



Cabinet du Président
Office of the President

Note to the attention of the International Community and the public

Re: Reaction to the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General on the forcible disarmament of the FDLR

On 8 August 2005, Mr. Koffi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General made a statement in which he “welcomes the commitment made on 16 July by the Transitional Government to take forcible action to disarm FDLR” arguing that “FDLR chief Ignace Murwanashyaka left DRC in mid-May without issuing orders to the combatants to enter the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation programme.”

Contrary to what was suggested by the United Nations Secretary-General, the implementation of the Rome peace process was not hindered by the FDLR but by those who did everything possible to jeopardize the creation of an International Steering Committee as it was agreed upon in Rome.

Moreover, the FDLR strongly believe that the African Great Lakes sub-region crisis will not be resolved simply by disarming by force the FDLR. Such a forcible disarmament of the FDLR can only undermine all efforts aimed at establishing lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the African Great Lakes sub-region as a whole and in Rwanda and DRC in particular. Therefore, the FDLR strongly do believe that there is no need for violence to achieve that goal.

The leadership of the FDLR is convinced that peace is not a business of only one side. There can be no peace without a full respect of each other and a clear willingness to honour the respective commitments by all parties involved. Instead of pushing for a new bloodshed in the sub-region, the Secretary-General should encourage all parties involved in the crisis to commit themselves to peace and honour their commitments.

Particularly, DRC needs to put into acts what was agreed upon in Rome in March 2005. In the same time, the government of Rwanda needs to fully involve itself in international efforts towards peace and show its goodwill and commitment to peace search by starting unconditional talks with the FDLR leadership under the auspices of the international community.

The FDLR wish to reiterate their commitments made in Rome on 31 March 2005 and assure the International Community and the public of their eagerness and readiness to have them fully implemented. The FDLR urge the United Nations Secretary-General and the International Community to actively and positively participate in the implementation of the attendant measures as agreed upon in Rome. Particularly, the FDLR invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations

and the International Community to press for the creation of an *International Steering Committee* which is an essential instrument for a fair and concrete implementation of the Rome Declaration.

The leadership of the FDLR do hope that the United Nations Secretary-General and the International Community will take necessary measures and initiatives aimed at finding a viable solution to the Rwandan crisis by giving due support to the implementation of the Rome Declaration by all parties. The FDLR are strongly committed to fully cooperate in endeavours to bring peace and stability in the African Great Lakes sub-region and bring hope to thousands of Rwandans and Congolese who have lost hope and are deeply immersed in perennial misery.

Bonn, 17 August 2005

Dr. Ignace Murwanashyaka

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, followed by a small dash.

President of the FDLR