "we want to know the truth of what happened in our country and these investigations are an opportunity to us to know clearly what happened."

According to Karaha, the investigations "are important for the U.N., for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the refugees, for the region. We want to build peace and stability in the region and for us to achieve justice.

"Our doors are open not only for the team but for all other people who want to come into the Democratic Republic of Congo. It's a free country, a free nation," he said.

He termed the question of providing Congolese escorts for the U.N. team a "small practical issue," noting that if the investigators "feel they can travel alone we are ready to do that." He said that security is an issue that can be discussed "on the local level" with the government providing the U.N. with options.

"We as a government have the responsibility to protect them, but if they want to do it alone they are free (to)," the foreign minister said.

Karaha is on his first official visit to the United Nations and the United States. After his U.N. trip, he travelled to Washington, D.C.

The foreign minister said he also talked to Annan about helping Congo "in the second phase of our struggle, which is reconciliation, consolidation and reconstruction of our country."

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*Source: United States Information Agency (USIA)*

*Date: 16 Jul 1997*

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## **Pickering sets benchmarks for US aid to Congo**

WASHINGTON -- Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering July 16 set out for Congress the "benchmarks" for continuing U.S. development assistance to the new Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, which was suspended during the later years of the Mobutu Sese Seko dictatorship.

Pickering told the House International Relations Committee that the U.S. government "believes our interests are best served by engaging the new authorities as they make key initial decisions that will determine the future course of Congolese government policy."

The United States, he added, "is prepared to consider an expanded program of assistance in future fiscal years. But we have made it clear to the new authorities that such assistance will depend largely on demonstrated progress in meeting benchmarks for democratic reform, respect for human rights, cooperation with humanitarian agencies, public accountability, and free-market economic practices."

In this regard, he said that "we have had extensive contacts with Kabila and his team to make clear the policy" of pursuing "abroad-based transitional government that includes non-ADFL [Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire] representation" as well as "a pluralistic political system that permits an active civil society, a free press, freedom of association, and leads to elections."

Noting that "the record of the new Congolese government in pursuing these policies has so far been mixed," Pickering said that "our willingness to work with the government in the future will depend to a large extent on progress in these areas."

Following is the text of Ambassador Pickering's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

(BEGIN TEXT)

With the departure of President Mobutu after 32 years of rule, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has begun a new era in its history. It is in the interest of the United States to see a stable, democratic, and prosperous Congo emerge during the period ahead.

U.S. Interests

Mr. Chairman, our policy is to encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to live up to its name in all respects -- that is, to encourage it to permit the democratic expression of its

people's will, to urge it to respect and defend the human rights of all its residents, and to advocate that the government undertake the economic reforms necessary to ensure its citizens benefit from Congo's wealth of mineral and natural resources. These same resources make Congo a potential source of growth for the continent and a valued trade and investment partner for the United States.

We are working closely with the United Nations, the international financial institutions, and with other concerned nations to advance our policy. We are heartened by the leadership other African nations have shown in mediating the departure of Mobutu, and in counseling the current government.

Our policy of promoting a democratic and prosperous Congo addresses regional objectives as well. As you know, Congo's neighbors include many nations we've seen in the headlines in the last months, including Rwanda and Burundi, Angola, the Central African Republic, Sudan, and the Republic of Congo. As the third-largest country in Africa, bordering on a total of nine other nations, the Congo can play either a positive or a negative role in preventing future conflicts and humanitarian crises of the sort that have required costly international assistance in recent years. Let me elaborate further on our specific interests:

-- Democratic Reform, Respect for Human Rights, and Humanitarian Access: The United States has a fundamental interest in promoting democracy and respect for human rights internationally. Democratic reforms leading to legitimate elections in which the Congolese people choose their local, regional, and national leaders are essential to the Congo's long-term stability. Only through credible elections can the Congolese establish responsive governing bodies that can protect human rights and bring a lasting end to the legacy of central control, corruption, and abuse of authority that characterized the Mobutu regime. Meanwhile, urgent humanitarian needs persist in the Congo, requiring access by humanitarian agencies to assist vulnerable populations.

-- Economic Reform and Public Accountability: The Congo's vast natural resources should serve as an engine of growth for the entire central and southern African region. Industrial and precious minerals, cash-crop and food agriculture, petroleum, hydroelectric power, and timber have the potential to power the Congo's economic recovery. Transparency and accountability of Congolese government agencies, and a free-market economic system, would make the Congo an attractive partner for international trade and investment.

-- Environment, Health, and Population: The Congo accounts for 60 percent of the tropical rain forests remaining in Africa. Management of this resource has important implications for climate change worldwide. For reasons of size, location, and continued conflict, the Congo has served as a conduit for HIV and other infectious diseases. Its effectiveness in improving the health of its population thus has broader implications for the region and international community. With an annual growth rate above 3 percent, the Congo's population will double by 2015, compounding demands on resources.

-- Regional Stability: Bordering on nine countries, the Congo will inevitably play a role -- either positive or negative in the stability of central and southern Africa. Most of the Congo's

neighbors include countries that are still engaged in or are only now emerging from internal conflicts. Among these are the Central African Republic, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, and the Republic of Congo. Recent crises in these countries have led to massive refugee flows and humanitarian disasters. A lasting resolution to these crises will minimize the potential future need for costly international humanitarian assistance.

Given this range of interests, the United States has a clear stake in the outcome of the current transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### The U.S. Role to Date

The United States has been engaged in the Congo since its independence in 1960. We supported the United Nations that same year in a multinational effort to restore order in the wake of secession attempts and ethnic conflict in the immediate post-independence period. During the Cold War period, five U.S. administrations supported the Mobutu government as a staunch U.S. ally in Africa.

With the end of the Cold War, the Bush Administration actively supported indigenous demands for democratic reform -- a policy that has been continued and intensified under the Clinton Administration. In response to Mobutu's efforts to block reform, the United States Government stopped bilateral aid to the Government of Zaire and imposed visa restrictions on Mobutu and his associates, among other measures to press for more rapid democratization. Congress also enacted legislative restrictions on aid to Zaire. Despite this pressure, democratic reforms progressed too slowly to respond to popular demands for change.

In October 1996, indigenous ethnic Tutsi groups in eastern Zaire took up arms against the Mobutu Government after they were harassed by the Zairian Armed Forces and threatened with expulsion from the region. They were soon joined by other armed political opponents of Mobutu, who formed the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL). The Alliance received substantial external support from a number of neighboring countries, including Rwanda, Uganda, and Angola.

From the start of the crisis, the United States worked to resolve the conflict peacefully, through negotiations. We supported mediation efforts by U.N./OAU Special Representative Mohamed Sahnoun and by the South African Government. Senior U.S. officials participated in the first proximity talks between ADFL and Mobutu representatives in South Africa in February, and were active in all other negotiations to end the conflict. We pressed influential neighboring governments to restrain the ADFL and the Zairian Government from increased fighting. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Bill Richardson traveled to the region in early May, shortly before the end of the conflict, to persuade Mobutu and ADFL leader Laurent Kabila to agree to face-to-face talks under U.N. and South African auspices. During the final period before the ADFL takeover in Kinshasa, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Simpson facilitated communication between the Mobutu Government forces and the arriving ADFL to ensure that the transfer of power in the capital occurred with less violence than had been feared.

With a new government now in power in the Congo, the nature of the U.S. role will change, but the United States will continue to remain engaged with this important country.

### The New Congolese Government

ADFL leader Laurent Kabila was inaugurated as the new President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on May 29, less than seven weeks ago, and many of his Cabinet ministers were appointed even more recently. The new leadership is generally untested and inexperienced in both governance and public administration, and is still in the process of defining its policy agenda.

Kabila's team includes officials from a variety of backgrounds. Kabila himself is a lifelong revolutionary who spent many years leading an isolated guerrilla community in the Fizi mountains of the eastern Congo. While there, he financed his group's activities through small gold mining/smuggling and kidnappings for political and financial gain. His forces were responsible for the 1975 kidnapping of three American students and a Dutch nurse, who were released after payment of a ransom.

Kabila now faces the daunting challenge of adjusting both to the new political realities of the 1990s and his own sudden role as President of the Congo. His Cabinet includes many younger figures, including some U.S.-educated ministers, but all are still in the early stages of mastering their portfolios.

The United States Government believes our interests are best served by engaging the new authorities as they make key initial decisions that will determine the future course of Congolese Government policy. We have had extensive contacts with Kabila and his team to make clear the policy priorities we believe it is in their interest to pursue. Ambassador Richardson made these points in his meetings with the ADFL leadership in early May, and reiterated and reinforced them in his subsequent mission to Kinshasa in June. In all these meetings we have stressed that our future relations with the new government would depend on progress in these areas. I made the same case when I met with Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha just last week.

We have encouraged the new authorities to pursue the following policies:

- a broad-based transitional government that includes non-ADFL representation;
- a pluralistic political system that permits an active civil society, a free press, freedom of association, and leads to elections;
- respect for human rights, including cooperation with an impartial U.N.-led international investigation of reported abuses in the Congo;
- full cooperation with international humanitarian agencies in addressing the needs of remaining refugees and the internally displaced;

- establishment of a free-market economic system, including transparent and accountable government economic policies;
- creation of a disciplined military and police force to protect both internal and external security while respecting human rights and civilian authority; and
- development of peaceful relations with neighboring countries in the region.

### The New Government's Mixed Record

The record of the new Congolese Government in pursuing these policies has so far been mixed.

With respect to democratic reforms and political pluralism, we are encouraged by the inclusion of significant non-ADFL representation in the Cabinet (where half of the twenty ministers are affiliated with other political groups) and among the ten regional governors (eight of whom were not affiliated with the ADFL when selected for the post). Members of the prominent opposition party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), hold three Cabinet portfolios and half of the governorships.

We welcome the public commitment of the new government to hold elections within two years and to establish a detailed time frame for constitutional reform prior to the vote. Rudimentary local and regional elections (relying on applause or a show of hands to select the winner) have been held in many communities.

Yet, political party activities and public demonstrations have been banned, and a number of prominent Mobutu supporters who remained in Kinshasa following the ADFL victory have been arrested. Though many of the detainees are widely suspected of corruption, the precise charges they face and the conditions of their incarceration are unknown. The detention of UDPS leader Etienne Tshisekedi for several hours June 25 also points to unnecessary heavy-handedness in the Government's relations with its political opponents; his early release suggests that the Government may belatedly have realized this.

Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the independent print media remain vibrant. The Government permitted and participated in a conference with non-governmental organizations in mid-June to discuss the role of civil society in the post-Mobutu era. Yet, the new government is also seeking to impose additional reporting and registration requirements on international NGOs operating in the country.

On human rights, the Government's early record is troubling and we support an urgent U.N.-led investigation to establish the facts. The military forces of the new Government are generally lauded for improved discipline and reduced corruption in comparison to these security forces under Mobutu. However, there is a growing body of reports implicating ADFL forces in massacres and other human rights abuses, particularly targeting Hutu refugees and militia forces who fled Rwanda in 1994. These abuses reportedly occurred in eastern Congo in the early stages of the rebellion, and continued as the rebel forces moved westward. Numerous

sources have reported deliberate targeting of civilians for attack as recently as mid-May near Mbandaka, on the western border with the Republic of Congo.

Since the start of the most recent crisis in 1996, we consistently stressed to the ADFL the importance of respect for human rights. Indeed, our initial contacts with the ADFL in October 1996 were motivated principally by our concern for the human rights and humanitarian needs of the refugee population in eastern Congo. We also pressed neighboring governments to use their influence with the ADFL to ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights. These messages were also underscored in higher-level contacts with Kabila throughout the spring, and again in senior interagency missions to the Congo in May and June.

The ADFL (now the new Government) has denied that it is responsible for massacres or other abuses, and an impartial investigation has yet to be conducted. We welcome the decision by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, announced July 8, to send a team of human rights investigators to the Congo to establish the facts.

A separate team, mandated by the U.N. Human Rights Commission and led by Special Rapporteur Roberto Garreton, was unable to conduct a full investigation. Based on a very brief visit to the eastern Congo in April, Garreton had issued a report ascribing responsibility for the massacres to the ADFL. This preliminary report led the ADFL (later the Government) to conclude that Garreton was biased, and consequently to refuse him entry to the Congo although he was explicitly named in the UNHRC resolution calling for the investigation. The Government also objected to the limited mandate of the UNHRC Joint Investigative Mission. According to the UNHRC resolution, only abuses since September 1996 are subject to investigation. In order to provide context to the findings, the Government insisted that this period be extended to cover events since 1993, when the most recent cycle of ethnic killings began.

The Secretary-General has not yet named the members of his new team. The team will begin by investigating events in 1997, and work back to previous years as needed. President Kabila separately promised both Secretary-General Annan and Ambassador Bill Richardson that the Congolese Government would cooperate fully with such an investigation. Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha renewed pledges of cooperation during his visit to Washington July 5-11. Our priority now is to ensure that the team begins its investigation promptly to get to the bottom of the very serious charges of abuse, and to hold the Congolese Government to its promises of full access and cooperation.

Although the Government's relations with human rights investigators have been strained, cooperation with humanitarian relief agencies -- both U.N. and non-governmental -- has improved somewhat since late April. UNHCR has airlifted more than 50,000 refugees to Rwanda since April and has been granted access by the Government to other pockets of refugees. Nonetheless, access continues to be restricted in some areas, including Masisi and some regions of South Kivu province, in part for credible security reasons.

Government economic policy is still evolving, but the new authorities have expressed a commitment to free-market reforms. Economic ministers have been open to dialogue with

visiting U.S. officials from the Treasury and Commerce Departments as well as representatives of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Foreign investors have been welcomed and have generally praised the new Government's commitment to free-market principles and transparency. Yet, some Government officials still privately reveal a penchant for statist economic models, and the Government's assertion of control over what had been a privately managed railway in Katanga was a troubling precedent.

Relations with neighboring regional governments -- many of which supported the ADFL-led rebellion -- are generally good. Representatives at the June 30 Congolese national day celebrations included heads of state from Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, and Zambia, and high-level delegations from Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Tanzania. The Government of South Africa, which was active in mediation efforts throughout the crisis, has already sent a team led by Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad to explore commercial and economic cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### Next Steps for U.S.-Congo Relations

As its mixed record indicates, the six-week-old Congolese Government has taken both some positive actions and others which are troubling. Rapid progress in addressing remaining problems would enhance the willingness and ability of the U.S. to work constructively in the Congo, and we have made that clear to its leaders. Although Kabila and his Cabinet have not yet established full control of all regions of the country, they are now the Government of the Congo and must take steps to redress problems where they occur throughout the territory.

At this early stage in the establishment of the new Government, we believe the best strategy is to engage actively the emerging leaders to help them make sound policy choices for the post-Mobutu era. We have already begun this process of engagement. June 5-11, Ambassador to the U.N. Bill Richardson led an interagency mission to meet with the new leadership just a week after Kabila's inauguration. The mission included representatives of the Agency for International Development, Department of Treasury, Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the State Department, and Congress.

Our team underscored that it is important for the new leaders to establish a broad-based transitional government leading to credible elections, to end human rights abuses and cooperate with international investigators, to facilitate humanitarian assistance, and to undertake free-market economic reforms. We stated plainly that our willingness to work with the government in the future will depend to a large extent on progress in these areas.

We also reiterated these points to Congolese Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha during his visit to the U.S. July 5-11. The Foreign Minister assured us that his government is committed to democratic and economic reforms and respect for human rights.

The United States has identified approximately \$10 million in funds that could be made available for projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the remainder of FY 1997. These funds are most likely to be channeled through U.N. agencies, international and

local NGOs, and local and regional governments. Projects under consideration include support for democracy/governance activities and a nationwide immunization campaign. These resources would be in addition to humanitarian aid used to assist refugees and Congolese populations in the east.

No funds have yet been committed, however, and we recognize that restrictions on assistance to the former Zaire remain in place for the new Government. These include Brooke Amendment sanctions and specific prohibitions on the provision of Economic Support Funds (ESF). The Administration will consult closely with Congress, including this subcommittee, before proceeding with any assistance program. A number of delegations from the House of Representatives (including those led by Representatives Campbell, McKinney, Menendez, Payne, and Royce) have visited the Congo in the past ten months to assess conditions first-hand.

In addition to considering options for U.S. assistance, we are also consulting with the international financial institutions and other donors to coordinate next steps. A World Bank Mission has recently returned from a visit to Kinshasa to establish contact with the new Government, and we understand an International Monetary Fund team may also depart for the Congo shortly. We briefed European and other donor governments on the options under review after each mission to the Congo by Ambassador Richardson, and in separate meetings held by USAID Administrator Atwood. Given the vast needs of the Congo people, a coordinated approach by donors and international financial institutions is essential.

The United States is prepared to consider an expanded program of assistance in future fiscal years. But we have made it clear to the new authorities that such assistance will depend largely on demonstrated progress in meeting benchmarks for democratic reform, respect for human rights, cooperation with humanitarian agencies, public accountability, and free-market economic practices.

## Conclusion

We will continue to watch developments in the Congo closely, focusing on the areas of concern outlined above. This is an important historical moment as the Congolese people set the agenda for the post-Mobutu era. We have an interest in seeing a successful transition leading to a stable, prosperous, and democratic Congo. We hope to work with the new Congolese leaders to that end, but have made clear that our willingness and ability to do so will be significantly enhanced if they take positive steps on key issues, particularly democratic and economic reforms and human rights.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

*Date: 15 Aug 1997*

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## **UNHCR's Ogata seeks meeting on emerging African refugee crisis**

(Says principles of asylum becoming difficult to uphold) (670)By Wendy LubetkinUSIA  
European Correspondent

GENEVA -- The situation for refugees in the Great Lakes area of Africa is steadily worsening and the principle of asylum is becoming more difficult to uphold, according to Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who is exploring the possibility of convening a special meeting to address the crisis.

Ogata believes a "crisis of protection" is emerging in Africa and that "urgent action" is needed to try to address it, UNHCR spokeswoman Pam O'Toole told a briefing August 15.

Earlier in the week, Ogata strongly condemned Gabon's August 11 expulsion to Rwanda of eight recognized refugees along with a total of at least 160 other Rwandans, many of whom had not yet been screened to determine their refugee status.

O'Toole said Rwandan refugees in other countries in the region "are also under pressure to return -- despite the fact that some parts of their country still suffer from major instability and violence."

Over the past few days Ogata has spoken to OAU (Organization of African Unity) Secretary-General Salim Salim and to the U.N. secretary-general to try to arrange a meeting within the next month to discuss the current refugee crisis in Africa, O'Toole said.

"It is envisaged that this meeting would be held in Africa and would be convened by the OAU," she noted.

O'Toole cited examples of problems UNHCR is facing in countries throughout the region.

-- In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), UNHCR "continues to receive reports that refugees are being persecuted or even killed." While authorities in some areas of the country have been cooperative, the refugee agency says it has received reports that in some regions soldiers "have been driving refugees deeper into the forest or even killing them."

The government of the DROC, she noted, asserts that refugees -- some of whom are ex-FAR or Interahamwe -- are involved in fighting in some parts of the country, and it wants to repatriate them as soon as possible.

In Shabunda, DROC, local authorities have given UNHCR an ultimatum: repatriate all the refugees at the transit center, or two weeks later the military will carry out its own "humanitarian" repatriation operation.

And in Kisangani, refugees were driven into a panic after a local radio station said all the refugees in the transit center were "genocidaires" and would be forced to return to Rwanda, where they would be judged.

"This, as you can imagine, spread panic in the transit center, where there are some 700 refugees at the moment, and immediately about 80 people signed up for voluntary repatriation," O'Toole said. "Obviously, in the situation that existed at that time, this was caused by panic and not desire to return."

-- In the Central African Republic and Angola, UNHCR is screening several thousand Rwandans to determine whether they qualify for international protection, but both governments have made it clear they want the refugees to return to Rwanda as soon as possible.

-- In Tanzania, where 30,000 refugees fled camps to avoid repatriation last December, there are reports that the authorities are rounding them up and forcibly sending them back. Only a handful remain in camps under UNHCR care, O'Toole noted.

-- In Rwanda, some 5,000 Burundi refugees are under pressure to return home, despite continuing violence in parts of their homeland.

"Given all these pressures, the High Commissioner believes that some sort of strategy has to be worked out to ensure that those who need protection receive it," O'Toole said. "At the very least, we need to be allowed to conduct screening procedures to ensure that we can differentiate between those in need of protection and those who fall outside UNHCR's mandate."

"While there may be people among the remaining refugees who have been involved in some way in the Rwandan genocide, there are also innocent men, women, and children who desperately need and deserve our help and international protection," she said.

*Source: United States Information Agency*

**Date: 25 Aug 1997**

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## **148 killed in 'act of barbarism' in Rwandan refugee camp**

(Ogata calls for end of violence in the Great Lakes) (390)By Wendy LubetkinUSIA European Correspondent

GENEVA -- Expressing shock and outrage at the killing of 148 people in a refugee camp in Rwanda last Friday, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata appealed August 25 for an "end to the spiral of violence" in the Great Lakes region.

At least 131 Congolese refugees and 17 others, including some of the attackers, were killed in the August 22 attack against Mudende camp in Gisenyi province. Another 80 people were wounded, in what UNHCR says is the worst assault yet against a refugee camp in Rwanda.

The victims were Tutsi refugees who fled ethnic clashes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over the past several years. Rwandan officials say Hutu rebels were responsible for the attack.

"I am extremely sad that these refugees who fled from violence and persecution and were generously received on Rwandan soil have now fallen victim to such an act of barbarism in their country of refuge," Ogata said in a press statement August 25.

Ogata urged all parties involved in the conflict in the region to do their utmost to "end the spiral of violence."

"The attack on Mudende may only serve to further inflame an already explosive situation," she said. "I call on all parties involved in the conflict in the region to do their utmost to defuse the current crisis and avoid senseless actions that could serve as an excuse to provoke further violence against refugees. There has been so much suffering already."

Ogata says she believes the refugee crisis in the region is deepening, and has been holding consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to seek ways of increasing protection for refugees.

In Burundi and Rwanda, thousands of returning refugees have been caught up in bloody ethnic clashes, the UNHCR press statement points out. In the DRC, there are reports of further killings of Rwandan Hutu refugees, and in Congo-Brazzaville, intensified fighting has left refugees and displaced people cut off from international assistance.

Pressure for repatriation is also rising, UNHCR says, even though many refugees come from areas still torn by violence and do not have a secure home to return to.

*Source: US Information Agency (USIA)*

*Date: 09 Sep 1997*

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## **UNHCR turns to Security Council to help Rwandan refugees**

(Richardson: Refugees' rights must be honored) (710)By Judy AitaUSIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- Speaking of "a lot of concern and sorrow and danger all mixed," the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) September 9 explained her decision to close a Congo transit center for Rwandan refugees and asked the Security Council for help in getting the governments of the Great Lakes region to honor their obligations to protect refugees.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata briefed the Security Council in private on the forcible evacuation of about 800 Rwandan and Burundi refugees from a UNHCR Kisangani transit center by Congolese troops. She said that without any notice or giving UNHCR any access, military forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC) surrounded the transit center and took the refugees in "forced flights" to Rwanda.

Ogata said that she is sending a high-level delegation to Rwanda to "insist that we be given access to examine what has happened" to those forcibly returned "so that we can see what has happened to them and be in a position to protect them."

Ogata, according to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, made clear that without greater cooperation from the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, including their adherence to international standards for the treatment of refugees, UNHCR activities in the Congo and Rwanda could not continue.

As president of the council for September, Richardson will be calling the leaders of the region in support of UNHCR and will try to get the governments "to insure access and protection and to improve the situation there," he said.

With no refugees in the Kisangani center, UNHCR has suspended operations there. "We have no more people to protect," the high commissioner said.

UNHCR operations are continuing in Bukavu, Goma, and Bandaka. But Ogata added that "it is not so much a question of assistance now, it is a question of whether we can protect these people."

"What we face in the Great Lakes region is really a crisis in protection," Ogata told journalists after the meeting. "We cannot protect refugees if the host governments do not abide by

the principles and standards of law -- which means that refugees have to be protected and that those who do not volunteer to go back have to be examined."

According to international law, any refugees not willing to return home are entitled to due process under which UNHCR examines whether their claims are justified or whether they should be excluded from international protection.

"We need time and we need assurance that this kind of due process [will] be observed," the high commissioner said.

Ogata noted that UNHCR has already helped repatriate 70,000 Rwandan refugees who wanted to return home. She added, however, that "the Rwandan refugees in the region have now spread to 10 countries and most of those who are in these countries...are not willing to go back."

"If there are refugees who we have access to or they have access to us -- we will certainly consider the need to help them," she said.

Richardson said that Security Council members strongly support UNHCR's work, agreeing that the refugee operations "make a vital contribution to the safety of the refugees as well as to the prospects for the return to peace, social harmony, and development in the region."

"The members of the council call for compliance by the governments of the African Great Lakes region with their international obligations regarding refugees," Richardson said.

"We reiterate our strong concern about the fate of the several hundred refugees just forcibly repatriated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo," he said.

Ogata said she asked council members to use the power of their position as members of the Security Council "to press and persuade governments who are hosting refugees to allow the proper treatment for these refugees."

She said she does not expect Richardson -- who has made two trips to the Congo in recent months -- to go there again. But she said, "I hope there will be a flurry of activities, phone calls that would change the political climate in the region."

*Source: US Information Agency (USIA)*

*Date: 12 Sep 1997*

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## **Annan calls for more cooperation from Great Lakes leaders**

(U.N. head expects Congo human rights probe to proceed) (920)By Judy AitaUSIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- The new leaders in Central Africa and the international community must learn to work together if the region is to recover from civil war and achieve its economic and social potential, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at a September 11 press conference.

Annan said that more than 30 years of distrust by the region's new leaders, especially those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC), formerly known as Zaire, is hampering international efforts to help the Congo and other countries in the Great Lakes region.

The secretary-general insisted that an international conference on the Great Lakes region, which he, U.N. special envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, and the Security Council have promoted, is vital to democracy and economic prosperity in the area.

"If the international community is going to make a difference, we need to come up with a strategy that will lead to regional stability," he said. "We cannot approach it on a country-by-country basis," Annan said, recalling the civil strife in Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Congo-Brazzaville as well as increasing tensions in the neighboring Central African Republic and Angola.

"The pattern in the region is disturbing," Annan said, adding that he is concerned because the resources in the region "are quite rich... [But] if we do not manage to bring that large region under control, many other countries in the region will be unsettled."

"We need to work on a regional basis and also help the individual countries with their reconstruction, political reconciliation, and, hopefully, set them on the road to democracy and prosperity," he said.

Annan said that many of the Congo's current leaders, including President Laurent Kabila, were involved in Congolese politics in the early 1960s and "some of them believe the international community deprived them of a chance to rule Congo, and they are very mistrustful that if they are not careful it can be done a second time."

Pointing to that mistrust as a reason for the difficulties confronting U.N. human rights investigators in the Congo, Annan suggested that "we need to understand this mistrust and have a certain patience with the regime that is trying to take over in a country that has more or less collapsed, with no infrastructure and very serious and difficult problems."

The international community, Annan said, needs "to convince the government to put aside this mistrust."

"I also hope in time they [Congolese leaders] will come to understand that the international community understands their needs and the problems and [will] work with us...because they cannot do it alone. They need help and they need help badly," he said.

The secretary-general also expressed hope that the U.N. human rights team stalled in Kinshasa will be able to get on with its work. Meanwhile, he said, the U.N. has been taking "whatever steps necessary" to clear the way for the investigators, he said. "By doing that we are also sending out a message" that such conduct "cannot be allowed to go" unpunished.

He said that the U.N. "had very mixed signals from ministers in the republic -- each one says something different, but in the end President Kabila himself finally wrote to me, cutting through the confusion," saying the U.N. can go ahead with its work.

"If the difficulties persist and they are not allowed to do their work, then the facts will be there for the whole world to judge," he said.

Annan would not specify a deadline for the start of the investigation, adding that "it will depend very much on what happens on the ground."

At the same time, he acknowledged that he had sent Kabila word that he would withdraw the team if he didn't have a clarification soon.

U.S. Ambassador Richardson, who is president of the Security Council this month, said September 11 that the Security Council and the United States have been urging the surrounding countries and the Kabila government to move ahead with the human rights investigation.

"Admittedly, there have been a lot of problems on access issues and trying to interfere with the scope of the investigation," Richardson said. "They're moving ahead, but the verdict is still out on whether this will be completed effectively."

"It's very important that [the U.N. human rights investigation] be completed effectively, because if these investigations don't take place, the international community will react very negatively to the new government in the Congo," the U.S. ambassador said.

In a related development, Richardson said that a special ministerial-level meeting of the council to be held September 25 will focus on positive developments in Africa.

According to Richardson, Annan will present a report early next year about proposals discussed at the session. Attending the meeting, to be presided over by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, will be Organization of African Unity (OAU) President Robert Mugabe, OAU Secretary-General Salim Salim, and several African foreign ministers.

"We want to talk about peace-building, we want to talk about refugees, about development," the ambassador said. "We want to talk about sources of conflict, we want to talk about nation-building, new trends in Africa in peacekeeping in refugee delivery. We want to talk about how the United Nations can be more effective in dealing with African problems."

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 22 Sep 1997**

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## **Tanzanian Minister urges continued help for Great Lakes Region**

(Tanzanian foreign minister at UNGA) (820)By Judy Aita and Kelly TisdaleUSIA Staff Writers

UNITED NATIONS -- Saying there has been some progress in the Great Lakes region, but the situation is still "precarious," Tanzania's foreign minister September 22 asked the international community for its continued support.

Foreign Minister Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, who was speaking on behalf of the so-called Group of 77 developing countries, told the General Assembly that "the political problems of the Great Lakes have precipitated a grave humanitarian challenge as millions of people have been forced into a life of exile as refugees. This has placed an enormous burden on the countries of the region, including my own," he said, "which has had to shoulder it without commensurate resources."

Kikwete addressed the opening of the 52nd General Assembly just after U.S. President Bill Clinton and later attended a lunch hosted for visiting dignitaries by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Expressing appreciation for international support for the refugees, the foreign minister said, however, that the burden on the states receiving refugees has been enormous and "will have long-lasting effects, which these countries will continue to suffer from even after repatriation of the refugees."

(Separately, President Clinton -- in a press release -- highlighted a ministerial-level Security Council session on Africa set for September 25.

The session, which will be chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, "will highlight the role the United Nations can and should play in preventing conflict on a continent where amazing progress toward democracy and development is occurring alongside still too much discord, disease, and distress," Clinton said.)

Kikwete asked the U.N. to look into the fundamental issue of assisting asylum countries over the long term as well as during the height of a crisis.

"In Rwanda, gladly, the situation is steadily stabilizing...yet the difficulties which face that country are enormous," he said. "The process of recovery from the immense moral, physical,

and spiritual effect of the 1994 genocide will be painful and slow. As Rwanda struggles to come to terms with the genocide, reconcile with itself, and continue on the path of national healing and renewal, it needs our solidarity and support."

Turning to Congo, the foreign minister said, "With the assumption of Laurent Kabila to the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the process of returning to democratic rule has begun.

"We realize it will not be an easy or swift process, given the political rigidity and policies of political exclusion to which the country was subjected for decades. We appreciate the enormity of the task of putting the country back to good footing, of restoring the institutions of government, and setting out to democratic recovery," Kikwete said.

Given that background, he explained that "what the government and people of the Democratic Republic of Congo need the most is solidarity, understanding, and material support from the international community."

Burundi, however, "shows no sign of improvement," Kikwete said.

"The region has been categorical in restating that the Burundi authorities should be under no illusion that they can bury their heads in the sand or wish the problem away. They simply have to face the reality and dutifully rise to the occasion," he said.

Kikwete called on Burundi's leaders "to abandon the course of confrontation" and "seek dialogue and political accommodation with all elements in Burundi."

He urged support for the OAU peace efforts chaired by Julius Nyerere.

"Certainly, the region and the international community cannot leave them alone and allow them to lead the country into self-destruction and war, with all the attendant problems it creates for Burundi and her neighbors," the foreign minister said.

Kikwete also expressed concern over the deteriorating situations in Sierra Leone and Angola.

"We are deeply concerned that Sierra Leone is sinking deeper into chaos at the expense of peace, development, and democracy for the country," he said.

"We continue to hope that the Sierra Leonean military will realize the folly of their misadventure and agree to the return of their country to constitutional rule," the foreign minister said.

"In Angola, we continue to be concerned by the maneuvers of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to stall the process of implementation of the Lusaka Accords," he said. "We urge UNITA to abandon its obstructionist policies and abide by the Lusaka Peace Accords."

Somalia must not be forgotten either, Kikwete said. "The country is still fragmented, and fighting amongst the conflicting factions is not yet over."

Kikwete also urged the developed countries not to ignore African development.

"Africa has received only a small proportion of the total net private flows, despite extensive reforms that continue to be undertaken. The challenge to the international community in this respect is to ensure that adequate capital and investment flows also reach least developed countries so as to accelerate their pace of development," he said.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 22 Sep 1997**

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## **Uganda 'moral' force in Central Africa, Foreign Minister says**

(Minister Kategaya speaks at CSIS breakfast) (980)By Jim Fisher-ThompsonUSIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- Ugandans are playing their part in Africa's quest to solve its own security problems by leveraging a type of "moral authority" in the Great Lakes region of central Africa, Ugandan Foreign Minister Eriya Kategaya asserted September 22.

Minister Kategaya, who is in the United States to attend the annual opening of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), told a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) that Uganda's ability to influence events in the region is based primarily on its own successful democratic and economic transition.

In introducing Kategaya, Connie Freeman, director African Studies for CSIS, noted that Uganda "is playing an incredibly pivotal role as a model" for development and regional security in sub-Saharan Africa.

Uganda has been a key player in attempts to resolve conflict in southern Sudan through its membership in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) organization of Horn of Africa nations, and in Burundi as a member of the Great Lakes Heads of State movement monitoring the human rights situation there. It was also instrumental in providing support to Laurent Kabila, who recently overthrew the despotic regime of Mobutu Sese Seko in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

Any "leverage" Uganda has, said Kategaya, "comes from a moral authority derived from our success in the political and economic spheres," which has led to open and transparent government as well as an economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 7 percent a year.

He added that this influence also arises from a new brand of African leaders, typified by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who like him "believe in democracy, good governance, economic liberalization, and regional cooperation."

According to Kategaya, who has been President Museveni's first deputy prime minister for almost 10 years, "The focal point of Africa's problem has not been a lack of resources, for we have those in plenty; rather, it has been lack of leadership and vision as well as lack of know-how and pragmatism to transform any vision into results."

In Uganda, by comparison, Kategaya explained, the focus of President Museveni and his government on democracy "has encouraged political accountability and good governance, safeguarded human rights, undermined corruption, forced debate on all issues, and unleashed the spirit of expression."

It is these results, he added, which allowed Uganda to bring its influence to bear in the Congo and Burundi, which are also undergoing a sometimes painful democratic transition.

Asked by former assistant secretary of state for African affairs Herman Cohen if the war in Sudan would continue indefinitely, Kategaya responded that, first of all, "we do not have faith in the NIF [National Islamic Front] and [Sudanese leader General Umar Hassan Ahmad al-] Bashir."

The conflict, however, which has thus far killed an estimated 1.3 million Sudanese, is of great importance to Uganda, he added, because "we have 450,000 Sudanese refugees in our country." Kategaya added that foreign ministers of IGAD countries were meeting in Nairobi the next day (September 23) "to see if they can restart the process of negotiation between Khartoum and opposition groups."

Uganda "still believes the IGAD solution" to the conflict, set out in the 1994 declaration of principles, is a good idea, Kategaya said, but the Sudanese do not seem interested and "we don't see much change in Bashir's position" in wanting to forcibly convert people to Islam.

Farther south, Kategaya pointed to Burundi, where ethnic violence could occur like that which transpired in Rwanda in 1994, claiming some 500,000 lives. Referring to continuing ethnic strife between Hutus and Tutsis there, based in part on differing facial features, he emphasized that "you should not have your security threatened because of the shape of your nose."

In Burundi, Uganda has pushed for all-party talks, Kategaya explained -- the latest of which should begin in one week -- while concentrating on two other goals: to ensure that "security for everybody is guaranteed" and to ensure that the democratic path of development is adhered to.

In the Congo, formerly Zaire, Kategaya said, "we think the change was good and welcome," but a number of problems remain, including:

-- the new Congolese leadership, headed by Laurent Kabila, "which we feel lacks cohesion and does not have a common approach to issues";

-- failure by the new government so far to "sort out priorities." For example, no solid approach to economic reforms, such as in the area of privatization, has been undertaken to encourage investment; and

-- the struggle between Kabila's government and the United Nations over alleged human rights violations committed during his liberation of the Congo. "One cannot blame Kabila for what happened. The U.N., first of all, failed to protect the people of Rwanda against genocide in

1994. When [Hutu] refugees went into Zaire, no one disarmed them, and so they stayed on the border and attacked Rwanda as well as attacking Tutsis in Zaire. "Lastly, these same Hutus later fought for Mobutu when he attempted to stay in power, stymying the popular will of the people.

Touching on a conflict resolution program Uganda has become involved in called the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI) -- first raised by former Secretary of State Warren Christopher last year -- Kategaya said that "there are a number of [African] countries now interested in increasing their capacity" at crisis prevention.

This is not an attempt to become involved in the political affairs of African nations, he explained, but "we are talking about [humanitarian] situations where people's lives are placed in danger...and there are countries like Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Senegal which are preparing and training part of their military forces to intervene in this type of situation," with the help of the United States and its international allies.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 26 Sep 1997**

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## **US says Kabila "must allow" UN human rights probe to proceed**

(Warned of "significant" impact on relations with U.S.) (710)

New York - State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin has warned Democratic Republic of the Congo President Laurent Kabila that "our relationship" with his government "will be determined to some significant extent by his willingness to allow the U.N. human rights team to do its job."

Rubin issued the warning at a September 25 news briefing at the United Nations in response to Kabila's continuing refusal to allow U.N. probes to investigate charges that his supporters massacred large numbers of Rwandan Hutu refugees during their military campaign to overthrow the late dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

The spokesman said the United States believes "that getting to the bottom of crimes like these is the best way to try to put these type of atrocities behind us and to allow for the kind of reconciliation that's necessary in that region."

Following is the State Department transcript of the briefing:

(begin transcript)

### **REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE SPOKESMAN, JAMES P. RUBIN TO THE PRESS**

United Nations (New York, New York) September 25, 1997

RUBIN: We have made clear and will continue to make clear to President Kabila that it is the United States' view that he must allow the U.N. investigative team to provide -- or to provide that team the access necessary to do their job. We have made that point to him in telephone conversations. Our ambassador has been in to see their government almost every day this week, and our relationship with the government of Mr. Kabila will be determined to some significant extent by his willingness to allow the U.N. human rights team to do its job.

That doesn't mean that we have any preconceptions over what they will find, or aren't unaware of the complications in that part of the world over the recent several years. But it does mean that getting to the bottom of crimes like these is the best way to try to put these

type of atrocities behind us and to allow for the kind of reconciliation that's necessary in that region.

QUESTION: On Sudan? Why did you decide to return your diplomats to Sudan?

RUBIN: On Sudan, we made our decision based on the need to step up our ability to monitor what's going on there, including monitoring terrorist organizations and possibilities of progress in the peace process there, the importance of monitoring what's happening in human rights in Sudan.

So we felt, based on the security situation, that it was now possible for a small number of diplomats to return to Sudan so that we'd be better able to follow and pursue the interests we have there.

Q: Does it look like further sanctions on Iraq?

Q: Do you have anything on the U.N.'s role in Algeria, Jamie?

RUBIN: Sorry?

Q: Can the U.N. play a role? Should the U.N. play a role?

RUBIN: Well, as you may have heard, the Secretary did have a rather serious discussion with Foreign Minister Vedrine of France about Algeria. And they talked about getting together for a very serious dialogue between France and the United States at the expert level to try to see whether there is anything that we both think that we could do together.

And one of the options, of course, is to see who would be the best in assisting the Algerians in pursuing some peace process. But we've come to no conclusions, have no real prejudice, other than just to say that it's a good thing when a country as important in this region as France and the United States can sit down and say maybe there's some things we could do together.

Q: (Inaudible) -- between Bosnia and Israel? Anything about conversations-- diplomatic conversation about Bosnia -- between Bosnia and Israel Government?

RUBIN: Between the Israel Government and the United States about Bosnia?

Q: Between Bosnia and Israel?

RUBIN: I don't have anything for you on that. You'd have to ask the Bosnians and the Israelis.

Q: Do you expect further sanctions on Iraq next month?

RUBIN: Well, we'll see. It's up to Iraq to comply with the resolution.

(end transcript)

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 01 Oct 1997**

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## **Annan orders Congo human rights team to withdraw**

(Congo minister Karaha outlines conditions for probe) (690)

By Judy Aita

USIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- Secretary General Kofi Annan on October 1 ordered the return of U.N. human rights investigators sent to check on possible human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), including possible massacres, a U.N. spokesman announced.

The secretary general's decision ended weeks of arguing between U.N. officials and members of President Laurent Kabila's government about the scope of the work of the high-level mission sent to Kinshasa in July. Annan had dispatched a second team to DROC after a team sent by the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva was impeded by Kabila, who objected to the presence of at least one team member.

In mid-September U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson, then president of the Security Council, also appealed unsuccessfully to Kabila on several occasions to let the investigation get under way.

Not only has the U.N. team been blocked from beginning its travel throughout the country, the parameters of its investigation have been challenged by Kabila and various members of his government. On September 30 U.N. officials cited press reports quoting Kabila as saying that he wanted the U.N. investigators out of the country. The officials indicated a pullout of the team was possible if the reports proved to be true.

A meeting between the secretary general, Richardson, and Congo Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha earlier in the day did not produce the assurances the U.N. needed, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said October 1. He added that the secretary general then "decided to withdraw the investigative team for consultation pending final clarification of the policy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

The team's leaders will be heading to U.N. headquarters in New York as soon as travel can be arranged, Eckhard said. The other members, including about 20 forensic experts, will remain in the area temporarily.

If the Congo's policy can be "clarified in a way that would permit the team to get under way with its work," the team members will return. But "if Kabila's desire to have the mission withdrawn is confirmed" or the government continues to insist on "conditionality unacceptable to us," the investigation will be terminated, he said.

As Eckhard was making the announcement at the daily press briefing, Karaha was informing the 185-member General Assembly that his government "is willing to help the team, to give full access to the team so that the team can go ahead and do its work."

"We are expecting them to go ahead and do their work. And our government will do anything in our power to make sure that the team does its work," the foreign minister said.

Karaha, who was making his previously scheduled speech during the opening debate of the 52nd Assembly, switched from French to English to make his comments about the human rights investigation and to spell out provisions for the mission.

Karaha complained that the United Nations treated the armed Hutu militia who escaped Rwanda into the Congo as refugees. He said that in two years the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was able to repatriate only 100 refugees to Rwanda and made no effort to disarm the militias.

The U.N. human rights team "will have to tell us where the refugees are. The team will have to tell us who armed them, why were they not disarmed. The team will have to tell us how many among the refugees were really refugees and how many pseudo-refugees. The team will say how many Congolese people were butchered by these people who have been called refugees," the foreign minister said.

"But more importantly the team will tell us if there has been any continuation of Rwandese genocide on Congolese soil because, as you know, the same people committed genocide in Rwanda; they crossed the border with their arms, with their machetes, with their ideology and they continue work in our country," Karaha said.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 10 Oct 1997**

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## **US had no foreknowledge of planned violence in Rwanda**

(Rubin terms news reports 'absolutely false') (710)

By Jim Fisher-Thompson

USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- Rumors circulating that the U.S. government had advance knowledge of the details underlying ethnic violence in the Great Lakes region and warned no one, or that it provided arms to the Rwandan army when it allegedly invaded Eastern Zaire, are "absolutely false," State Department Jamie Rubin said October 8.

Rubin was asked by a reporter at the State Department's daily press briefing about the truthfulness of a news report from Human Rights Watch Africa detailing alleged atrocities and massacres by Rwanda's army in the former Zairian refugee camps. The report also alleged that some countries, including the United States, were aware of the intentions of the Rwandan army, and "did nothing to prevent the Rwandan army when it moved into the then Zaire."

Asserting that "this allegation is absolutely false," Rubin added that "the United States government has condemned strongly the ethnic violence in the Great Lakes Region and especially in Rwanda, and has worked with all the parties in that area to bring about an end to ethnic clashes."

The U.S. official noted that "the similar claim that we had a role in arming these forces is also absolutely false."

Rubin explained that "our military assistance to Rwanda is limited to helping the Rwandans professionalize their military and adopt democratic practices. These training activities, which were limited in numbers and confined to Rwanda, were largely targeted on such areas as humanitarian demining, human rights and the rule of law. The Department of Defense provided no lethal equipment to the Rwandan military. Currently, there is no military training being provided by the U.S. in Rwanda. The last training event focused on junior leadership and concluded this past August."

As for the charge that the U.S. government had advance knowledge of events that unfolded tragically in the region, which led to the deaths of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, Rubin stated emphatically that "the United States did not receive advance notice of the

horrific violence that has engulfed Rwanda in recent years."

Noting that "there is always a tendency to seek a hidden hand behind ethnic violence," the spokesman added that "I can say categorically, there is no U.S. hand hidden here. There were some terrible events that went on there, and we are working very hard to try to put together a mission to convince the government of Mr. Kabila to allow an investigation."

The United States, Rubin emphasized, stands "unique in the world in our determination to prevent human rights massacres and any suggestion that...the United States received advance notice of the horrific violence that was going to take place, and gave a nod and a wink to it...is a ridiculous claim."

Asked about the U.S. government naming an envoy to go to the region, Rubin responded that Secretary of State Madeline Albright "has decided to send a mission. She has not decided on who will lead that mission. There are discussions ongoing. We want to make sure that the mission that we create has the best possible chance of succeeding and bringing to closure this important issue of breaking the impasse on investigating what went on" in the now Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC)].

Rubin also criticized the DROC government's impeding a United Nations team from investigating alleged massacres in the area. "We don't think it serves the government of Mr. [Laurent] Kabila any good to block an international agency from doing its job," he said. "Only the most outcast kind of governments are those that would prevent the United Nations from doing an investigation. We don't understand the logic, and it will only serve to harm the ability of the people there to get the assistance and support that they need, if their government continues to thwart the will of the international community."

Therefore, the spokesman explained, "we are trying to put together a mission that can help break this impasse, but I'm not aware of a firm deadline. I think everyone involved here wants to break the impasse. There have been a series of refusals...and we're trying to break the impasse."

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 15 Oct 1997**

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## **Albright sending special mission to DROC**

(Will urge Kabila to allow U.N. to complete work) (450)By Jane MorseUSIA Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is sending a special mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo [DROC] to urge its President, Laurent Kabila, to allow United Nations investigators to complete their inspection of sites where massacres of Rwandan refugees and other civilians are suspected, the U.S. State Department announced October 15.

Briefing reporters, Spokesman James Rubin said U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, Special Envoy Howard Wolpe and Representative Donald Payne (Democrat of New Jersey) will leave for the Democratic Republic of Congo next week.

The mission, which is to be led by Richardson, is, according to Rubin, intended "to try to bridge the differences between the United Nations and the Government of the Congo so that the human rights team of the United Nations can proceed to conduct a full investigation of reported abuses."

"We're trying to see what we can do to break the impasse that has made it impossible for that team to do its work and made it extremely difficult for Congo to move beyond the cycle of violence that the civil war created and move toward the democratic process and move toward economic reconstruction," Rubin noted.

Separately, Rubin confirmed reports that the forces of former President Denis Sassou Nguesso are in control of the Republic of Congo's (ROC) capital, Brazzaville. Pointe-Noire, the country's main seaport and second largest city, has been captured by Angolan troops allied with Sassou, according to Rubin.

He said the United States has raised the question of Angolan troop involvement in the conflict with the Angolan charge d'affaires in Washington. "We have made clear to the Angolans in this context that we expect them to help safeguard U.S. lives in Pointe-Noire." But he added that the United States does not support Angolan involvement in the ROC. "They don't belong there; they belong in Angola," Rubin said.

Regarding a United Nations proposal for a peacekeeping force, the United States has "not reacted negatively," according to Rubin. "We have always supported the Secretary General's efforts to prepare for a possible peacekeeping force, but the Secretary General's

own preconditions were not met," Rubin said. That peacekeeping force, Rubin explained, was envisioned under conditions of a ceasefire.

"We're in a different situation," Rubin said. "And what we want to look to now -- assuming the consolidation of his (Sassou) control -- is a process by which elections can be organized" and democratic, civilian rule can be returned. The United States would "be open to the possibility" of some U.N. role in trying to achieve these objectives, he said.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 16 Oct 1997**

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## **US team has list of UN conditions for rights probe**

(U.N. has given Richardson "non-negotiable list") (590)

By Judy Aita

USIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- The United Nations has provided the U.S. delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) with a list of "non-negotiable elements" that must be agreed to by President Laurent Kabila before the U.N. human rights investigation can take place, a U.N. spokesman said October 16.

The United States is sending a three-person delegation headed by U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo and try to break the impasse between the Kabila Government and a U.N. human rights team which has been in the country since July attempting to start a probe of alleged massacres in the country. The delegation is expected to leave for the Congo the week of October 20.

"We've provided the Americans with the non-negotiable elements of the mission and, as I understand it, the Americans will try to convince President Kabila and other members of his government and possibly other leaders in the region of the wisdom of allowing the U.N. to go forward," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

Secretary General Kofi Annan recalled the team leaders to U.N. headquarters on October 1 to review the situation and decide whether to go ahead with the probe. The four team leaders are still in New York. The rest of the team is in Kinshasa.

Eckhard said that "it's taking longer than the secretary general hoped" to work out the problems with the DROC or decide to end the mission. But Annan "has no intention of acting until this last-ditch effort by the United States is made."

Meanwhile, the secretary general is also concerned about the overthrow of the Republic of Congo Government of Pascal Lissouba by the forces of General Denis Sassou-Nguesso with help from Angolan forces and mercenaries. Especially, how the international community will react to another coup in Africa, Eckhard said.

Annan told the Security Council "he's concerned that it could become a pattern in Africa,"

Eckhard said. "...The internationalization of the conflict is of great concern to him."

"Not only overthrowing a government by force but involvement of neighboring states" is particularly troubling, the spokesman said. So in talking to council in closed session yesterday he emphasized the importance of the U.N. Charter's principles of non-intervention in the affairs of other states and raised the question of how best to remind all the signatories to the Charter of their obligation.

Annan also questioned how the council will react "to an overthrow of a legitimate government by force or the intervention by foreign powers in an overthrow of legitimate government" not only in the Congo/Brazzaville instance, but in the future, Eckhard said.

The secretary general did not recommend any course of action to the council on Congo/Brazzaville, Eckhard said. He added that U.N. officials did not see "a strict parallel" between Sierra Leone and Congo/Brazzaville, "but it's a parallel that everyone seems to be aware of."

On October 8 in what delegates called an unequivocal statement of support for democracy and the people of Sierra Leone, the council imposed oil, arms, and diplomatic sanctions on the military junta until it returns power to the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The Security Council was slated to work on an official statement on Congo/Brazzaville late in the day October 16.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 21 Oct 1997**

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## **CCA's Miller visits new Congo**

(Describes setup of special Congo Working Group) (740)By Jim Fisher-ThompsonUSIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON -- David Miller, executive director of the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), took time off from leading a recent (September 6-17) trade mission to Angola and Namibia to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) to assess its business climate and meet with top officials of President Laurent-Desire Kabila's new government.

Miller, whose organization represents 170 American firms seeking closer commercial ties in sub-Saharan Africa, told a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) reporter October 20 that the purpose of the September 16-17 visit was "to introduce the CCA to Congolese officials and articulate how we operate and solicit their opinion on what they think a proper CCA intervention would be."

After the meetings, which included talks with DROC Minister of Mines Kabila Mututulo Kambale, Governor of the Central Bank Jean-Claude Masangu Mulongo, and Special Economic Adviser to the President Unba Kyamitala, the trade executive remarked that "they all struck me as being very professional and very realistic about the [economic] challenges that confront them."

After inheriting a nation whose treasury, economy, and infrastructure had been systematically looted and neglected for decades by former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, Miller said, DROC officials realize "they have got to climb a mountain in one day because there is a lot of pressure on them to produce economic results in a very short time."

Miller said he was impressed with the DROC officials because "they see the need for the type of investment capital" that other developing nations are trying to attract in order to reconstruct economies stunted by years of government interference and corruption.

Miller mentioned that CCA had established a special task force called the "Congo Working Group" to explore specific ways companies and investors could maintain their own positions in the DROC market while helping other companies to enter it. Included in the group are representatives of CCA member firms, including Bechtel, Caterpillar, Chevron, Cohen & Woods, Equator Bank, General Motors, Mobil, and Telecel.

Asked if he felt the DROC government was extending a welcoming hand to American business,

Miller responded that "some of their remarks and statements have led us to believe that American companies will be very well received in Kinshasa. But our paramount objective is to work with CCA companies that are currently doing business in the Congo.

"With some of our companies having done business in Congo long before Mobutu changed its name to Zaire," Miller said, "there is a feeling of uncertainty about what the rules of the game are now; and once those companies have a high level of comfort in doing business in the Congo, that is when you're going to see a heavier flow of U.S. investment coming in.

"People are watching the Mobils, the Chevrons, and the Telecels and how they are being treated," Miller explained. "And how they are being treated will really affect the future of U.S. investment in the new Congo."

Responding to recent news reports that the Bechtel Corporation, a large international engineering and construction firm, has developed a close working relationship with President Kabila, Miller observed that "Bechtel is very interested in doing business in the Congo [DROC]. They are members of the Congo Working Group and they support our [CCA's] activities."

What "I can tell you," Miller added, is that "Bechtel would consider itself a good corporate citizen" interested in the social and economic development of the DROC as well as making profits, and "they look forward to doing a lot of business there."

Reflecting on that theme, Miller explained that "we want to reach out to the powers that be in the Congo -- the business community there and the new government -- to let them know that we are corporate citizens in their country and that we want to participate and contribute to their overall well-being.

In order to demonstrate this, Miller said, CCA has decided "to lead an outreach mission of our Congo Working Group members" in the near future "to visit and sit down with the Kabila government to discuss the basic needs of our companies currently doing business in the Congo."

While noting that Angola also faces awesome reconstruction challenges, Miller said Namibia is well on its way to achieving Western levels of prosperity, thanks in part to its efficient and welcoming public sector.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 23 Oct 1997**

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## **US Envoy says mission is 'last chance' for UN rights probe**

(Richardson to begin major mission to Central Africa) (1320)By Judy AitaUSIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS -- As Ambassador Bill Richardson prepared to leave on a special five-day mission to Africa, the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations said that he sees his trip as "the last chance...the last shot" to get the U.N. human rights investigation of alleged massacres in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) under way.

"Our objective in the Congo is to try to put this U.N. investigation back on track, stabilize the relationship between the Congo and the international community, and also to enhance the relationship between the United States and the Congo," Richardson said.

The main message he and his team are taking to the Democratic Republic of Congo and its president, Laurent Kabila, "is [that] we want this to be a positive trip" that eliminates the problems with the human rights probe "so we can work on other issues in the relationship," the ambassador said.

Richardson talked with a group of journalists October 23 about the difficulties of his trip and his hopes for more understanding and cooperation between African leaders and the international community.

Richardson is slated to arrive in Kinshasa on October 24 with Congressman Donald Payne, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; U.S. Special Envoy for Africa Howard Wolpe; and several other U.S. State Department officials.

Richardson is also taking a list of "non-negotiable elements" drawn up by the United Nations that must be agreed to by Kabila before the investigation of the alleged massacres of Hutu refugees and other human rights abuses can take place. Secretary-General Kofi Annan recalled the team leaders to U.N. headquarters on October 1 to review the situation and decide whether to end the mission. He will wait for Richardson's return before making a decision, U.N. officials have said.

"The odds for succeeding on this Congo mission are not very good. Nonetheless, we're going to make a major effort," Richardson said.

He pointed out that he has made two previous trips to the region to meet with Kabila, and

U.N. officials previously received assurances from Congolese officials that the investigation could proceed.

"The secretary-general and I in [the] past felt we had agreements in hand and somehow those agreements were diluted," the ambassador said. "My hope, however, is to put this issue of the U.N. investigation to bed."

"As usual, I will be blunt and speak plainly to President Kabila and his Cabinet. If I can help, I will," he said.

"The Democratic Republic of Congo will greatly facilitate its own development if it allows the secretary-general's team to conduct its own investigation," Richardson said. "Its interests are not served by impeding the access of the team."

But Richardson added that both sides "must show their desire to cooperate."

"The government must cooperate and the team must respect its mandate -- to look at the entire context of the chain of violence, to keep its mission private until it concludes its investigations, and to be practical about its investigation, especially if it seeks to work in areas where there continues to be conflict," he said.

Richardson would not discuss the particulars of the U.N. requirements, saying only: "We believe there should be full and unimpeded access to every part of the region. Absolutely."

"We don't want to compromise the independence of the team," the ambassador said. "We feel very strongly that this U.N. mission must operate independently and succeed and get to the bottom of the facts. That's the view of the secretary-general also."

"The biggest problem has been lack of communication and distrust among all the parties. Perhaps my visit can improve on that," Richardson said.

"Human rights are an important interest of [the Clinton] Administration, in no small part because the respect for human rights is a key to end the retributive violence," he said. "But, like in other regions, we place our interests in stability and security alongside human rights."

Asked what happens if the Kabila government rejects his efforts, Richardson said that "all sides will be the loser. It is important -- for the international community and for the sake of history -- there be an acknowledgement and investigation of these massacres."

While his main goal is to set the terms for the U.N. team to return to Kinshasa and the investigation to begin, the ambassador has a wider scope for his mission than the U.N. human rights investigation.

"There needs to be an improvement in communication between the international community and the newly emerging African states. There needs to be better understanding of each other's problems," he said.

"In a large sense this trip is about advancing U.S. interests in Africa, namely, promoting stability in central Africa, helping prevent these states from falling into further chaos, helping create the basis for democratic institutions and elections, and, finally, avoiding the kind of vacuum which anti-democratic and anti-international forces can fill," Richardson said.

"We have talked about 'African solutions to African problems.' It was a key theme in the Security Council ministerial [meeting] on Africa in September," he said. "Part of my mission is to talk to these leaders about democracy, development, and human rights."

The ambassador will also visit and meet with the leaders of Angola, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) October 25-27 before returning to Kinshasa October 28. He also plans to stop in Geneva to meet with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson before returning to U.N. headquarters October 29.

"A key part of my mission will also be to encourage regional leaders to keep the newer states on the path to democracy," Richardson said.

Richardson hopes the OAU will take a more active role in the region's current problems and that African leaders will play "a broader role than they have before on the whole Great Lakes issue, refugees, human rights, democracy, and relationship with the international community."

"We have to find a way to get the OAU and the international community and the high commissioner's office to work closer on refugees," he said. "We need to improve communication, coordination between the international community and African countries and African institutions."

"There is a communication problem leading toward an estrangement, and we should all try to deal with that," Richardson said.

On bilateral issues, the United States is concerned about the evolution of the situation in Congo-Brazzaville, national reconciliation in Angola, and U.S.-Kenya relations, the ambassador said.

"We do think human rights is an important dimension of our relationship with the [Democratic Republic of] Congo, but there are other elements: there is the need to deal with pressing economic problems, development problems, in one of the largest countries in Africa. We want to have a good relationship with the new Congo," the ambassador said.

Richardson said he will be talking to both Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi about developments in Angola and the region.

"We are unhappy with Angola's role in the overthrow of the Lissouba government [in the Republic of Congo]. We want Angola to withdraw its troops and weapons immediately" he said.

"We need UNITA to fulfill its obligations under the Lusaka Accords promptly. But the government's behavior undermines the peace process as well," Richardson said.

"I will also stop in Nairobi to talk to President [Daniel arap] Moi," he said. "Kenya is a friend and an important partner in multilateral fora and in the region."

"We are concerned about the bilateral relationship. I hope to put things on a better footing" in Kenya, Richardson said.

*Source: US Information Agency (USIA)*

*Date: 28 Oct 1997*

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## **Richardson call for fresh approach to Great Lakes**

TRANSCRIPT:

(Suggests conference involving OAU, U.N., etc.) (1550)

NAIROBI -- A "more integrated approach to the Great Lakes region in Africa" is what is needed, the United States representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Bill Richardson, stressed October 28.

Speaking to reporters after talks with President Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi, Richardson said: "We need better communication. Perhaps we need a conference of some kind that involves the U.N., the OAU, and that involves various other parties that deal with some of the various refugee and humanitarian problems in the region.... Better dialogue and communication is needed."

Richardson, who is on a tour of the region, also spoke on the importance of democracy in the region, the upcoming elections in Kenya, and the situation in both Congos.

Richardson arrived in Nairobi after visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, and Rwanda and was traveling on to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Geneva before returning to the United States.

Following is the transcript of Richardson's statement on departure from Nairobi, Kenya, October 28, 1997, with questions and answers:

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

Thank you for coming out to see me today. I am joined by another member of our delegation - Special Envoy Howard Wolpe. Nairobi is the fourth stop on our trip to Africa. We arrived last Friday in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [DROC] and subsequently visited Angola and Rwanda. We are leaving now for Ethiopia, Eritrea and Geneva -- all today, by the way, prior to returning home.

We arrived in Nairobi yesterday and met this morning with President Moi. The President and I have known each other for a number of years and we enjoyed a frank exchange of views. I briefed the President on the results of my trip and I congratulated him for his commitment to the region through his work as Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Authority on

Development. The United States fully supports the Sudan peace talks, which are scheduled to open here soon. I also expressed my appreciation for my close working relationship with Kenya's mission to the United Nations Security Council.

Naturally, President Moi and I discussed events in Kenya. I reiterated the keen interest that the United States has in the forthcoming elections and the emphasis we place on a process that is carried out fairly on a level playing field. I pointed out that Kenya plays an important role in the world. In the weeks and months ahead, Kenya will have a unique opportunity to define itself in the eyes of the world.

Americans appreciate that Kenya committed itself to multiparty democracy in 1992 and recently engaged in reforms through the Inter-Parliamentary Political Group to further consolidate political changes. My government applauds this progress and expects Kenyans to have the opportunity to choose their political representatives through an open exchange of information, equal access to the media by all political parties, freedom of movement and assembly, and a transparent and peaceful electoral process. The passage of the reforms and the spirit of compromise that brought them about are heartening. Immediate and full implementation of these reforms is now crucial to the credibility of Kenya's elections.

I told President Moi of our concern about the violent interference by the security force [with] political demonstrations and the unsubstantiated decision to deny registration to certain political parties. These actions, which are clearly contrary to the spirit and letter of the reforms, raise questions about the depth of the commitment of the government. We hope that the President's recent public assertion that political parties will not be harassed as they conduct peaceful, orderly meetings will be respected.

As Ambassador Bushnell has made clear, we are unequivocal in our support for the democratic process. The United States is taking no sides in the election. We are not for or against any candidate or party; it is up to the Kenyans to determine how and by whom they are to be governed. We are for the democratic process.

Let me say that the President and I had a good one-hour discussion -- we're old friends. I've been in Kenya many times. We've had maybe five meetings since I've been a Congressman from New Mexico and Ambassador to the United Nations. We share a friendship that, as I said, is relatively long-standing. So I'm pleased to be in Kenya and I'm ready to take any questions.

Q: (Question concerned Rwanda Vice President Kagame's reaction to the weekend agreement on U.N. investigators.)

A: We had a very frank discussion with Vice President Kagame in Rwanda, but, on the whole, Vice President Kagame said that Rwanda would cooperate in the U.N. investigation of the massacres in Congo and Rwanda. So while he stated reservations about the inquiry, he did indicate there would be cooperation on the subject. So I was satisfied with my conversation with him on that subject.

Q: Can you tell us what you are planning to do in Ethiopia?

A: We're going to visit the President of Ethiopia and the President of Eritrea. The purpose of the trip is to talk about Great Lakes region issues, the Congo, bilateral relations with those countries, and a variety of other ways in which we can get the leaders of Africa to have better communication and relationships with the U.N. agencies and with the United States. We need a more integrated approach to the Great Lakes region in Africa. We need better communication.

Perhaps we need a conference of some kind that involves the U.N., the OAU, and that involves various other parties that deal with some of the various refugee and humanitarian problems in the region, such as the governments involved. Better dialogue and communication is needed. That generally is going to be the topic of our discussion. We're only going to have one meeting with the President of Ethiopia. Then we go to Eritrea, where we will meet with the President of Eritrea tonight. Then we will fly on to Geneva tonight. So I will have seen three heads of state today.

Q: Will you be meeting with the Sudanese opposition leaders?

A: No.

Q: (Question concerned military attempts to overthrow elected governments, such as in Zambia.)

A: We're concerned about that. We're watching reports very closely. We're always concerned about undemocratic, unconstitutional overthrows of elected governments. We're getting reports just like you are. And in Angola we expressed concern about the movement of troops into Congo-Brazzaville. Fortunately, we got a pledge that the troops there would be withdrawn as soon as possible. It's a matter of concern whenever constitutional governments are toppled.

Q: Have you informed Secretary-General Annan about the agreement and what was his reaction?

A: Yes, I spoke to the Secretary-General shortly after I concluded the agreement. We spoke by telephone. He stated that in principle he felt that my agreement met the U.N.'s conditions. But, again, the U.N. is studying the agreement. I expect the agreement to stick. I am cautiously optimistic. We've been through this road before, and the deal became unstuck previously. But I believe that President Kabila has now committed himself to fulfill this agreement. I believe that the United Nations in early November will re-deploy its team to proceed with the investigation. The key to the agreement was that they would be able to deploy in the East and the West of the Congo as they wish -- simultaneously or any other way.

Q: Both Kagame and Kabila have said there is plenty of blame to go around in terms of massacres, including both NGOs and the UNHCR. How do you respond to their concerns about the role that other agencies played?

A: In my view this is why it's critical that this investigation take place -- that the facts come out, that history demands that we learn exactly what happened. The terms of the investigation go to 1993 -- starting in 1993 -- so that there's not a perception that only one side is being looked at. That means that FAZ, the Interahamwe, the FAR, the various other entities that were involved in those events also will be examined. I think the international community -- for failing to respond -- has some responsibility too.

Q: (Question concerned the planned Inter-Government[al] Authority on Development (IGAD) talks concerning Sudan.)

A: I am pleased that these IGAD talks are taking place. I commended President Moi for his efforts in bringing the foreign ministers together. This is something that the Sudanese need to settle themselves, but regional support, I think, is very important. Regional initiatives, such as the IGAD, are important. I hope that these meetings will lead to the process of dialogue being initiated.

Q: (Question concerned Iraq's Parliament voting to suspend relations with U.N. weapons inspectors.)

A: It once again demonstrates Iraq's lack of commitment to UNSCOM inspections. They violated several provisions of those inspections. They continue to thumb their nose at the international community. I think there would be grave consequences if they took those steps. But this is the parliamentary decision. It doesn't take effect until their leadership agrees to it. We understand that right now they will continue to observe UNSCOM and we think that's critically important.

(END TRANSCRIPT)

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 05 Nov 1997**

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## **Richardson outlines US 'cautious engagement' in DROC**

(Tells Senate committee stakes are high in Cent. Africa) (3070)

WASHINGTON -- Asserting that "the stakes are too high for us to stand aloof," the United States is maintaining a policy of "cautious engagement" in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC), Ambassador Bill Richardson told the House International Relations Committee November 5.

Addressing the committee on the current situation in Central Africa, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations expressed concern about the human rights situation in DROC -- particularly about a U.N. team which has been rebuffed in efforts to assess reports of severe abuses there. He was joined at the hearing by Howard Wolpe, U.S. special envoy to the Great Lakes region.

"We want to see progress in the U.N. human rights investigation, and are pleased that my recent [five-day] mission obtained reassurances from the government that it would accept the team," Richardson said in his prepared remarks. "But we have a range of other interests in the Congo, and intend to continue to encourage the new government to undertake necessary political and economic reforms and to play a constructive role in the region."

The ambassador also pointed to "progress in several areas" by the government, notably its attempts "to broaden its base by including non-ADFL members in the Cabinet and as regional governors." He also singled out its "concerted effort to integrate the multiple security forces operating during the rebellion -- including former members of the Zairian Armed Forces -- into a unified military and thereby dilute the influence of any one group.

"Efforts to improve economic management include the recent appointment of an Interministerial Economic Committee to bring coherence to disparate government development plans," he said. "The press generally operates freely, although newspaper editors have on occasion been detained by security forces. Similarly, NGOs remain active throughout the country and most continue to operate freely, although some human rights groups have been subject to harassment by security forces and humanitarian NGOs face restrictions on access to some insecure parts of the country, such as the Shabunda and Masisi areas."

He also noted that with the installation of a Constitutional Drafting Commission on October 23, President Laurent Kabila "has moved along the path of constitutional reform" outlined at his May 29 inauguration.

Following is the text of Richardson's remarks as prepared for delivery:

(BEGIN TEXT)

TESTIMONY OF AMBASSADOR BILL RICHARDSON U.S. PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning about recent developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and throughout the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

As you are aware, I returned last week from a five-day mission to the region. My delegation included Representative Donald Payne and former Congressman and now Special Presidential Envoy Howard Wolpe. Both provided me with invaluable counsel and guidance. The immediate objective of our mission was to overcome the impasse in access to the Congo by a U.N. Human Rights investigative team, and I will discuss these negotiations and the resulting agreement in a moment. But, equally as important, our mission also continued a dialogue with President Kabila and other neighboring leaders on the full range of issues of long-term interest to the U.S. in this region.

U.S. Interests

It's useful to begin by recalling our interests in the Great Lakes region, and indeed throughout Africa. At her recent swearing-in, the new Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Susan Rice, defined them as follows:

First, we seek to integrate Africa fully into the global economy to permit the population to benefit from economic growth and ensure trade and investment opportunities for our own citizens. To achieve these objectives, we must continue to promote conflict resolution, economic development, human rights, and open systems of government and economic management among countries on the African continent.

Second, we must protect the United States from threats to its national interest emanating from Africa. These include drug-trafficking, health and environmental risks, and the dangers posed by the spreading influence of pariah states in Africa.

The Congo is particularly illustrative of these interests. It offers tremendous economic opportunity: 13 percent of the world's hydroelectric potential; 28 percent of the world's reserve base of cobalt; 18 percent of its industrial diamonds; 6 percent of its copper; plus rich

lands for both commercial and food agriculture; and a talented and industrious population. The Congo should serve as an engine of growth for the entire region and as a bridge between the relatively developed economies of Southern and Eastern Africa and the relatively poor economies of Central Africa. But the Congo's ability to play such a role was for too long retarded by a kleptocratic government noted for rampant corruption and mismanagement; by the collapse of effective state functions (including health, education, and basic infrastructure); and by regional and internal conflicts that undermined economic growth.

While the Congo retained the veneer of a national government, in the final years of the Mobutu regime it increasingly showed the characteristics of a "collapsed state." Elsewhere in the world, such states have served as havens for arms and drug traffickers and international terrorists. We have an interest in seeing the establishment of a functional government to reverse this trend in the Congo and to advance our other transnational interests in the region. With borders on nine other countries, an unstable Congo could lead quickly to renewed cross-border conflicts, refugee flows, and humanitarian crises, while a stable Congo could have a salutary effect on the entire region. With one-half of the tropical rain forest in Africa, the Congo's forest management practices have a direct impact on global climate change. The Congo's underfunded medical system is ill-equipped to counter outbreaks of disease or viruses that can have an impact far beyond its borders.

U.S. policy to advance our goals in the Congo has been one of cautious engagement. We established contacts with the rebel leadership soon after the rebellion began, and have continued to cultivate these ties. We are providing a limited amount of assistance through NGOs and international organizations, and are working with other donors and multilateral institutions to leverage this investment.

#### Progress to Date by New Government

We have a real and direct interest in seeing a transition in the Congo to a well-governed, democratic, prosperous, and stable country. A first step in this transition occurred when the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) ousted long-time dictator Mobutu Sese Seko on May 17. The ADFL achieved this objective after a brief, seven-month rebellion, supported by several neighboring governments. On my first mission to the Congo, in May of this year, I met with the leaders of both the then-Zairian Government and the rebel force to achieve a "soft-landing" that would minimize violence in the capital.

With Mobutu gone, the new Government now faces the much more difficult task of building a broad-based government, establishing democratic institutions, reviving the economy, instilling transparency and respect for human rights among public officials and the security forces, and playing a constructive and stabilizing role in the region.

President Kabila and his government have been in power slightly less than six months. Most of his senior advisers have little or no prior experience in government, yet face daunting challenges in trying to rehabilitate a country of 45 million people, as big as the U.S. east of the Mississippi. There have been setbacks and missteps in the initial months of the new Government. Expectations among many Congolese were so high at the time of Mobutu's

fall, that even genuine achievements of the new authorities are sometimes viewed as disappointments.

In brief, however, we have seen progress in several areas. The new government has attempted to broaden its base by including non-ADFL members in the Cabinet and as regional governors. It is making a concerted effort to integrate the multiple security forces operating during the rebellion -- including former members of the Zairian Armed Forces -- into a unified military and thereby dilute the influence of any one group. Efforts to improve economic management include the recent appointment of an Interministerial Economic Committee to bring coherence to disparate government development plans. The press generally operates freely, although newspaper editors have on occasion been detained by security forces. Similarly, NGOs remain active throughout the country and most continue to operate freely, although some human rights groups have been subject to harassment by security forces and humanitarian NGOs face restrictions on access to some insecure parts of the country, such as the Shabunda and Masisi areas.

With the installation of a Constitutional Drafting Commission on October 23, President Kabila has advanced along the path of constitutional reform outlined at his inauguration May 29. At that time, Kabila announced a two-year timetable leading to national elections by April 1999. Although he missed some initial deadlines, he is now current in his timetable. Appointment of the Commission is an important first step that we and other interested governments have strongly encouraged. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Constitutional Commission is genuinely impartial and open to proposals from the public on constitutional and electoral reform.

Despite these signs of progress, we remain troubled by a number of developments in the Congo. The ban on political party activities, if it persists, will make free and fair elections all but impossible. Former members of the Mobutu government remain under detention without charge. (Though they may be suspected of corrupt practices, this does not excuse the lack of due process.) The government has continued to violate international humanitarian principles -- most recently through the forced repatriation of Rwandans and Burundians from a UNHCR transit camp in Kisangani in September, and the expulsion of UNHCR workers and closure of the border with Rwanda in October.

### Human Rights Investigation

Although we have been monitoring progress by the new Government in a number of areas, there is no doubt that we and other donors have focused particular attention on access for U.N. human rights investigators. There are credible reports of very serious human rights abuses committed in the Congo, and the U.S. Government has consistently supported a thorough inquiry by the U.N. Secretary-General's Investigative Team. As you know, the Secretary-General named this team after an earlier Joint Investigative Mission operating under the auspices of the U.N. Human Rights Commission was unable to gain access to the Congo. The Congolese Government objected to the leader of the earlier team (who after a brief visit had issued a report strongly critical of the ADFL) and argued that the proposed mandate (which covered events only since September 1996) did not provide the necessary context for more

recent incidents. In July, Annan named a team with an expanded mandate extending back to 1993.

Events with significant human rights implications since 1993 include the genocide in Rwanda; ethnic cleansing conducted by the former Zairian government in some areas of eastern Zaire; cross-border incursions into Rwanda by armed forces operating from refugee camps in eastern Zaire; and attacks on refugees and militiamen who fled the camps in the face of ADFL advances; among many other incidents. A full airing of the events in recent years is necessary, in our view, to interrupt the cycle of violence and impunity that has for too long plagued the Great Lakes region.

At the same time, however, the Congolese Government and many other states in Central and East Africa remain deeply suspicious of the motives of the United Nations and the international community in seeking this investigation. This suspicion is rooted in the role of the U.N., the international donor community (including the U.S.), and humanitarian organizations in the region since 1994 -- including their unwillingness or inability to stop the Rwandan genocide; their creation of camps populated not only by refugees but also by those who participated in the genocide; and their tolerance of continued care and feeding of these armed elements even as they launched incursions into Rwanda from Zaire. We in the international community share responsibility for failing to address the conditions which led to the October 1996 rebellion and the human rights abuses that occurred during the course of the war.

Mutual suspicions grew between the U.N. team and the Congolese Government over the summer. The team travelled to Kinshasa August 23, but new obstacles emerged which prevented its deployment to the field. On October 1, Secretary-General Annan recalled the team leaders for consultations in New York before considering whether to withdraw the entire team. A key objective of my mission was to rebuild confidence between the two sides. Prior to departing for Kinshasa on October 23, I met in New York with Secretary-General Annan, members of his staff, and the U.N. team leaders to explore possible confidence-building measures that would reassure President Kabila of the team's bona fides while not undermining its independence or ability to function. My mission also included thorough consultations with neighboring leaders on the human rights team and other regional issues.

In Kinshasa, I met for more than four hours October 25 with President Kabila and key aides -- including Reconstruction Minister Mbaya -- to emphasize the importance of full cooperation with the team. I explained very plainly that while the U.S. wanted to develop a long-term relationship with this government, it would be more difficult to deepen our bilateral ties and increase aid without access for the team.

I am pleased to report that after difficult negotiations, the Congolese Government confirmed acceptance of the team and agreed that it could conduct its investigation without interference throughout the country. The team would deploy simultaneously to the east of the country and to Mbandaka, in the west, for the first site visits. The government confirmed that the investigation would cover the period March 1, 1993, through December 31, 1997. Security would be provided by the government as requested by U.N. security personnel.

accompanying the team. The U.N. team would not interfere in internal Congolese politics. The Congolese Government would have a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the team's report prior to presentation to the Secretary-General. The team's investigation is a fact-finding mission intended to provide a comprehensive report to the Secretary-General, who would then recommend any follow-up action in consultation with the Security Council.

At a press conference October 25, following our talks, I read in English a statement, which had been negotiated by members of my delegation and Congolese ministers, including Reconstruction Minister Mbaya. The text was repeated in French by Reconstruction Minister Mbaya. President Kabila then publicly affirmed his full endorsement of its terms, in English.

I subsequently briefed regional leaders on the results of my mission, stopping in Angola, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. All of them were supportive of the agreement from President Kabila. While in Angola, I also raised with the government our strong objections to the involvement of Angolan forces in the fighting in Congo/Brazzaville and elicited a commitment to withdraw those forces as soon as possible. I also warned UNITA leader Savimbi that without irreversible progress in implementing the Lusaka accords, U.N. sanctions would be imposed. In the event, this proved necessary.

On my return from the Congo, I met with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. They expressed support for the results of my negotiations with President Kabila. I understand that Annan and Robinson are now consulting with U.N. investigative team leaders in New York on next steps. We hope the team will deploy to the field and begin its investigation as soon as possible.

#### Next Steps for the United States

I am pleased by the results of this mission and by the improved prospect for a full U.N. human rights investigation. As I noted at the outset, however, the United States is interested in a range of issues with the new government. We continue our policy of engagement, and are actively working with the new authorities as they develop policies for the post-Mobutu era.

We have begun a modest aid program, and have committed approximately \$8 million of the \$10 million identified for FY 1997. These funds supported a \$4 million vaccination campaign, implemented by UNICEF and W.H.O., that immunized more than 700,000 children in Kinshasa on October 25. We have committed an additional \$2 million for local development projects funded through USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) regional centers in three provinces. An additional \$2 million has also been allocated to two U.S.-based NGOs to support constitutional and democratic reforms.

We are considering a larger program in FY 1998, depending upon budget constraints, and will be consulting closely with Congress as we develop future aid plans. To date, we have not provided direct assistance to the national government, pending progress on the human rights investigation and in constitutional and democratic reforms. In the near term, most of our aid is likely to continue to be channeled through the civil society and international organizations.

There is an urgent need, however, for technical assistance to key government ministries in the areas of finance, justice, and health, to name only a few.

The World Bank has announced plans to convene a "Friends of the Congo" Donors Conference December 3-4 in Brussels. We would expect to participate. Though not a pledging conference, this meeting would offer a useful forum to begin a dialogue with the Congolese on their economic strategy and donors' current and projected aid plans.

### Conclusion

We maintain a policy of cautious engagement in the Congo. The stakes are too high for us to stand aloof. We want to see progress in the U.N. human rights investigation, and are pleased that my recent mission obtained assurances from the government that it would accept the team. But we have a range of other interests in the Congo, and intend to continue to encourage the new government to undertake necessary political and economic reforms and to play a constructive role in the region.

*Source: US Information Agency (USIA)*

*Date: 02 Dec 1997*

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## **Wolpe named Special Envoy for Great Lakes Region**

(Responsibilities being expanded) (230)

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton December 2 named former U.S. Representative Howard Wolpe special envoy of the president and secretary of state to Africa's Great Lakes region, expanding his professional responsibilities.

Following is the White House statement announcing the appointment:

President Clinton has named former U.S. Representative Dr. Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State to Africa's Great Lakes Region. Dr. Wolpe has been serving as Special Envoy of the President and the Secretary of State to the Burundi peace negotiations for the past 18 months. In recognition of the regional nature of the challenges facing Central Africa, his geographical mandate and responsibilities are being expanded. Dr. Wolpe will continue to center his efforts on policy and the complex regional diplomacy, political, and economic challenges facing the Great Lakes states, particularly Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dr. Wolpe brings to this mission a wealth of experience gained during fourteen years as a member of Congress from Michigan, including ten years as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, and an earlier career as an academic specialist on Africa. Recently, he was a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Wolpe received a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 12 Dec 1997**

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## **There is no forgetting Rwanda's genocide, Albright says**

(12/11 Albright-Bizimungu joint press conference) (2400)

KIGALI, Rwanda -- There is "no forgetting genocide," and there can be no future for the Central African region "unless the cycle of violence and revenge is broken and a climate of inter-ethnic confidence and tolerance is established and maintained," says Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Appearing at a joint press conference with Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu December 11 in Kigali, Albright made plain that that is why the United States "supports the OAU initiative to establish an international panel of eminent persons to study the 1994 genocide and related events.

"We must account for the past in order to forge a more just future," Albright stressed. "That is why I have acknowledged that the international community should have identified the atrocities in 1994 sooner for what they were: genocide."

In her speech to the Organization of African Unity in Ethiopia earlier in the week, Albright recalled that she had announced a \$30 million Great Lakes Justice Initiative "to help Rwanda and its neighbors develop judicial systems that are impartial, credible, and effective."

She also pointed to the U.S. intention "to provide \$1.7 million to assist demobilized soldiers in joining civilian life, \$1.2 million to support education programs for returning refugees, and \$1 million for a range of projects to promote democracy and reconciliation."

"We are committed to working in partnership with you," she said. "This is a small land, but there is no reason why it cannot grow steadily more prosperous, peaceful, and free -- if Rwandans work together, and the international community does its part."

Asked to assess the human rights record of Rwanda's government, Albright noted that she had commended the country "for being able to reintegrate one and a half million refugees," but added that "there clearly is room for improvement" in its efforts. "But I think it is also important for us to understand how difficult it is for a country that has seen over half a million people slaughtered to then be able to put itself back together and reconcile," she added.

Bizimungu told reporters that the Rwandan government has worked hard "in tackling the difficult problems" it inherited following the civil war, noting that Rwandans "have made

modest progress along the long road putting the nation back together and to stabilize our society."

"We succeeded in stopping genocide," he noted. "We contained the revenge killings. We set up an innovative justice system...to reduce social tensions and contribute to reconciliation, and we embark on an ambitious economic reconstruction. Most importantly, we have ended" the flight of refugees "that has been Rwanda's hallmark since 1959. And, undoubtedly, the...difficult and unfinished tasks [still remaining] are numerous."

Following is a transcript of the press conference:

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT  
AND PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU

December 11, 1997 Office of the Presidency Kigali, Rwanda

PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for having come to this press conference. I thank Madeleine Albright, the secretary of state, for her second visit to Rwanda and her first as secretary of state. Her successive visits reflect her personal commitment and that of the government of the United States of America to help Rwanda's people come to terms with the aftermath of genocide.

The 1994 genocide was a dramatic experience for Rwanda. Genocide was carried out by the (inaudible) Rwandan authorities, it claimed over 1 million people and (inaudible) another 2 million into exile. Genocide was a combination of divisive policies introduced by colonial power into our otherwise (inaudible) nation. It is not, therefore, a product of centuries-old ethnic hatred as it is often assumed.

In tackling the difficult problems we inherited in 1994, that is, internally displaced people, refugees, insecurity, a ruined economy and most importantly (inaudible)...a fractured society, our vision, the hard work and determination of the people and the Government of Rwanda have been our primary results. We have made modest progress along the long road putting the nation back together and to stabilize our society. We succeeded in stopping genocide. We contained therevenge killings. We set up an innovative justice system that (inaudible)...to reduce social tensions and contribute toreconciliation and we embarked on an ambitious economic reconstruction. Most importantly, we have ended the (inaudible) of refugees that has been Rwanda's hallmark since 1959. And, undoubtedly, the killings and difficult and unfinished tasks are numerous. We reconciled and united Rwanda's people; established good governments built on the rule of law; effected the process of social and economic transformation to give our people dignity, hope and opportunity; worked with our neighbors to solve regional problems and create a peaceful, stable and secure environment conducive to development. We have discussed with Madam Secretary of State on all these issues.

The people and the government of the United States of America have been helpful to us as we

continue to deal with the legacy of genocide and destruction. We shall continue to count on them and the rest of the international community in our effort to create a sustainable and prosperous future for Rwanda's people. All of us should unite to make sure that no other holocaust is unleashed on the human race. Once again, thank you, Madam Secretary of State.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am pleased to be here in Kigali this morning to meet with President Bizimungu and Vice- President Kagame.

This is a very important stop for me because Rwanda's future is critical to the Great Lakes region and all of Central Africa. Its capacity to emerge from the terrible cycle of violence is a vital test for the people of this region; and it imposes responsibilities on the international community as well.

In our meeting, I stressed to the president and vice-president how much the United States respects the efforts the people and government of Rwanda have undertaken.

Over the past year, more than one and one-half million refugees and displaced persons have returned home, most of them safely. That is a remarkable accomplishment.

The commitment publicly expressed here to the principle of inter-ethnic cooperation sends an important message to peoples throughout the region.

And the debate of Rwandans to go about their daily business in a climate of security and normalcy deserves ongoing international support.

Unfortunately, as the recent fighting in the northwest indicates, there remain some who are unwilling to heed the call for reconciliation and peace. During our meeting, this morning, I discussed with Rwanda's leaders the importance of providing security without harm to non-combatants and of our continuing to work together on a full range of justice issues, including the War Crimes Tribunal.

One of my most unforgettable moments in my earlier job as the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. occurred here in Rwanda, a couple of years ago. I visited a church in Kibuye where many of the victims of the 1994 massacres had sought refuge, only to be killed and thrown into a mass grave, from which bodies were only [then] being exhumed.

I don't think I have ever seen a place more beautiful or a sight as horrible. There is no forgetting genocide. But there can be no future for this region unless the cycle of violence and revenge is broken and a climate of inter-ethnic confidence and tolerance is established and maintained.

To further that goal, the United States strongly supports the OAU initiative to establish an international panel of eminent persons to study the 1994 genocide and related events.

We must account for the past in order to forge a more just future. That is why I have acknowledged that the international community should have identified the atrocities in 1994

sooner for what they were: genocide.

Mr. President, the United States also wants to help Rwanda look beyond the past tragedies and present difficulties to the opportunities ahead.

Earlier this week, in a speech to the OAU, I announced that the United States is working on a \$30 million Great Lakes Justice Initiative to help Rwanda and its neighbors develop judicial systems that are impartial, credible and effective.

In fact, it was the problem of justice in Rwanda that inspired the Initiative.

We admire your efforts to restore economic growth and spur regional integration; I also deeply respect the price you have [paid] in your country and in your people.

We recognize the immense challenges you face, not only on security and justice issues, but in achieving sustainable development in a country of limited land and historically high rates of population growth.

We want to do what we can to help. I was able to tell the President about our intention to provide \$1.7 million to assist demobilized soldiers in joining civilian life, \$1.2 million to support education programs for returning refugees, and \$1 million for a range of projects to promote democracy and reconciliation.

We are committed to working in partnership with you. This is a small land, but there is no reason why it cannot grow steadily more prosperous, peaceful and free -- if Rwandans work together, and the international community does its part.

To make progress towards that goal is the purpose of my visit here today, and the goal of efforts I hope we will undertake together in months and years to come.

Thank you once again for your hospitality and for your welcome.

QUESTION: (inaudible) Radio Rwanda. I would like to ask the Secretary of State how did you choose the countries to visit? That is my first question. The second question has to do with what (inaudible) about genocide. You said you would not forget genocide, but as a survivor, what does one do to overcome that past history?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you. I chose the countries that I am visiting, and they are primarily in the Great Lakes region, in addition to South Africa and Angola, because I think that this region is of great importance to the United States and because so much suffering has taken place here and there is also so much hope for the possibility of mutual cooperation. So there is a combination of trying to overcome the problems of the past and yet at the same time seeing optimism and opportunity in terms of the new mutual leaders who have emerged and their cooperative efforts together.

As to your question on genocide, I think that what has troubled me the most as I have traveled

around the world is to see the inhumanity of man to man or against man that is deeply troubling and that is, I think, the great horror of our time. And at the same time as I saw yesterday in Gulu, Uganda, the great ability of people to help each other. As far as the United States is concerned, I have taken special attention to this problem and have now named Ambassador David Scheffer, whose purpose is to study very carefully crimes against humanity and do what we can in the United States to help societies not get into situations where genocide takes place and try to do what we can in terms of helping judicial systems deal with the results of genocide, which then make it so difficult for societies to reconcile.

Q: (Translated from French) You declared in Addis Ababa two days ago that no other area in Africa was more important than the Great Lakes, now how does the United States view Rwanda in particular in face of this new situation?

ALBRIGHT: (Translated from French) Rwanda is important for us because genocide started here, however, also very important is the fact that there are new leaders here in Rwanda who have solutions for the problems and [are] thinking [in] new terms and can also work with their neighbor so that people in this area can [look] forward to a brighter future.

Q: Madame Secretary, there are some signs that there may be new flights of refugees towards Eastern Congo, the Goma area. Are you aware of this and is this something that requires fresh action?

ALBRIGHT: Yes, I have heard the reports. Let me say that I think that we need to understand the difficulties of the refugees and also commend Rwanda for having been able to absorb and reintegrate 1.5 million refugees in the last few months -- a huge job. I have discussed already this morning and will continue to discuss the problems of how to reintegrate refugees in a way that allows them to become useful citizens in the country and also not be sources or places where additional fighting is created.

Q: Jim McKinnley, New York Times. How would you assess the human rights record of this government and what have you told the Rwandan officials about the U.S. view of that record?

ALBRIGHT: As I have said, I have commended them for being able to reintegrate one and a half million refugees. We talked a great deal about the judicial system here. We talked about the initiative that we have proposed, which is being proposed in order to deal with where there is a great lack and that is enough judges, prosecutors, lawyers within the system in Rwanda itself in order to be able to deal with a very large number of prisoners who are suspected of having taken part in the genocidal activities.

I think there clearly is room for improvement in the human rights record of Rwanda and it's very important for there to be a human rights unit here. But I think it is also important for us to understand how difficult it is for a country that has seen over half a million people slaughtered to then be able to put itself back together and reconcile. It [is] another reason that I have said that we very much agree [with] the proposal by President Meles, of the eminent persons group that can look at what lessons can be learned. I think that, as I discussed with the leaders here, they have done a lot already but they have a long way to go and it is the

international community and the United States specifically [that] is prepared to give whatever support we can so that they can feel good about their human rights record.

(END TRANSCRIPT)

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 15 Dec 1997**

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## **US condemns attack on Rwanda refugee camp**

(12/13 statement by spokesman James Foley) (270)

WASHINGTON -- State Department spokesman James Foley December 13 condemned the attack on the refugee camp in Mudende, Rwanda, by rebel insurgents in which some 231 refugees were killed. "We are deeply troubled that, once again, innocent civilians in Mudende have become victims of armed attacks," Foley added in a prepared statement.

Following is the text of Foley's statement:

U.S. Department of State Office of the Spokesman Press Statement Press Statement by James B. Foley/Deputy Spokesman, December 13, 1997

### **DECEMBER 11 ATTACK ON MUDENDE REFUGEE CAMP**

The U.S. government condemns the December 11 attack by rebel insurgents on the refugee camp in Mudende, Rwanda, that left at least 231 refugees dead and more than 200 wounded. We are deeply troubled that, once again, innocent civilians in Mudende have become victims of armed attacks.

This is the latest in a series of attacks against refugees throughout the Great Lakes region of Africa, including armed assaults on refugee camps and uprooting of long-settled refugee populations.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is visiting the region, has instructed David Scheffer, U.S. Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues, to travel to Mudende to assist in the investigation of that massacre.

We call upon all in the region to redouble their efforts to resolve ethnic and other differences in a non-violent manner, to protect and assist refugees and other citizens, and to provide asylum when necessary.

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 15 Dec 1997**

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## **Albright discusses pace of of democratization with Congo's Kabila**

(Secretary of State renews U.S. commitment to DROC) (690)By Robert Fullerton and Jim Fisher-ThompsonUSIA Staff Writers

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has urged Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) President Laurent Kabila "to move ahead with planned political reforms designed to permit broad-based and open dialogue among both official and non-governmental representatives."

Albright told reporters at a joint press conference with Kabila, after the two had met privately here on December 12, "I expressed the hope that this would include an early end to restrictions on political party activities."

In a transcript of the press conference made available by the State Department, Albright noted that Kabila "expressed a commitment to constitutional reform, democratic elections, and economic recovery" and she added that she is encouraged by "a number of positive steps" already undertaken by the DROC government.

Albright added that "as part of this discussion with President Kabila, we established what I believe to be an excellent relationship, and he and I decided that we would give each other our telephone numbers so that we could discuss problems when they come up. And I plan to use the phone fairly often and I hope he does also."

The secretary of state congratulated Kabila specifically on the establishment of a Constitutional Drafting Commission and a National Reconstruction Conference. "If the work of these bodies is open and inclusive, they can be important tools in constructing government institutions that are representative, effective, and respected by the Congolese people," she stressed.

After thanking Kabila for his hospitality and "for changing his schedule so that we could meet despite my late arrival yesterday [December 11]," Albright said, "I have come to the Democratic Republic of the Congo because there can be no doubt that what happens in this vast country will do much to shape the future of central, eastern and southern Africa; and because we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a new relationship between our two nations."

Noting that "decades of misrule have left the Congo with grave economic and political

problems," the U.S. official said, "Today, however, the Congolese people are clearly ready and eager to end their country's long isolation and stagnation."

Changes have now come about, said Albright. "The new government, under President Kabila, has expressed a commitment to constitutional reform, democratic elections, and economic recovery. There is a long way to go to reach these goals, but I am encouraged. We want to do all we can to help...the people of the Congo as they seek to build the peace, freedom, and growth they have been so long denied."

In that regard, Albright said, "My government intends to expand our assistance to the Congo significantly," and she cited the following examples:

-- "In the weeks ahead, we will be working with our Congress to prepare a package of \$35 to \$40 million to assist the Congolese people and their government in building democratic institutions and governing capacity. That package will cover infrastructure programs in areas such as health, sanitation, and finance."

-- "Work will begin even sooner [and] we will fund the rebuilding of the Black River Bridge, a vital link between Kinshasa and eastern Congo that was destroyed by Mobutu's government last May."

-- Peace Corps volunteers will return to the Congo. "Resource centers for civic education will be funded. And we will support Congolese projects to protect unique wildlife and rain forest."

-- "The United States is also consulting with Congress in order to contribute \$10 million to the World Bank trust fund that the Friends of the Congo have pledged to establish."

Albright concluded by saying that her meeting with Kabila "was an important step toward building a strong relationship based on shared interests, mutual respect, and a joint willingness to work together to resolve differences and solve problems. The relationship between the United States and the Congo is important for both countries. I look forward to building on it in my meetings with Congolese citizens, and in productive work with the people and government of this country in the weeks and months ahead."

**Source: US Information Agency (USIA)**

**Date: 18 Dec 1997**

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## **Camp massacre in Rwanda represents 'resurgence of genocide'**

(Individuals must be held accountable) (1020)

WASHINGTON -- The December 11 massacre of about 327 refugees at the Mudende refugee camp in Rwanda, the second mass killing there in four months, "represents a resurgence of genocide in the northwest region of Rwanda," State Department Spokesman James Rubin said December 18.

"The brutality of this attack on the Tutsi refugees is reminiscent of the genocide of 1994," Rubin added in a prepared statement from London, made available in Washington.

Rubin said that "these criminal acts have rightly outraged the international community, and initiatives must be taken to bring to justice individuals accountable for these crimes and to prevent future acts of genocide," adding that the United States "is prepared to assist in this challenge."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was briefed on the situation December 16 in Brussels by David Scheffer, Ambassador at large for war crimes issues. Albright dispatched Scheffer to the area immediately upon learning about the slaughter on December 12, midway through her weeklong visit to Africa.

"We will be reviewing his full report in the days ahead and examining future steps to assist the Rwandan government and people in preventing such atrocities and bringing those responsible to justice," Rubin noted.

Following is the text of Rubin's statement:

(BEGIN TEXT)

U.S. Department of State Office of the Spokesman (London, United Kingdom)

December 18, 1997

Statement by James P. Rubin, Spokesman

REPORT ON MASSACRE AT MUDENDE REFUGEE CAMP

On December 12, immediately after news reached Secretary Albright that a massacre of Congolese Tutsi had occurred at Mudende refugee camp in northwest Rwanda, she dispatched David Scheffer, Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, to Rwanda to investigate the atrocity. As Secretary Albright said before the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa on December 9, we need to be prepared to acknowledge these types of international crimes and to confront their perpetrators.

Ambassador Scheffer reported to Secretary Albright on Tuesday, December 16, in Brussels, with his finding and recommendations regarding his first-hand investigation of the Mudende camp massacre. We will be reviewing his full report in the days ahead and examining future steps to assist the Rwandan government and people in preventing such atrocities and bringing those responsible to justice.

Based on Ambassador Scheffer's report, I would like to make the following points:

-- The Mudende camp massacre, the second in four months at that refugee camp, represents a resurgence of genocide in the northwest region of Rwanda. The brutality of this attack on the Tutsi refugees is reminiscent of the genocide of 1994. The insurgents probably were from a base in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) and likely were led by ex-FAR [former Armed Forces of Rwanda] and Interahamwe elements. They appear determined to kill untold numbers of ethnic Tutsis.

-- These criminal acts have rightly outraged the international community. Initiatives must be taken to bring to justice individuals accountable for these crimes and to prevent future acts of genocide. The United States is prepared to assist in this challenge.

-- The number of murdered Congolese Tutsi refugees and perhaps some insurgents at Mudende camp appears to be 327, including those who have died of wounds. We have not been able to substantiate reports of larger numbers of killed refugees. We have no accounting for insurgent casualties. Nor has it been possible to ascertain the fate of the 460 or so Hutu prisoners who, during the insurgent attack, apparently broke out of the cachot (local prison) located about 1.5 kilometers from the refugee camp. Some witnesses have said that about 130 Tutsi refugees, mostly women, were abducted by the insurgents. We do not know their fate, but note that in the past the ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia have abducted women, raped them, and then killed them.

-- At Mudende camp there was a marked failure by the RPA [Rwandan Patriotic Army -- the military wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front] to adequately defend the refugees from attack during the night of December 10. The reasons for this failure by the RPA remain uncertain but point to the local commander's actions. Such a lapse in security arrangements for refugees must not be repeated. We are encouraging the Government of Rwanda to ensure sufficient security for the 17,000 refugees at the Nkimira transit camp.

-- The 267 severely wounded women, children, and elderly at Gisenyi Hospital are in critical need of medical attention, including medical supplies and professional treatment. The heroic efforts of the staff at Gisenyi Hospital should be supplemented by other surgeons and by

nurses trained in post-operative care. The U.S. Government has undertaken to assist Gisenyi Hospital in treatment of the Mudende victims and calls upon other governments and non-governmental organizations to provide rapid medical assistance to Gisenyi Hospital and in response to any future atrocities.

In addition, Ambassador Scheffer visited the volcanic caves of Kanama north of Gisenyi, where there has been recent fighting between the Rwandan Patriotic Army and insurgents. The situation there may not be as dire as has been reported by non-governmental sources. The RPA claims that it pursued 60-120 insurgents into the caves on October 26 and 27 but did not observe any large number of local civilians fleeing into the caves during or after the hot pursuit. While it is clear that there are some dead bodies in the caves, there is no visible evidence that there were mass killings of hundreds or thousands of Rwandan citizens by the RPA. There is one major cave opening which has not been blocked up by the RPA and through which anyone in the caves can emerge to surrender. The last gunfire from the remaining cave openings occurred about three weeks ago. The RPA speculates there may be other cave openings nearer to the border with the DROC, from which insurgents or civilians may have escaped, but has not found them. We will continue to monitor the situation at the Kanama caves and work towards confirming the numbers of dead there as soon as is feasible.

(END TEXT)