

Exchange Mail

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AFRICA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SOUTH AFRICA

Why is President Clinton visiting South Africa?

* South Africa and the United States have close bilateral relations based on our

diverse and open societies, an attachment to democratic principles and human rights and a shared vision of a peaceful and prospering African continent and international community.

* Since apartheid ended with the election of Nelson Mandela as President in 1994, government, business and personal links between the two countries have expanded rapidly. The U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission, created in 1994 during Mandela's state visit to Washington, has helped to revitalize a relationship that had been stunted during the final decades of apartheid.

* The United States was pleased to host President Mandela's State Visit in 1994. President Clinton was honored to accept President Mandela's invitation to pay a State Visit to South Africa in connection with his current tour of Africa and honor him for his historic role in transforming the modern South Africa and to recognize our strong mutual partnership.

What will the President's visit to South Africa accomplish?

* First and foremost, it will underscore the friendship between our two countries and the determination of the United States to improve our ties even further.

* The President will meet with President Mandela to review developments in our relations and to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. Among other topics, President Clinton will emphasize the commitment of the United States to an enduring and cooperative friendship and our determination to continue helping South Africa -- in line with the government's priorities -- to achieve its goals.

* The President will take advantage of the opportunity to explain to President Mandela the nature of the United States' new engagement in Africa.

* The President will also highlight rapidly growing U.S. investment in

South
Africa and the southern African region.

* The visit will allow the President to witness first hand South Africa's
transition to democracy.

Does the South African government oppose the African trade bill? If
so, why?

* I understand South Africa has expressed concern about the linkage
the Bill
establishes between the economic policies of African nations and their
eligibility to benefit under the proposed provisions.

* Nevertheless, I also understand South Africa has expressed its
support for the
Bill, which we intend as a sign of support for steps being taken by
Africans
themselves. Many other African nations have already expressed their
appreciation
for this clear signal of support from the United States.

* The Bill enhances trade benefits and political contact at high levels
for
African countries that are engaged in pursuing reform policies in the
areas of
trade, investment, economic policy management and human resources
development.

* The philosophy of the Bill is simple: America stands ready to help
those
African countries that help themselves. Our purpose is to establish a
framework
consistent with U.S. trade legislation that will permit African
countries to
increase their trade with the United States and this approach has
received strong
support among many other African nations.

Sometimes, the United States and South Africa appear to have a
"love-hate"
relationship. What accounts for the occasional friction that arises?

* There is no doubt that our relations are excellent, and I am
convinced that
both sides are committed to improving our ties even further.

* It is important to remember that we are still in the relatively early

stages of
building relations across a broad range of areas -- diplomatic, legal, commercial, defense and others. The Binational Commission has lent valuable momentum to this effort. As we work together to arrive at mutual understandings that protect the interests of both nations, differences are inevitable, but we have already proven our ability to work through complex issues cooperatively.

* The United States is committed to dialogue on the basis of the complete equality of sovereign states to resolve the problems we encounter and solidify our friendship.

* As with all friendships we will, at times, disagree on some issues, but we have confidence that we can work through these issues together.

What is the United States doing in response to President Mandela's criticism of USAID's South Africa programs?

* I would first like to note that we are proud to be able to assist the South African government and the people of South Africa to achieve their goals. We are committed to working closely with the government on our assistance programs. We are pleased to be helping in the critical areas of education, health care, housing and urban development. Our programs are also helping to promote economic growth and the consolidation of South Africa's democratic transition.

* The concerns raised have given us an opportunity to sit down once again with the South African government to review our programs, their intentions and who should be the focus of our efforts.

* Much has happened since South Africa's transition, and the United States will make every effort to ensure that our assistance supports the government's objectives.

What is the United States doing to help South Africa combat its

serious crime
problem?

* As the President has often addressed, as the world grows more interdependent, crime has become a transnational problem requiring increasing international cooperation. We have been ready to assist South Africa in coping with its crime problem and in July 1996, Vice President Gore and Deputy President Mbeki signed a declaration on Mutual Anti-Crime Cooperation outlining ways our countries can work together to reduce organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and international terrorism.

* Steps we have already taken in cooperation with South Africa include opening offices of our Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Customs Service to maintain liaison with South African law enforcement authorities.

* We are working with South African ministries to provide assistance in the areas of investigative training for police and improving coordination between police and prosecutors. In addition, through a USAID program we are helping to increase access by the people to the justice system, for example, through training of lawyers.

What are U.S. views on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

* We believe the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, under the very able leadership of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (whom we hold in the highest regard) has played an important and very constructive role in South Africa's transition and is making a real contribution to national reconciliation.

* I don't want to comment on an internal matter for the South African people, but I will note that as a measure of our support, we have provided funds

through our
USAID program to assist the Commission's operations.

Do you have any comment on South Africa's friendly relations with
Libya and Cuba?

* South Africa is a friend and ally of the United States and we agree
on many
issues, but in the area concerning rouge states we simply disagree.

* It is the policy of this government to urge all countries to press
Libya to
cease their support of international terrorism, stop their abuse of
human rights
and halt their pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

* We will continue to insist that Libya comply in full with all UN
Security
Council Resolutions, including surrendering the Pan Am 103 bombing
suspects for
trial in the United States or U.K.

* The promotion of a peaceful democratic transition and respect for
human rights
in Cuba is the goal of our policy. The time is long overdue for the
Cuban
government to join its neighbors in the western hemisphere in
establishing
democratic government, freely elected by the Cuban people, and
based on the rule
of law and respect for fundamental freedoms.

* We will continue to urge all countries to use their influence to press
the
Cuban government for a peaceful democratic transition and to respect
the human
rights of the Cuban people.

* While we disagree with South Africa on these issues, the President
will make
clear to President Mandela our strong views on the approach with
regards to Cuba
and Libya.

Are the United States and South Africa cooperating on the ACRI?

* The United States remains committed to enhancing the
peacekeeping and
humanitarian relief capacities of African states.

* We are working closely with African nations, the UN, the OAU, the United Kingdom, France and other partners to help develop this capacity.

* South Africa and the United States have discussed the ACRI initiative on many occasions, and we stand ready to continue consultations.

* We are pleased that our cooperation on defense matters is deepening over time -- as evidenced by the establishment of the Binational Commission Defense Committee -- and we look forward to productive consultations with South Africa on the ACRI and other defense and security matters of mutual interest.

What does the lifting of debarment mean for U.S./South African defense trade?

Background:

[With the lifting of debarment, several U.S. defense firms have expressed interest in sales to South Africa. None has yet submitted requests for licenses to market their products in South Africa. The Swedish government has asked us how the lifting of debarment will affect the previously denied request from a Swedish/British consortium to market SAAB's Gripen fighter (which contains U.S. components, including the engine) in South Africa. We anticipate the Department of State will receive a renewed marketing license request for the Gripen shortly.]

* On February 27, Vice President Gore and Deputy President Mbeki announced suspension of debarment of Armscor, Denel (and its divisions, including Kentron) and Fuchs Electronics.

* The decision to lift debarment will pave the way for enhanced bilateral defense trade relations and cooperation and will strengthen our overall national security relationship. We are pleased that our mutual efforts to bring this matter to closure have succeeded, and I extend our thanks to the South African

side for its
commitment and perseverance.

Does this give a green light for South Africa to buy U.S.-origin
defense articles
such as aircraft?

* The lifting of debarment means that defense trade requests involving
these and
other South African defense entities will be reviewed by the U.S.
Government
under the same standards and controls that are applied universally.
These
standards include consistency with U.S. foreign policy and national
security
interests and furtherance of world peace.

* These South African firms will now be on the same footing as all
other firms
for license applications. The suspension of debarment removes the
presumption
that license applications for trade with these firms would be denied.

How will the United States control U.S. technology once sold to the
South
Africans?

* An essential condition for the suspension of debarment was the
establishment by
South Africa of programs to monitor and control the use of U.S.-
origin products
and technology. We are satisfied that South Africa has established the
required
programs ("compliance programs"), and we will continue to work
closely with South
Africa to ensure that the programs operate effectively.

Pharmaceuticals/Intellectual Property Rights

Do you have any comment on South Africa's "Medicine's Law,"
which the United
States believes infringes on the patent rights of the U.S.
pharmaceuticals
industry?

* First, we support the South African government's intent to provide
safe and
affordable health care to all.

* At the same time, we are very concerned about the implications of the law for the patent rights of U.S. pharmaceutical firms.

* I continue to discuss our concerns with representatives of the South African government. We hope to be able to develop an approach that will allow South Africa to have more affordable health care without sacrificing internationally accepted intellectual property rights.

Will the United States take South Africa to the WTO?

* I do not want to speculate on a hypothetical. I would like to emphasize, however, our desire to work amicably with South Africa on this matter. At the same time, we will ensure the protection of the rights and interests of U.S. pharmaceutical firms.

Is this trip soft? Why are we not tackling the hard problems like Nigeria, DROC, Sudan?

* Absolutely not. Ask me after visiting six countries in ten days if the trip was soft.

* The trip is designed to promote democracy and human rights, expand our trade and investment partnerships and help our allies and partners in Africa invest in the future by promoting education, economic opportunity and access to technology.

* The President will also stop in Kigali to underscore our sympathy for the victims of genocide and our belief that this must never happen again by ensuring that Rwanda's transition is successful and that mechanisms for conflict prevention are strengthened and supported fully.

* The President will review with his counterparts ways in which African governments and our own policies can encourage real transition to civilian, democratic rule in Nigeria so that it can fulfill its potential to be a

regional
leader.

* The Summit in Kampala hosted by Presidents Clinton and Museveni will look at issues of regional stability, conflict prevention and resolution and democracy and respect for human rights. We will be seeking to design with these African leaders strong polices that will encourage respect for the rule of law and democratic elections in DROC.

* At the Summit, the President will also meet with some of Sudan's neighbors and may look at ways to end Sudan's brutal civil war both through increased pressure on the Sudanese Government and through a reinvigorated peace process led by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Our abhorrence of Sudan's support of terrorism and its efforts to de-stabilize neighboring governments will also be discussed.

What is the status of your Nigeria Policy?

* We are concerned about the lack of democratic voices, continuing serious human rights problems, and the controlled nature of the transition now underway. Nigerians now have a chance to effect a transition to democracy as they prepare for legislative elections in April followed by Presidential elections in August. If these elections result in leaders selected in free and fair competition, much will have been accomplished.

* We will continue to call upon the government of Nigeria to fulfill its commitments to return Nigeria to civilian, democratic government.

* The Government of Nigeria working through regional fora has helped foster nascent democracy in Liberia and worked to restore a democratically elected president in Sierra Leone. We will continue to cooperate with them in support of these vital efforts.

What is the U.S.-French relationship as it relates to Africa? Is there cooperation, contention, between the French and the United States over the U.S. new Africa policy?

* Increasingly, we and the French share a common agenda throughout Africa which is to promote democratic government, respect for human rights and market economies open to foreign investment.

* We consult regularly on these issues and on how to support African governments in building responsible and representative governments as well as military institutions that respect civil rule and protect peace and stability.

* We are especially pleased with the mutual cooperation we are undertaking with France, Britain and African governments under the African Crisis Response Initiative which provides military training for African forces so that they can participate in assuring regional security and peacekeeping.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Why is Kabila coming to Entebbe Summit and aren't you worried about his recent undemocratic behavior?

* The new government has been in power approximately ten months. Its record to date has been mixed, and we have ongoing concerns about specific issues that we take up with the government on a regular basis.

* U.S. policy is to engage the Government and people of the Congo to promote democratic and economic reforms and respect for human rights. It is the President's strategy to avoid a failed post-Mobutu transition that leads to renewed conflict, refugee flows and other humanitarian disasters that could destabilize the region and require a costly international response. In order to address this, the President thought it was important to have Kabila at the

Entebbe Summit.

* While President Kabila has set a calendar for democratic reform leading to elections and has formed a relatively broad-based cabinet, his government has banned political party activity and harassed some opposition figures and journalists. Security forces continue to commit abuses, including extra-judicial killing and arbitrary arrest and detention. We are particularly concerned by the detention and internal exile of prominent opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, which we have publicly condemned.

* The President intends to raise these issues personally with President Kabila and make clear our determination to see a successful completion of the UN human rights investigation into reported massacres during the 1996-1997 rebellion which ultimately toppled Mobutu.

What is your reaction to President Kabila's decision not to meet with your Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa, Jesse Jackson?

* We were obviously disappointed that President Kabila and Foreign Minister Karaha declined to meet with Rev. Jackson. But, the purpose of Rev. Jackson's visit was to emphasize that government, other political groups and the civil society all have important and constructive roles to play in the Congo's recovery.

* Rev. Jackson met with a cross-section of political leaders and civil society groups and succeeded in conveying that message.

What is the status of the U.N. Human Rights team?

* We are pleased that the team's field deployment has resumed. This appears due to improved cooperation on the Congolese side and a more pragmatic approach on the part of the team.

* The Government of the DROC has agreed to the U.N.'s request to extend the deadline for completion of the investigation to May 31, as requested by Secretary General Annan.

* We continue to monitor progress of the team closely. We are concerned over recent reports that security forces briefly detained two local citizens who had spoken with the team.

* We remain strongly committed to seeing full cooperation by the Congolese government with this investigation.

In light of recent developments, does the United States still plan to provide direct assistance to the Government of the DROC?

* In December, Secretary Albright announced our intention to work with Congress to provide \$35-40 million in bilateral aid and to contribute \$10 million to the World Bank Trust Fund for the Congo. That remains our intention.

* Any bilateral assistance would be channeled principally through NGOs, although we would also plan to provide modest and carefully targeted aid directly to the central government for technical assistance to key ministries (Justice, Health, Finance), to promote democratic reform and the rule of law and to improve public health.

* We will not provide direct budget support or aid to the security forces. This is carefully targeted assistance in areas intended to help the people of the Congo advance their political and economic transition.

* (If Raised) We are well aware of Congressional restrictions on providing certain types of assistance to the Congo. We intend to discuss thoroughly with Congress all available options for proceeding with an assistance program, including possible legislation or exercise of waiver authorities.

What is the United States doing to freeze Mobutu's assets?

* We do not believe that Mobutu's family or close associates hold any significant assets in the United States.

* We're studying our options but have not taken any decision.

LIBERIA

Does the United States support the Government of Charles Taylor in Liberia? Why or why not?

* Charles Taylor was elected as the President of Liberia in August 1997 following nearly 7 years of civil war. The elections were deemed free and transparent by international observers. We said at the time of his inauguration, and as recently as Rev. Jackson's visit in February and the visit of our Special Envoy for Liberia in early March, that we will support the Liberia and its people in their efforts to rebuild their nation and institutions.

* Special Envoy Howard Jeter recently led an interagency team to Liberia to explore with the government, civil society leaders, the U.N. Special Representative and ECOWAS how we can best be of assistance in helping Liberia rebuild.

BURUNDI

Why is Burundi not being invited to the Kampala regional summit?

* The GOB was not invited because the regime which took power in 1996 overthrew a democratically elected president and government and is subject to regional sanctions.

* U.S. diplomats will continue to engage GOB officials at all levels in an effort to promote a negotiated political settlement to the civil war.

What is the United States doing to help stem the violence in Burundi?

* The level of violence remains troubling. With negotiations stalled, frustrated rebel groups may intensify their military efforts. It is imperative that an inclusive negotiating framework be re-established as soon as possible.

* U.S. diplomats, including Special Envoy Howard Wolpe, are working closely with the regional states, the Burundian Government, and the international community to reinvigorate the regional peace process.

* We continue to stress the futility of a military solution to the conflict, emphasizing that only a negotiated political settlement will further lasting peace in Burundi.

Why did the regional states impose a blockade on Burundi?

* The regional states imposed an embargo on Burundi in lieu of a regional military response to the July 1996 coup. The region modified the sanctions in April 1997 to allow for the flow of humanitarian goods.

* The regional states have refused to lift the sanctions, arguing that the sanctions are a necessary diplomatic tool to pressure the military government to negotiate a return to democracy.

* The United States supports the regional embargo as a means to force the military regime to negotiate a political settlement.

What is the state of U.S. bilateral relations with Burundi?

* The 1996 coup, which overthrew the democratically elected President, negatively impacted U.S.-Burundian relations. While we do not recognize the current regime as legitimate, we continue to work with the GOB at all levels in an effort to further a negotiated political settlement that culminates in a restoration of democracy.

* Our policy priorities in Burundi are humanitarian in focus. U.S. diplomacy concentrates on preventing a return to large-scale ethnic killings, ending the cycle of violence and impunity, and promoting a return to democratic government.

KENYA

Why has President Moi been invited to the Kampala Regional Summit?

* Kenya is a traditional partner in East Africa and we cooperate closely on regional issues. The size of its economy and its transportation links make it a linchpin of the region. The Governments of Uganda and the United States considered Kenya's importance in extending the invitation.

* We consult with President Moi on a range of regional issues. He is the chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored peace talks on Sudan. Kenya has also played a constructive role in the past on talks aimed at resolving conflicts in Somalia and the Great Lakes.

* President Clinton looks forward to the opportunity to hear President Moi's ideas on important regional issues and to express our own concerns about questions of economic reform, good governance and the promotion of democracy in the Kenya and in the region.

What is the state of our bilateral relationship with Kenya?

* Kenya and the United States enjoy close and cooperative relations. We have a long-standing partnership for development before independence. We have worked together closely in response to regional humanitarian crises and security threats.

* We take an abiding interest in Kenya's progress towards more effective democracy. Our government has played an active role in encouraging the

development of Kenya's civil society. We are encouraged by the commitment of the Kenyan people to democracy, evident in the increased turnout on election day. An impressive 68 percent of registered voters cast a ballot. Our goal is to help Kenya establish a democratic system that will honor this emerging democratic culture.

What are the prospects for peaceful democratic reform in Kenya?

* Kenya faces substantial challenges in its evolution to a free and fair democracy, but there are also grounds for hope.

* Among the challenges are the country's fiscal and economic difficulties. They have created a difficult environment for many Kenyans. Ethnic tensions, often manipulated by political or community leaders, complicate efforts by those pursuing inclusive dialogue on political reform.

* The challenges can be overcome if the government asserts a constructive leadership role. President Moi, his Ministers and the ruling-party should welcome the apparent interest of so many Kenyans in questions of democracy and economic policy. The growth of Kenya's robust civil society, its relatively open public dialogue about reform and its millions of experienced voters give us grounds for hope.

Why is President Clinton not visiting Kenya?

* President Clinton gave full consideration to a stop in Kenya during his visit. Unfortunately, he was able to schedule only a handful of countries during this visit and was not able to add Kenya.

* Kenya is an important U.S. partner in Africa and a key to growth and stability in East Africa. For this reason, once it became certain that he would not be able to go to Kenya on this trip, the President was interested in holding direct talks with President Moi in Uganda. We are pleased he will have that

opportunity.

Does the United States hold the Kenyan Government responsible for recent ethnic violence in Kenya, as Special Envoy Jackson stated? If so, why is President Clinton meeting with President Moi?

* Special Envoy Jesse Jackson made clear our belief that the Government of Kenya has a unique and natural responsibility to see to the protection of all of its citizens, regardless of their ethnic identity or political persuasion. He conveyed that view directly to the Government, and we are pleased that the violence has abated.

* Rev. Jackson did not assign blame, to the government or any other political group, for starting or sustaining the conflict. We encourage more effective action to bring the perpetrators to justice, but we discourage a singular focus on pointing fingers. Kenyans need to find ways to overcome the divisions that have fed the sort of tragic violence we witnessed in January and February.

* President Clinton's decision to meet with President Moi in Uganda does not imply agreement with the Government of Kenya on all matters. One of the most important purposes of such meetings can be to explore areas of disagreement and to ensure that our concerns, whether they be about democracy, ethnic reconciliation or economic reform, are clearly conveyed.

RWANDA

Why is President Clinton visiting Rwanda?

* The President is going to Rwanda to affirm genocide is unacceptable wherever it occurs. He is going to Rwanda to remind the world of the unspeakable horror which visited Rwanda and which continues to haunt the Great Lakes region of Africa. The President will also acknowledge that the international community shares with Africans, some responsibility for failing to respond

adequately to
the 1994 genocide.

* President Clinton applauds the efforts of the Rwandese people to live together and to rebuild a united nation. Americans stand with Rwanda as it seeks to build national institutions accountable to all its citizens. The President's discussion will focus on ways to avert future tragedies and promote human rights, justice, economic development, democratization and regional stability.

How do you assess the fighting in Rwanda today? Is the situation deteriorating?

* Fighting in Rwanda intensified with the return of the former Rwandan army known as the ex-FAR and the genocidal militias known as the Interahamwe from eastern Zaire late 1996 and early 1997. These were the soldiers who originally launched the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 which claimed up to one million lives. Acts of genocide by these forces continue against civilian targets.

* Most of the fighting is localized in the northwest area of the country.

Although GOR troops continue to win every head-to-head battle with the insurgents, the rebels persist in their genocidal attacks.

* The insurgents have no visible command and control structure and no articulated political platform. We cannot predict how long the insurgency will last.

* We deplore the violence in the northwest and are especially concerned by the number of civilians who have died as a result. We urge both rebel and government forces to respect the lives of non-combatants.

Why is the United States not more vocal in condemning human rights abuses by the Government during counterinsurgency operations in the northwest?

* We have been vocal and we will continue to stand firm on the necessity of protecting civilians, in all cases, including during counterinsurgency

operations. We have repeatedly communicated this view to the Rwandan government publicly and privately, most recently by Secretary Albright. When President Clinton meets with President Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame he too will emphasize the importance which the U.S. attaches to this issue.

* Recently there has been a decline in the number of abuses attributable to the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA). The GOR has also shown an increasing willingness to court-martial those soldiers accused of human rights abuses. These are positive developments which we will continue to monitor closely.

What is the U.S. view regarding accusations that Rwanda committed massacres in Zaire in 1996-97?

* We view these accusations seriously. We have consistently called for an investigation into reports of refugee massacres in Zaire and due process and accountability for those found responsible for atrocities.

* We support the efforts of the U.N. Human Rights Investigation in Congo. The U.N. team is currently in the interior carrying out its mission.

* The Government of Rwanda has informed us that they also view accusations of Rwandan involvement in massacres seriously and will hold accountable any Rwandan soldiers involved in any atrocities.

What does the United States think of the re-education camps run by the Rwandan government?

* Following the massive return of refugees in late 1996, the GOR determined there was a need for a program to counter the message of hate/genocide with which many refugees were bombarded in the camps of Eastern Zaire. It instituted "Reeducation camps" which are month-long programs for adults comprised mostly of lectures/discussions which focus on the importance of forging a national identity.

* We believe that reeducation seminars are a potentially useful method to facilitate ethnic unity and counteract extremist propaganda. However, we do not agree that participation should be a prerequisite for employment; rather, we believe that the programs should be more widely and frequently available.

* Most reeducation camps were closed at the end of 1997. However the GOR does plan to continue the program in some form. Participation in a reeducation program is a condition for civil service employment. This program has had no effect on the majority of the returned refugees since over 80% of that population are small agricultural farmers.

Can you comment on U.S. military assistance to Rwanda? Why has the United States trained an army accused of severe human rights abuses in both eastern Zaire and northwestern Rwanda?

* One of the primary goals of our military training in Rwanda is to help prevent human rights abuses. Following the genocide of 1994 in which up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed, the United States committed itself to help rebuild Rwandan society. Part of this rebuilding effort is assistance to the Rwandan military. Our assistance focuses on professionalizing the RPA and training its officers to work in a multi-ethnic, pluralistic environment. We have provided training in humanitarian demining, rule of law, human rights and public information, and in support for refugee repatriation.

* We provided a half day of marksmanship training to 30 students in 1996 as part of our standard package of professional soldier training for the military. Through this assistance program, we aim to promote the protection of human rights and to help Rwanda to develop a disciplined, professional, apolitical military.

* We have protested military excess and indiscriminate use of force to the highest levels of Rwanda government. In recent months, there has been a decline in the number of abuses attributable to the RPA. This is a positive development, which of course bears close monitoring.

* We note that a military prosecutor who has been instrumental in court-martialing Rwandan soldiers accused of human rights abuses was trained under the U.S. military assistance program.

Over 100,000 persons are in prison in Rwanda in absolutely horrid conditions.

Many of the prisoners have not even been advised of the charges against them.

What is the United States doing about this issue?

* This is a very complex, tough issue. Clearly the victims of genocide deserve justice. The guilty must be held accountable for their actions. The culture of impunity has been a big contributor to the cycles of violence which have plagued the Great Lakes region of Africa.

* Equally important is ensuring due process for the accused. It is clear that the GOR will not be able to process all of the current cases through normal judicial means. It will remain politically difficult, however, for the GOR to consider "alternative mechanisms" until the masterminds of the genocide are convicted.

* We are encouraged by the progress which the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has made within the past year. Both indictments and surrenders to the Tribunal are up. We are hopeful that the tribunal will soon complete its first trials.

* Our new Great Lakes Justice Initiative (GLJI) will help further develop Rwanda's domestic justice system. Through GLJI, we hope to help develop judicial

systems which are impartial, credible and effective throughout the region.

It is now public knowledge that Rwandan troops played a key role in the overthrow of the Mobutu government. Are Rwandan troops still in Congo? What is our policy on this issue?

* Ex-FAR and Interahamwe soldiers used the refugee camps in former eastern Zaire to launch cross-border attacks on Rwanda. This posed a national security threat for Rwanda which eventually led to their participation in the overthrow of the Mobutu government. Nevertheless, throughout the crisis in Zaire, the United States worked energetically to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict and condemned all cross-border military activity.

* Most Rwandan troops have now been withdrawn from Congo. It is up to sovereign governments to determine the nature of their military alliances and cooperation. We do believe, however, that the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of Congo could have a stabilizing influence on the region.

Rwandan Vice President Kagame is one member of a new generation of African activist leaders. How much activism does the United States endorse, at least tacitly, by allowing governments such as Rwanda to shape events outside their own countries?

* Regional alliances based on economic and political concerns are a logical outcome of increased regional and global interdependence. Regional economic cooperation could help increase Africa's participation in the global economy with one possible benefit being a reduced need for aid from the west. We will continue to encourage regional cooperation in Africa provided it falls within the bounds of internationally accepted norms and laws.

What can you tell us about genocide suspect Elizaphan Ntakirutimana who is currently imprisoned in Texas? Why haven't we surrendered him to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda?

* Mr. Ntakirutimana has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. He was arrested and jailed in Texas in 1996 with a view to his surrender to the Tribunal. In December 1997, a U.S. magistrate ordered his release finding the relevant U.S. statute unconstitutional and that there was a lack of probable cause. Subsequently, the ICTR submitted additional information to the court and Mr. Ntakirutimana was re-arrested last month.

* We strongly believe that there is a proper legal and factual basis for surrender of the indictee to the Tribunal and that it is up to the Tribunal to determine this individual's guilt or innocence.

* We cannot speculate as to when the indictee might be surrendered but hope that it will be soon.

UGANDA

What is the USG's view of Museveni's human rights record?

* Uganda has made substantial progress on human rights since President Museveni came to power. Rule of law has been restored in most of the country. There continue to be a handful of extrajudicial killings by security forces every year, about which we expressed concerns to the government, but they are a fraction of what accompanied the regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote.

* Uganda elected a Constituent Assembly, adopted a Constitution and held national elections in 1996. Although those elections were flawed by restrictions on political party activity, they marked a step forward for democracy in Uganda. The Parliament, though dominated by "Movement" supporters of

President Museveni, is demonstrating an assertiveness in challenging policies and the conduct of government officials.

* We have many areas of concern. Pre-trial detention in Uganda is excessive, and prison conditions are harsh. Security forces do beat and on occasion kill criminal suspects. The GOU has from time to time detained a critical journalist on suspect charges. And we believe that Uganda's current "no-party" system is not in the long-term interest of the country. There will be a referendum on multi-partyism in 2000. Although this will be a positive development, we still believe that the government should regardless move toward a more pluralist political system in which freedom of assembly is complete.

* Trends are important in assessing Museveni's human rights performance. Not only has he brought substantial progress to Uganda over the regimes that preceded him, he continues to proactively seek ways to ameliorate ethnic and religious divisions in the country. The Government takes steps to punish abuses against citizens by security forces, and there is a sense that it is actively working to address shortcomings in its justice and prison systems. While the greater pluralism is necessary in politics, his efforts to include traditionally marginalized groups such as women are important.

What does the United States think of the Ugandan Government's penchant for crossing borders for military purposes as it has in the former Zaire and Sudan?

* The United States Government has expressed concerns to the Government of Uganda in the past about reports of cross-border activities. We did so in early 1997 in response to reports about possible Ugandan involvement in the then Zaire.

* We recognize that Uganda has had legitimate security concerns about the

inability or unwillingness of neighboring states to prevent incursions by armed bands from their territories into Uganda. In the case of the former Zaire, certainly, the government of President Mobutu failed to restrain attacks from Zaire's territory against Uganda and its neighbors. In the case of Sudan, the government is in complicity with a brutal insurgency, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is attacking Uganda.

* Uganda has repeatedly expressed its support for regional efforts to prevent conflict within and between states of the region. We intend to continue working with Uganda on these efforts.

Why is the United States such a strong proponent of multi-partyism in some countries like Kenya but has cozied up to Museveni, who has banned political parties from contesting elections?

* The United States has encouraged the expansion of political pluralism throughout Africa. We have advocated political inclusion both privately and publicly in Uganda, and both the Secretary of State and the First Lady did so in 1997.

* We believe that we must approach the goal of expanding political pluralism with a clear knowledge of local realities. We promote core beliefs, like political pluralism, in our approach to both Kenya and Uganda, but we also work within the historical, social and political context of both countries.

* In the case of Uganda, we believe that we can give credit for some unique and positive political developments while emphasizing the need for improvement in other areas.

* We welcome Uganda's efforts to bring women and other traditionally marginalized groups into government, and we look with enthusiasm at its plan to devolve power

to local elected bodies. On the question of multi-partyism, we have every expectation that the Government of Uganda will search for a means of giving greater space to organized political competition and that it can do so without increasing the danger of ethnic identification or sectarian violence.

What is the United States doing about corruption in Uganda?

* The United States has joined other donors in expressing concern that there is a need for greater transparency in the government's regulatory and economic role. The misappropriation of military resources has also been cited as a concern, both by President Museveni himself and by international donors.

* The World Bank has included improved economic governance in its country strategy for Uganda, an emphasis that we support. Bank funding is supporting work by the respected NGO Transparency International, which is working with the business community in Uganda to target areas for Government reform.

* While corruption is a problem in Uganda, the Government has in several cases shown the will to combat it. The recent censure by the Parliament of a ranking Government Minister, the Minister of State for Education, may also demonstrate the emergence of checks and balances on this issue.

What is the U.S. reaction to opposition charges that Kenya's general elections have been manipulated and are seriously flawed by irregularities?

* There was a great deal of confusion in Kenya today about the election process. Some polling stations opened for an additional day of voting. Others in places where the process yesterday was also incomplete did not. There also was uncertainty about when vote counting would begin and end in specific locations. We regret the poor organization that has marked the polls so far.

* Despite the bureaucratic flaws in the process, we are encouraged by

the level
of peaceful, popular participation in the election and the conduct of
party
agents, election observers and presiding officers at many polling
places. The
Kenyan people through their actions have demonstrated a
commitment to democracy.
Now we urge all parties to resolve the flaws and uncertainties
regarding this
election process in a non-violent and transparent manner.

* (If Asked) There have been some reports that the organizational
flaws in the
election were more damaging to opposition candidates and may have
been
international.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Elephants/Ivory Trade

Does the United States support Botswana's policies on elephants and
the
resumption of trade in elephant ivory?

* The United States accepts the decision last year of the Convention
on
International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Convention
of Parties
approved a proposal that would enable Botswana, Namibia and
Zimbabwe eventually
to resume limited trade in elephant products, including ivory.

* We have pledged to work with the governments of Botswana and
other countries to
ensure that the CITES criteria and controls for trade in ivory are
properly
implemented.

* Botswana's thriving elephant population is testimony to the
government's
commitment to protect the species.

Does the United States support the killing of elephants for profit?

* No, the United States does not support killing elephants for profit.

We understand that Randall Robinson and TransAfrica are opposed to
the African

Growth and Opportunity Act? Why? What is the Administration's position?

* The Administration strongly supports rapid passage of the bill. We have been working with bi-partisan backers of the bill to try and ensure the broadest possible support.

* Randall Robinson has expressed concerns about the bill.

* I will say, however, that certain of his assertions are incorrect:

* The bill does not adversely affect existing GSP eligibility for those countries that do not qualify for the enhanced GSP benefits offered by the bill. The bill offers new GSP benefits and does not restrict current benefits in any way.

* The bill will not lead to termination of existing U.S. assistance programs in those countries that are not found eligible for the enhanced benefits of the bill. The bill, in fact, encourages nation-building assistance in such areas as health, education and governance.

* I understand that the dean of the African diplomatic corps here in Washington has written to Mr. Robinson noting that "the African nations overwhelmingly support H.R. 1432" and that they "believe that this legislation will reinforce the efforts of the Clinton Administration announced last summer to begin a new partnership with Africa for growth and opportunity."

* The bill also has broad support in the larger community. Those who have added their voices of support include Andrew Young, David Dinkens, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, Dorothy Height and the National Council of Negro Women, a number of church organizations and others.

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/19/98 7:23:15 PM
FROM Millison, Cathy L.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Delegation Lists [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Crowley, Philip J.
Dehqanzada, Yahya A.
Luzzatto, Anne R.
Rubin, Eric S.
Wozniak, Natalie S.

CARBON_COPY Benjamin, Daniel
Blinken, Antony J.
Gobush, Matthew N.
Gray, Wendy E.
Halperin, David E.
LaFleur, Vinca S.
Leavy, David C.
Widmer, Edward L.
Bartlett, L. June
Cosgriff, Kevin J.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dejban, Donna D.
Elkon, Nicole L.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hurwitz, Marc I.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kerrick, Donald L.
Millison, Cathy L.
Poole, Jennifer C.
Rice, Edward A.

TEXT_BODY Attached is updated delegation list. I understand that these will be released but should not list specific countries to be visited. Have not had time to go in and take off the countries. Can you please do that. Nicole will be calling your office with specifics.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Delegation Master.doc

OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO AFRICA

The President

The First Lady

Ambassador Edward Brynn, U.S. Ambassador to Ghana

Ambassador Nancy Powell, U.S. Ambassador to Uganda

Ambassador Robert Gribbin, III, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda

Ambassador James A. Joseph, U.S. Ambassador to South Africa

Ambassador Robert Krueger, U.S. Ambassador to Botswana

Ambassador Dane Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal

William Daley, Secretary of Commerce (Ghana, Uganda and South Africa Only)

Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor (Ghana, Uganda and South Africa Only)

Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation

Sylvia Mathews, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff to the President

Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Bruce Lindsey, Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel

Michael McCurry, Assistant to the President and White House Press Secretary

Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel

Doug Sosnik, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the President

Melanne Verveer, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Brian Atwood, Administrator, Agency for International Development

Reverend Jesse Jackson, Special Envoy for the President and the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa

Howard Wolpe, President's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (Uganda Only)

Mary Mel French, Chief of Protocol

Susan Rice, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) (Rwanda and Uganda Only)

Rosa Whitaker, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa (South Africa Only)

Beverly Barnes, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary

Marsha Berry, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Communications to the First Lady

Robert (Ben) Johnson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison (South Africa Only)

Alphonso Maldon, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy

Counsel to the President

Minyon Moore, Deputy Assistant to the President for Political Affairs

General James Jamerson, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Armed Forces, European Command (EUCOM)

Glyn Davies, Executive Secretary, NSC

Daniel Benjamin, Special Assistant to the President and Director for NSC Strategic Planning

Antony Blinken, Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for Strategic Planning

Anne Luzzatto, Special Assistant to the President, Deputy Press Secretary and Senior Director for Public Affairs

Joe Wilson Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for African Affairs

Kelly Craighead, Special Assistant to the President and Director of Advance for the First Lady

Kris Engskov, Special Assistant to the Staff Secretary and Presidential Aide

Kirk Hanlin, Special Assistant to the President and Trip Director

Janis Kearney, Special Assistant to the President and Records Manager

Laura Schiller, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Speechwriter to the First Lady

Tracey Thornton, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs (South Africa Only)

Chris Wayne, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Advance

Daniel M. Zelikow, Deputy Assistant Secretary of of Treasury, Asia, The Americas and Africa

Erica Barks-Ruggles, Director, NSC African Affairs

Nicole Elkon, Director for Planning

David Leavy, Director for NSC Strategic Planning

John Prendergast, Director for NSC African Affairs (Uganda Only)

Eric Rubin, Assistant Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Director, NSC

Public Affairs

Robin Sanders, Director for NSC African Affairs (Ghana, Uganda & Senegal Only)

Ted Widmer, Director for NSC Strategic Planning

Katherine Hubbard, Director of Special Projects, Cabinet Affairs (South Africa Only)

Karen Finney, Deputy Director for Presidential Scheduling

Ed Prewitt, Deputy Director of Presidential Scheduling

Eric Biel, Acting Assistant to the Secretary and Director Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, Department of Commerce

Peggy Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Labor

Jerry Malone, Chief of Staff, Department of Transportation

Carol Peasley, Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa, AID

Michael Teague, Press Assistant
Dana Pittard, Military Aide
Rob Malley, Executive Assistant to the Assistant to
the President for National Security Affairs
Betty Currie, Personal Secretary to the President

CONGRESSIONAL AND CITIZENS DELEGATION

Members of Congress

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) (Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda and South
Africa Only)
Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA)
Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA)

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)
Rep. Amory Houghton (R-NY)
Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-OR)
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD)
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN)

Private Citizens

Paul A. Allaire, Chairman & CEO, Xerox Corporation
The Honorable Dennis W. Archer, Mayor, City of Detroit
Alma Brown, Senior Vice President, Chevy Chase Bank Corporation
Reverend Dr. Joan Brown - Campbell, General Secretary, National
Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
Ron Burkle, Managing Partner, Yucaipa Companies
Dr. Emma C. Chappell, Founder, Chairman & CEO, United Bank of
Philadelphia
Melvin Clark, Jr., President and CEO, Metroplex Corporation
Ronald Dellums, former Congressman, President, Healthcare
International Management Company
Dr. Ramona H. Edelin, President & CEO, National Urban Coalition
Ernest Green, Chairman, African Development Foundation
Gail Ishfin, Director, Discovery Channel Foundation
Bishop Fred Calhoun James, former Bishop, 2nd Episcopal
District, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Robert Johnson, President, Black Entertainment Television
Kase Lawall, Chairman, President and CEO, CAMAC Holdings, Inc.

C. Payne Lucas, President, Africare
Kweisi Mfume, President & CEO, NAACP
Ernest S. Micek, Chairman & CEO, Cargill, Inc.
Ilyasah Shabazz, Director of Public Affairs & Special Events,
Office of the Honorable Mayor Ernest Davis
Lottie Shackelford, Executive Vice President, Global USA, Inc.
John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO
Maurice Tempelsman, Senior Partner, Leon Tempelsman & Son
Carl Ware, Senior Vice President and President, Africa Group,
Coca Cola
The Honorable Wellington Webb, Mayor, City and County of Denver,
Colorado
Carol Willis, Director, Community Services, DNC

2

5

As of 03/20/98 11:42 AM

Delegation Master.doc

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/19/98 8:02:46 PM
FROM Malley, Robert
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT AFRICA qs and As [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Bartlett, L. June
Cosgriff, Kevin J.
Davies, Glyn T.
Dejban, Donna D.
Elkon, Nicole L.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hurwitz, Marc I.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kerrick, Donald L.
Millison, Cathy L.
Poole, Jennifer C.
Rice, Edward A.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Jennifer: These are my edited qs and as on first 16 pages. Please send to me when you have incorporated Glyn's changes.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

AFRICA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS_.doc
AFRICA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SOUTH AFRICA

Why is President Clinton visiting South Africa?

* South Africa and United States have close relations based on shared values and shared vision of a peaceful and prospering African continent and international community.

* Since election of Mandela in 1994, government, business and personal links with U.S. have expanded rapidly. U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission helped revitalize relationship.

What will the President's visit to South Africa accomplish?

- * Will underscore friendship between two countries and our determination to deepen relationship; review relations and exchange views on issues of concern.
- * Will highlight rapidly growing U.S. investment in South Africa and the southern African region.
- * Will allow President to witness South Africa's transition to democracy.

Does the South African government oppose the African trade bill? If so, why?

- * South Africa has expressed concern about the linkage between economic policies of African nations and eligibility for economic benefits.
- * South Africa also has expressed support for Bill. Many other African nations have expressed appreciation for this clear signal of support from the United States.
- * Bill provides benefits for all of Africa and provides additional benefits for African countries undertaking political and economic reform.
- * Philosophy of Bill is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that help themselves.

Sometimes, the United States and South Africa appear to have a "love-hate" relationship. What accounts for the occasional friction that arises?

- * No doubt relations are excellent. Both sides committed to improving ties even further.
- * Important to remember that we are in relatively early stages of building relations. Differences are inevitable, but we have proven ability to work through complex issues.

* U.S. committed to dialogue on basis of the complete equality of sovereign states.

* As with all friendships we will, at times, disagree, but have confidence we can work through these issues together.

What is the United States doing in response to President Mandela's criticism of USAID's South Africa programs?

* Proud to assist South Africa on education, health care, housing and urban development. Committed to working closely with the government.

* Concerns raised have given us opportunity to sit down with SAG to review programs.

* U.S. will make every effort to ensure that assistance supports government's objectives.

What is the United States doing to help South Africa combat its serious crime problem?

* Crime is transnational problem requiring international cooperation. We are ready to assist South Africa; in July 1996, Gore and Deputy President Mbeki signed declaration on Mutual Anti-Crime Cooperation outlining ways our countries can cooperate to reduce organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and international terrorism.

* Together with South Africa, we have opened offices of DEA, FBI, INS and U.S. Customs Service to maintain liaison with South African law enforcement authorities.

* Working with South African ministries to provide assistance in investigative training for police and improving coordination between police and prosecutors. Helping to increase access by the people to the justice system, for example,

through training of lawyers.

What are U.S. views on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

* Under leadership of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Commission has played important role in transition and toward reconciliation. Have provided funds to assist Commission.

* Don't want to comment on internal matters.

Do you have any comment on South Africa's friendly relations with Libya and Cuba?

* South Africa is a friend and ally; agree on many issues, but disagree on attitude toward rogue states.

* U.S. urges all countries to press Libya to cease support for international terrorism, human rights abuses and pursuit of WMD.

* Insist Libya comply with all UNSC Resolution, including surrendering PA 103 bombing suspects for trial by U.S. or U.K.

* Goal in Cuba is promotion of a peaceful transition and respect for human rights. Will continue to urge all countries to use influence to press Cuban government.

Are the United States and South Africa cooperating on the ACRI?

* U.S. committed to enhancing peacekeeping and humanitarian relief capacities of African states.

* Are working closely with African nations, the UN, the OAU, the UK, France and others.

* South Africa and U.S. have had and will continue discussions on ACRI.

* Pleased cooperation on defense matters is deepening -- as evidenced by the establishment of the Binational Commission Defense Committee.

What does the lifting of debarment mean for U.S./South African defense trade?

Background:

[With the lifting of debarment, several U.S. defense firms have expressed interest in sales to South Africa. None has yet submitted requests for licenses to market their products in South Africa. The Swedish government has asked us how the lifting of debarment will affect the previously denied request from a Swedish/British consortium to market SAAB's Gripen fighter (which contains U.S. components, including the engine) in South Africa. We anticipate a renewed marketing license request for the Gripen shortly.]

* On February 27, Vice President Gore and Deputy President Mbeki announced suspension of debarment of number of companies.

* Decision will pave way for enhanced defense trade relations and strengthen overall national security relationship.

Does this give a green light for South Africa to buy U.S.-origin defense articles such as aircraft?

* Lifting of debarment means defense trade requests will be reviewed by USG under standards applied universally - including consistency with U.S. foreign policy and national security interests and furtherance of world peace.

* These South African firms will be on same footing as all other firms for license applications. Suspension of debarment removes presumption that license applications for trade with these firms would be denied.

How will the United States control U.S. technology once sold to the South Africans?

* Condition for suspension of debarment was establishment by South Africa of programs to monitor and control use of U.S.-origin products and

technology. Are
satisfied that South Africa has established these programs and will
continue to
work with South Africa to ensure they operate effectively.

Pharmaceuticals/Intellectual Property Rights

Do you have any comment on South Africa's "Medicine's Law,"
which the United
States believes infringes on the patent rights of the U.S.
pharmaceuticals
industry?

* Support SAG's intent to provide safe and affordable health care to
all.

* At same time, are concerned about implications of the law for patent
rights of
U.S. pharmaceuticals firms.

* Continue to discuss concerns with SAG. Hope to develop approach
allowing South
Africa to have more affordable health care without sacrificing
intellectual
property rights.

Will the United States take South Africa to the WTO?

* Will not speculate. Goal is to work amicably with South Africa
while ensuring
protection of rights of U.S. firms.

Is this trip soft? Why are we not tackling the hard problems like
Nigeria, DROC,
Sudan?

* No. Ask me after visiting six countries in ten days.

* Trip focussed on core issues: (1) democracy and human rights, (2)
trade and
investment and (3) investment in future -- by promoting education,
economic
opportunity and access to technology.

* President will stop in Kigali, underscoring sympathy for victims of
genocide
and belief that this must never happen again.

* President will review with counterparts how we can encourage real

transition to
civilian, democratic rule in Nigeria.

* The Summit in Kampala will focus on regional stability, conflict prevention and resolution and democracy and respect for human rights. Goal also is to address most difficult situations: increasing pressure on Sudan to help end brutal civil war and reinvigorate peace process; end support for terrorism and efforts to de-stabilize neighbors; seek ways to encourage respect for rule of law and democratic elections in DROC and Kenya.
* Also will consult with regional leaders on best way to promote return to civilian, democratic rule in Nigeria.

What is the status of your Nigeria Policy?

* Concerned about lack of democratic process and human rights abuses. With legislative elections in April and Presidential elections in August, Nigerians have chance to move toward democracy.

* Will continue to call upon the government of Nigeria to fulfill its commitments to return Nigeria to civilian, democratic government.

* Nigeria has played constructive role in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Will continue to cooperate with them in these areas.

What is the U.S.-French relationship as it relates to Africa? Is there cooperation, contention, between the French and the United States over the U.S. new Africa policy?

* Increasingly share common agenda throughout Africa -- promote democracy, human rights and market economies open to foreign investment.

* Consult regularly and on how to help African governments build responsible and representative governments and military institutions that respect civil rule and protect peace and stability.

* Pleased with cooperation with France, Britain and African

governments under the
African Crisis Response Initiative.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

Why is Kabila coming to Entebbe Summit and aren't you worried
about his recent
undemocratic behavior?

* New government in power approximately ten months; mixed record:
has set a
calendar for democratic reform and formed relatively broad-based
cabinet, but
banned political activity and harassed opposition figures and
journalists.
Security forces continue to commit abuses.

* Particularly concerned by detention of Etienne Tshisekedi and by
restrictions
on UN investigation into reported massacres during the 1996-1997
rebellion that
toppled Mobutu.

* Policy is to engage Government and people of the Congo to promote
democratic
and economic reforms and respect for human rights. President's goal
is to avoid
failed post-Mobutu transition leading to renewed conflict, refugee
flows and
other humanitarian disasters.

* Kabila's presence at Summit will help achieve that goal. President
will raise
issues directly with him.

What is your reaction to President Kabila's decision not to meet with
your
Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa, Jesse
Jackson?

* Disappointed, but purpose of Jackson's visit was to emphasize roles
of
government, political groups and civil society in Congo's recovery.

* Jackson met with a cross-section of political leaders and civil
society groups
and conveyed message.

What is the status of the U.N. Human Rights team?

* Pleased that team's field deployment has resumed as result of improved cooperation on Congolese side and more pragmatic approach on team's side.

* DROC has agreed to extend deadline for completion of the investigation to May 31, as requested by UN Secretary General.

* Continue to follow progress of team. Concerned over reports that security forces briefly detained two local citizens who had spoken with team.

In light of recent developments, does the United States still plan to provide direct assistance to the Government of the DROC?

* In December, Secretary Albright announced intention to work with Congress to provide \$35-40 million in bilateral aid and to contribute \$10 million to the World Bank Trust Fund for the Congo. Remains our intention.

* Bilateral assistance would be channeled principally through NGOs, with modest and carefully targeted aid directly to the government for technical assistance to key ministries (Justice, Health, Finance), to help people -- promote democratic reform and rule of law and improve public health.

* Will not provide direct budget support or aid to security forces.

* (If Raised) Aware of Congressional restrictions on assistance to the Congo. Intend to discuss with Congress all options for proceeding with an assistance program, including possible legislation or exercise of waiver authorities.

What is the United States doing to freeze Mobutu's assets?

* Do not believe Mobutu's family or close associates hold significant assets in the United States.

* Studying options but have not taken any decision.

LIBERIA

Does the United States support the Government of Charles Taylor in Liberia? Why or why not?

* Charles Taylor elected President of Liberia in August 1997 following nearly 7 years of civil war. Elections deemed free and transparent by international observers. Will support Liberia and its people in efforts to rebuild their nation.

* Special Envoy Howard Jeter recently led interagency team to Liberia to explore with government, civil society leaders, the U.N. Special Representative and ECOWAS how we can best help Liberia rebuild.

BURUNDI

Why is Burundi not being invited to the Kampala regional summit?

* Because regime which took power in 1996 overthrew a democratically elected president and government and is subject to regional sanctions.

* U.S. diplomats will continue to engage GOB officials at all levels in effort to promote negotiated political settlement to civil war.

What is the United States doing to help stem the violence in Burundi?

* Level of violence remains troubling. With negotiations stalled, rebel groups may intensify military efforts.

* Imperative that inclusive negotiating framework be re-established as soon as possible.

* U.S. working closely with regional states, Burundian Government, and international community to reinvigorate regional peace process.

* Continue to stress futility of military solution to conflict. Only negotiated political settlement will further lasting peace in Burundi.

Why did the regional states impose a blockade on Burundi?

- * Regional states imposed embargo instead of regional military response to the July 1996 coup. The region modified the sanctions in April 1997 to allow the flow of humanitarian goods.

- * Regional states refused to lift sanctions, arguing they are necessary to pressure military government to negotiate a return to democracy.

- * We support regional embargo to force military regime to negotiate political settlement.

What is the state of U.S. bilateral relations with Burundi?

- * The 1996 coup negatively impacted relations. While we do not recognize the current regime as legitimate, we continue to work with GOB in effort to further negotiated political settlement and restoration of democracy.

- * Priorities are humanitarian -- preventing return to large-scale ethnic killings, ending cycle of violence and impunity, promoting return to democratic government.

KENYA

Why has President Moi been invited to the Kampala Regional Summit?

- * Kenya is traditional partner in East Africa and we cooperate closely on regional issues. Size of economy and transportation links make it regional linchpin.

- * Consult with President Moi on range of regional issues. He is chair of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored peace talks on Sudan. Kenya also played constructive role on talks aimed at resolving conflicts in Somalia and the Great Lakes.

- * President looks forward to opportunity to hear Moi's ideas on important regional issues and express concerns about economic reform, good

governance and
democracy.

What is the state of our bilateral relationship with Kenya?

* Kenya and U.S. enjoy close and longstanding relations. Have worked together in response to regional humanitarian crises and security threats.

* Take abiding interest in Kenya's progress towards more effective democracy and encouraging development of Kenya's civil society. Encouraged by commitment of the Kenyan people to democracy, evident in the increased turnout on election day.

What are the prospects for peaceful democratic reform in Kenya?

* Kenya faces substantial challenges, but also grounds for hope.

* Among challenges are fiscal and economic difficulties and ethnic tensions, often manipulated by political or community leaders.

* Challenges can be overcome if government takes a constructive leadership role.

Why is President Clinton not visiting Kenya?

* President Clinton gave full consideration to a stop in Kenya. Unfortunately, was able to schedule only a handful of countries during this visit and not able to add Kenya.

* Kenya is important U.S. partner and key to growth and stability in East Africa. President pleased he will have opportunity to meet with him in Uganda.

Does the United States hold the Kenyan Government responsible for recent ethnic violence in Kenya, as Special Envoy Jackson stated? If so, why is President Clinton meeting with President Moi?

* Government of Kenya has unique responsibility to protect all citizens. J. Jackson conveyed view directly to Government, and we are pleased that violence

has abated.

* Rev. Jackson did not assign blame, to government or any other political group.
Kenyans need to find ways to overcome divisions that have fed the tragic violence witnessed in January and February.

* Decision to meet in Uganda does not imply agreement on all matters.

RWANDA

Why is President Clinton visiting Rwanda?

* President going to Rwanda to affirm genocide is unacceptable wherever it occurs, remind world of unspeakable horror of genocide which continues to haunt the Great Lakes region of Africa. President also will acknowledge responsibility of international community for failing to respond adequately.

* President applauds efforts of Rwandese people to live together and rebuild united nation. Americans stand with Rwanda as it seeks to build national institutions accountable to all its citizens.

How do you assess the fighting in Rwanda today? Is the situation deteriorating?

* Fighting in Rwanda intensified with return of former Rwandan army (ex-FAR) and genocidal militias (Interahamwe) from eastern Zaire late 1996 and early 1997. These were soldiers who launched genocide in 1994 that claimed up to one million lives. Acts of genocide by these forces continue against civilian targets.

* Most of fighting is localized in the northwest area of country. Although GOR troops continue to win every head-to-head battle with insurgents, rebels persist in genocidal attacks.

* Insurgents have no visible command and control structure and no articulated political platform. Cannot predict how long the insurgency will last.

* Deplore violence in northwest and especially concerned by number of civilian deaths. Urge both rebel and government forces to respect lives of non-combatants.

Why is the United States not more vocal in condemning human rights abuses by the Government during counterinsurgency operations in the northwest?

* Have been vocal and will continue to stand firm on necessity of protecting civilians. Have communicated this view to Rwandan government publicly and privately, most recently by Secretary Albright.

* President Clinton will emphasize issue in meetings with President Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame.

* Recent decline in number of abuses attributable to Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA). GOR has shown increasing willingness to court-martial soldiers accused of human rights abuses.

What is the U.S. view regarding accusations that Rwanda committed massacres in Zaire in 1996-97?

* We take accusations seriously. Have consistently called for investigation into reports of refugee massacres in Zaire and accountability for those found responsible for atrocities.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 3/19/98 8:17:20 PM
FROM Davies, Glyn T.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Africa QnA: Includes Malley and Davies edits
[UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Barks-Ruggles, Erica
Battenfield, Pat A.
Hendricks, Lori A.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Prendergast, John P.
Sanders, Robin R.
Williams, Mary C.
Wilson, Joseph C.

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY Trimmed down version ... to you FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Poole,
Jennifer C.
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 1998 8:11 PM
To: @NSA -
Natl Security Advisor; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary
Subject: Africa
QnA: Includes Malley and Davies edits [UNCLASSIFIED]

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

AFRICA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.doc
AFRICA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SOUTH AFRICA

Why is President Clinton visiting South Africa?

* South Africa and United States have close relations based on shared values and shared vision of a peaceful and prospering African continent and international community.

* Since election of Mandela in 1994, government, business and personal links with U.S. have expanded rapidly. U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission helped revitalize relationship.

What will the President's visit to South Africa accomplish?

* Will underscore friendship between two countries and our determination to deepen relationship; review relations and exchange views on issues of concern.

* Will highlight rapidly growing U.S. investment in South Africa and the southern African region.

* Will allow President to witness South Africa's transition to democracy.

Does the South African government oppose the African trade bill? If so, why?

* South Africa has expressed concern about the linkage between economic policies of African nations and eligibility for economic benefits.

* South Africa also has expressed support for Bill. Many other African nations have expressed appreciation for this clear signal of support from the United States.

* Bill provides benefits for all of Africa and provides additional benefits for African countries undertaking political and economic reform.

* Philosophy of Bill is simple: America stands ready to help those African countries that help themselves.

Sometimes, the United States and South Africa appear to have a "love-hate" relationship. What accounts for the occasional friction that arises?

* No doubt relations are excellent. Both sides committed to improving ties even further.

* Important to remember that we are in relatively early stages of

building
relations. Differences are inevitable, but we have proven ability to
work
through complex issues.

* U.S. committed to dialogue on basis of the complete equality of
sovereign
states.

* As with all friendships we will, at times, disagree, but have
confidence we can
work through these issues together.

What is the United States doing in response to President Mandela's
criticism of
USAID's South Africa programs?

* Proud to assist South Africa on education, health care, housing and
urban
development. Committed to working closely with the government.

* Concerns raised have given us opportunity to sit down with SAG to
review
programs.

* U.S. will make every effort to ensure that assistance supports
government's
objectives.

What is the United States doing to help South Africa combat its
serious crime
problem?

* Crime is transnational problem requiring international cooperation.
We are
ready to assist South Africa; in July 1996, Gore and Deputy President
Mbeki
signed declaration on Mutual Anti-Crime Cooperation outlining ways
our countries
can cooperate to reduce organized crime, drug trafficking, money
laundering and
international terrorism.

* Together with South Africa, we have opened offices of DEA, FBI,
INS and U.S.
Customs Service to maintain liaison with South African law
enforcement
authorities.

* Working with South African ministries to provide assistance in

investigative
training for police and improving coordination between police and
prosecutors.
Helping to increase access by the people to the justice system, for
example,
through training of lawyers.

What are U.S. views on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

* Under leadership of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Commission has
played important
role in transition and toward reconciliation. Have provided funds to
assist
Commission.

* Don't want to comment on internal matters.

Do you have any comment on South Africa's friendly relations with
Libya and Cuba?

* South Africa is a friend and ally; agree on many issues, but disagree
on
attitude toward rogue states.

* U.S. urges all countries to press Libya to cease support for
international
terrorism, human rights abuses and pursuit of WMD.

* Insist Libya comply with all UNSC Resolution, including
surrendering PA 103
bombing suspects for trial by U.S. or U.K.

* Goal in Cuba is promotion of a peaceful transition and respect for
human
rights. Will continue to urge all countries to use influence to press
Cuban
government.

Are the United States and South Africa cooperating on the ACRI?

* U.S. committed to enhancing peacekeeping and humanitarian relief
capacities of
African states.

* Are working closely with African nations, the UN, the OAU, the
UK, France and
others.

* South Africa and U.S. have had and will continue discussions on
ACRI.

* Pleased cooperation on defense matters is deepening -- as evidenced by the establishment of the Binational Commission Defense Committee.

What does the lifting of debarment mean for U.S./South African defense trade?

Background:

[With the lifting of debarment, several U.S. defense firms have expressed interest in sales to South Africa. None has yet submitted requests for licenses to market their products in South Africa. The Swedish government has asked us how the lifting of debarment will affect the previously denied request from a Swedish/British consortium to market SAAB's Gripen fighter (which contains U.S. components, including the engine) in South Africa. We anticipate a renewed marketing license request for the Gripen shortly.]

* On February 27, Vice President Gore and Deputy President Mbeki announced suspension of debarment of number of companies.

* Decision will pave way for enhanced defense trade relations and strengthen overall national security relationship.

Does this give a green light for South Africa to buy U.S.-origin defense articles such as aircraft?

* Lifting of debarment means defense trade requests will be reviewed by USG under standards applied universally - including consistency with U.S. foreign policy and national security interests and furtherance of world peace.

* These South African firms will be on same footing as all other firms for license applications. Suspension of debarment removes presumption that license applications for trade with these firms would be denied.

How will the United States control U.S. technology once sold to the

South
Africans?

* Condition for suspension of debarment was establishment by South Africa of programs to monitor and control use of U.S.-origin products and technology. Are satisfied that South Africa has established these programs and will continue to work with South Africa to ensure they operate effectively.

Pharmaceuticals/Intellectual Property Rights

Do you have any comment on South Africa's "Medicine's Law," which the United States believes infringes on the patent rights of the U.S. pharmaceuticals industry?

* Support SAG's intent to provide safe and affordable health care to all.

* At same time, are concerned about implications of the law for patent rights of U.S. pharmaceuticals firms.

* Continue to discuss concerns with SAG. Hope to develop approach allowing South Africa to have more affordable health care without sacrificing intellectual property rights.

Will the United States take South Africa to the WTO?

* Will not speculate. Goal is to work amicably with South Africa while ensuring protection of rights of U.S. firms.

Is this trip soft? Why are we not tackling the hard problems like Nigeria, DROC, Sudan?

* No. Ask me after visiting six countries in ten days.

* Trip focussed on core issues: (1) democracy and human rights, (2) trade and investment and (3) investment in future -- by promoting education, economic opportunity and access to technology.

* President will stop in Kigali, underscoring sympathy for victims of genocide and belief that this must never happen again.

* President will review with counterparts how we can encourage real transition to civilian, democratic rule in Nigeria.

* The Summit in Kampala will focus on regional stability, conflict prevention and resolution and democracy and respect for human rights. Goal also is to address most difficult situations: increasing pressure on Sudan to help end brutal civil war and reinvigorate peace process; end support for terrorism and efforts to de-stabilize neighbors; seek ways to encourage respect for rule of law and democratic elections in DROC and Kenya.

* Also will consult with regional leaders on best way to promote return to civilian, democratic rule in Nigeria.

What is the status of your Nigeria Policy?

* Concerned about lack of democratic process and human rights abuses. With legislative elections in April and Presidential elections in August, Nigerians have chance to move toward democracy.

* Will continue to call upon the government of Nigeria to fulfill its commitments to return Nigeria to civilian, democratic government.

* Nigeria has played constructive role in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Will continue to cooperate with them in these areas.

What is the U.S.-French relationship as it relates to Africa? Is there cooperation, contention, between the French and the United States over the U.S. new Africa policy?

* Increasingly share common agenda throughout Africa -- promote democracy, human rights and market economies open to foreign investment.

* Consult regularly and on how to help African governments build

responsible and
representative governments and military institutions that respect civil
rule and
protect peace and stability.

* Pleased with cooperation with France, Britain and African
governments under the
African Crisis Response Initiative.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Why is Kabila coming to Entebbe Summit and aren't you worried
about his recent
undemocratic behavior?

* New government in power approximately ten months; mixed record:
has set a
calendar for democratic reform and formed relatively broad-based
cabinet, but
banned political activity and harassed opposition figures and
journalists.
Security forces continue to commit abuses.

* Particularly concerned by detention of Etienne Tshisekedi and by
restrictions
on UN investigation into reported massacres during the 1996-1997
rebellion that
toppled Mobutu.

* Policy is to engage Government and people of the Congo to promote
democratic
and economic reforms and respect for human rights. President's goal
is to avoid
failed post-Mobutu transition leading to renewed conflict, refugee
flows and
other humanitarian disasters.

* Kabila's presence at Summit will help achieve that goal. President
will raise
issues directly with him.

What is your reaction to President Kabila's decision not to meet with
your
Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa, Jesse
Jackson?

* Disappointed, but purpose of Jackson's visit was to emphasize roles
of
government, political groups and civil society in Congo's recovery.

* Jackson met with a cross-section of political leaders and civil society groups and conveyed message.

What is the status of the U.N. Human Rights team?

* Pleased that team's field deployment has resumed as result of improved cooperation on Congolese side and more pragmatic approach on team's side.

* DROC has agreed to extend deadline for completion of the investigation to May 31, as requested by UN Secretary General.

* Continue to follow progress of team. Concerned over reports that security forces briefly detained two local citizens who had spoken with team.

In light of recent developments, does the United States still plan to provide direct assistance to the Government of the DROC?

* In December, Secretary Albright announced intention to work with Congress to provide \$35-40 million in bilateral aid and to contribute \$10 million to the World Bank Trust Fund for the Congo. Remains our intention.

* Bilateral assistance would be channeled principally through NGOs, with modest and carefully targeted aid directly to the government for technical assistance to key ministries (Justice, Health, Finance), to help people -- promote democratic reform and rule of law and improve public health.

* Will not provide direct budget support or aid to security forces.

* (If Raised) Aware of Congressional restrictions on assistance to the Congo. Intend to discuss with Congress all options for proceeding with an assistance program, including possible legislation or exercise of waiver authorities.

What is the United States doing to freeze Mobutu's assets?

* Do not believe Mobutu's family or close associates hold significant

assets in
the United States.

* Studying options but have not taken any decision.

LIBERIA

Does the United States support the Government of Charles Taylor in Liberia? Why or why not?

* Charles Taylor elected President of Liberia in August 1997 following nearly 7 years of civil war. Elections deemed free and transparent by international observers. Will support Liberia and its people in efforts to rebuild their nation.

* Special Envoy Howard Jeter recently led interagency team to Liberia to explore with government, civil society leaders, the U.N. Special Representative and ECOWAS how we can best help Liberia rebuild.

BURUNDI

Why is Burundi not being invited to the Kampala regional summit?

* Because regime which took power in 1996 overthrew a democratically elected president and government and is subject to regional sanctions.

* U.S. diplomats will continue to engage GOB officials at all levels in effort to promote negotiated political settlement to civil war.

What is the United States doing to help stem the violence in Burundi?

* Level of violence remains troubling. With negotiations stalled, rebel groups may intensify military efforts.

* Imperative that inclusive negotiating framework be re-established as soon as possible.

* U.S. working closely with regional states, Burundian Government, and international community to reinvigorate regional peace process.

* Continue to stress futility of military solution to conflict. Only negotiated political settlement will further lasting peace in Burundi.

Why did the regional states impose a blockade on Burundi?

* Regional states imposed embargo instead of regional military response to the July 1996 coup. The region modified the sanctions in April 1997 to allow the flow of humanitarian goods.

* Regional states refused to lift sanctions, arguing they are necessary to pressure military government to negotiate a return to democracy.

* We support regional embargo to force military regime to negotiate political settlement.

What is the state of U.S. bilateral relations with Burundi?

* The 1996 coup negatively impacted relations. While we do not recognize the current regime as legitimate, we continue to work with GOB in effort to further negotiated political settlement and restoration of democracy.

* Priorities are humanitarian -- preventing return to large-scale ethnic killings, ending cycle of violence and impunity, promoting return to democratic government.

KENYA

Why has President Moi been invited to the Kampala Regional Summit?

* Kenya is traditional partner in East Africa and we cooperate closely on regional issues. Size of economy and transportation links make it regional linchpin.

* Consult with President Moi on range of regional issues. He is chair of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored peace talks on Sudan. Kenya also played constructive role on talks aimed at

resolving conflicts
in Somalia and the Great Lakes.

* President looks forward to opportunity to hear Moi's ideas on important regional issues and express concerns about economic reform, good governance and democracy.

What is the state of our bilateral relationship with Kenya?

* Kenya and U.S. enjoy close and longstanding relations. Have worked together in response to regional humanitarian crises and security threats.

* Take abiding interest in Kenya's progress towards more effective democracy and encouraging development of Kenya's civil society. Encouraged by commitment of the Kenyan people to democracy, evident in the increased turnout on election day.

What are the prospects for peaceful democratic reform in Kenya?

* Kenya faces substantial challenges, but also grounds for hope.

* Among challenges are fiscal and economic difficulties and ethnic tensions, often manipulated by political or community leaders.

* Challenges can be overcome if government takes a constructive leadership role.

Why is President Clinton not visiting Kenya?

* President Clinton gave full consideration to a stop in Kenya. Unfortunately, was able to schedule only a handful of countries during this visit and not able to add Kenya.

* Kenya is important U.S. partner and key to growth and stability in East Africa. President pleased he will have opportunity to meet with him in Uganda.

Does the United States hold the Kenyan Government responsible for recent ethnic violence in Kenya, as Special Envoy Jackson stated? If so, why is

President
Clinton meeting with President Moi?

* Government of Kenya has unique responsibility to protect all citizens. J. Jackson conveyed view directly to Government, and we are pleased that violence has abated.

* Rev. Jackson did not assign blame, to government or any other political group. Kenyans need to find ways to overcome divisions that have fed the tragic violence witnessed in January and February.

* Decision to meet in Uganda does not imply agreement on all matters.

RWANDA

Why is President Clinton visiting Rwanda?

* President going to Rwanda to affirm genocide is unacceptable wherever it occurs, remind world of unspeakable horror of genocide which continues to haunt the Great Lakes region of Africa. President also will acknowledge responsibility of international community for failing to respond adequately.

* President applauds efforts of Rwandese people to live together and rebuild united nation. Americans stand with Rwanda as it seeks to build national institutions accountable to all its citizens.

How do you assess the fighting in Rwanda today? Is the situation deteriorating?

* Fighting in Rwanda intensified with return of former Rwandan army (ex-FAR) and genocidal militias (Interahamwe) from eastern Zaire late 1996 and early 1997. These were soldiers who launched genocide in 1994 that claimed up to one million lives. Acts of genocide by these forces continue against civilian targets.

* Most of fighting is localized in the northwest area of country.

Although GOR troops continue to win every head-to-head battle with insurgents, rebels persist in genocidal attacks.

- * Insurgents have no visible command and control structure and no articulated political platform. Cannot predict how long the insurgency will last.

- * Deplore violence in northwest and especially concerned by number of civilian deaths. Urge both rebel and government forces to respect lives of non-combatants.

Why is the United States not more vocal in condemning human rights abuses by the Government during counterinsurgency operations in the northwest?

- * Have been vocal and will continue to stand firm on necessity of protecting civilians. Have communicated this view to Rwandan government publicly and privately, most recently by Secretary Albright.

- * President Clinton will emphasize issue in meetings with President Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame.

- * Recent decline in number of abuses attributable to Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA). GOR has shown increasing willingness to court-martial soldiers accused of human rights abuses.

What is the U.S. view regarding accusations that Rwanda committed massacres in Zaire in 1996-97?

- * We take accusations seriously. Have consistently called for investigation into reports of refugee massacres in Zaire and accountability for those found responsible for atrocities.

- * We support the U.N. Human Rights Investigation now underway in Congo.

- * The Government of Rwanda has pledged to take accusations of Rwandan involvement in massacres seriously and will hold accountable any Rwandan

soldiers involved.

What does the United States think of the re-education camps run by the Rwandan government?

* Following the massive return of refugees in late 1996, the GOR decided to counter the message of hate/genocide with which many refugees were bombarded in Eastern Zaire through "reeducation camps" comprised mostly of lectures/discussions which focus on the importance of forging a national identity.

* Most reeducation camps were closed at the end of 1997, but the GOR plans to continue the program in some form. Participation in a reeducation program is a condition for civil service employment. This program has had no effect on the majority of the returned refugees since over 80% of that population are small agricultural farmers.

* We believe reeducation seminars are a potentially useful way to facilitate ethnic unity and fight extremist propaganda. We do not agree participation should be a prerequisite for employment.

Can you comment on U.S. military assistance to Rwanda? Why has the United States trained an army accused of severe human rights abuses in both eastern Zaire and northwestern Rwanda?

* One of the goals of our military training in Rwanda is to help prevent human rights abuses. Following the genocide of 1994, the United States committed itself to help rebuild Rwandan society, partly through assistance to the Rwandan military. Our assistance focuses on professionalizing the RPA and training its officers to work in a multi-ethnic, pluralistic environment. We also train in humanitarian demining, rule of law, human rights and public information, and in support for refugee repatriation.

* We have protested military excess and indiscriminate use of force to the highest levels in Rwanda. There has been a recent decline in the number of abuses attributable to the RPA.

* A military prosecutor instrumental in court-martialing Rwandan soldiers accused of human rights abuses was trained under the U.S. military assistance program.

Over 100,000 persons are in prison in Rwanda in absolutely horrid conditions.

Many of the prisoners have not even been advised of the charges against them.

What is the United States doing about this issue?

* Very complex, tough issue. Clearly victims of genocide deserve justice and the guilty must be held accountable. The culture of impunity has been a big contributor to the cycles of violence which have plagued the Great Lakes region.

* Equally important is ensuring due process for accused. The GOR clearly cannot process all of the current cases through normal judicial means. It will remain politically difficult, however, for the GOR to consider "alternative mechanisms" until the masterminds of the genocide are convicted.

* We are encouraged by the International Criminal tribunal for Rwanda's (ICTR) progress over the past year. Both indictments and surrenders to the Tribunal are up. We hope that the tribunal will soon complete its first trials.

* Our new Great Lakes Justice Initiative (GLJI) will help further develop Rwanda's justice system. We hope it helps develop judicial systems which are impartial, credible and effective.

It is now public knowledge that Rwandan troops played a key role in the overthrow of the Mobutu government. Are Rwandan troops still in Congo? What is our policy on this issue?

* Ex-FAR and Interahamwe soldiers used the refugee camps in former eastern Zaire to launch cross-border attacks on Rwanda. This posed a national security threat for Rwanda which led to Rwanda's participation in the overthrow of Mobutu. Nevertheless, the United States worked energetically for a negotiated solution to the conflict and condemned all cross-border military activity.

* Most Rwandan troops have now been withdrawn from Congo. It is up to sovereign governments to determine the nature of their military alliances and cooperation. We do believe, however, that the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Congo could have a stabilizing influence on the region.

Rwandan Vice President Kagame is one member of a new generation of African activist leaders. How much activism does the United States endorse, at least tacitly, by allowing governments such as Rwanda to shape events outside their own countries?

* Regional alliances based on economic and political concerns are a logical outcome of increased regional and global interdependence. Regional economic cooperation could help increase Africa's participation in the global economy, reducing the need for aid from the West. We encourage regional cooperation in Africa that falls within the bounds of internationally accepted norms and laws.

What can you tell us about genocide suspect Elizaphan Ntakirutimana who is currently imprisoned in Texas? Why haven't we surrendered him to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda?

* Mr. Nkatirutimana has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. He was arrested and jailed in Texas in 1996 with a view to his surrender to the Tribunal. In December 1997, a U.S. magistrate

ordered his
release finding the relevant U.S. statute unconstitutional and a lack of
probable
cause. Subsequently, the ICTR submitted additional information and
Mr.
Ntakirutimana was re-arrested.

* We strongly believe there is a proper legal and factual basis for
surrender of
the indictee to the Tribunal and that it is up to the Tribunal to
determine his
guilt or innocence.

* We hope the indictee is surrendered soon.

UGANDA

What is the USG's view of Museveni's human rights record?

* Uganda has made substantial progress on human rights under
Museveni. Rule of
law has been restored in most of the country. We continue to be
concerned by a
handful of extrajudicial killings by security forces every year, but they
are a
fraction of those under Idi Amin and Milton Obote.

* Uganda elected a Constituent Assembly, adopted a Constitution and
held national
elections in 1996. Although those elections were flawed by
restrictions on
political party activity, they marked a step forward for democracy.
The
Parliament, though dominated by Museveni supporters, is challenging
policies and
the conduct of government officials.

* We have many areas of concern: pre-trial detention in Uganda is
excessive;
prison conditions harsh; security forces beat and on occasion kill
suspects; the
GOU has detained critical journalists on suspect charges. And we
believe
Uganda's current "no-party" system is not in the long-term interest of
the
country. There will be a referendum on multi-partyism in 2000. This
will be
positive, but the government should regardless move toward a more
pluralist
political system and guarantee freedom of assembly.

* Trends are important in assessing Museveni's human rights performance. He brought substantial progress to Uganda and continues to seek ways to ameliorate ethnic and religious divisions. The Government takes steps to punish abuses against citizens by security forces and there is a sense it is actively working to address shortcomings in its justice and prison systems. Greater pluralism is necessary, but Museveni's efforts to include traditionally marginalized groups such as women are important.

What does the United States think of the Ugandan Government's penchant for crossing borders for military purposes as it has in the former Zaire and Sudan?

* The United States Government has expressed concerns to Uganda in the past about reports of cross-border activities. We did so in early 1997 in response to reports about possible Ugandan involvement in the then-Zaire.

* We recognize Uganda has had legitimate security concerns about armed bands sheltering in neighboring states. President Mobutu certainly failed to restrain attacks from Zaire's territory against Uganda and its neighbors. The Sudanese government is in complicity with a brutal insurgency, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is attacking Uganda.

* Uganda has repeatedly expressed its support for regional efforts to prevent conflict within and between states of the region. We will continue to work with Uganda on these efforts.

Why is the United States such a strong proponent of multi-partyism in some countries like Kenya but has cozied up to Museveni, who has banned political parties from elections?

* The United States has encouraged the expansion of political pluralism

throughout Africa. We have advocated political inclusion both privately and publicly in Uganda, and both the Secretary of State and the First Lady did so in 1997.

* We believe we must approach the goal of expanding political pluralism within local realities. We promote political pluralism in our approach to all countries but work within the historical, social and political context of those countries.

* In Uganda, we can give credit for some unique and positive political developments while emphasizing the need for improvement.

* We welcome Uganda's efforts to bring women and other traditionally marginalized groups into government, and we applaud its plan to devolve power to local elected bodies. On the question of multi-partyism, we expect the Government will seek a means of giving greater space to organized political competition without increasing the danger of ethnic identification or sectarian violence.

What is the United States doing about corruption in Uganda?

* The United States has joined other donors in expressing a need for greater transparency in the government's regulatory and economic role. The misappropriation of military resources is also a concern -- one shared by President Museveni himself.

* The World Bank includes improved economic governance in its strategy for Uganda, an emphasis we support. Bank funding is supporting work by the respected NGO Transparency International, which is working with Uganda's business community to target areas for reform.

* Corruption is a problem in Uganda, but the Government has in several cases shown the will to combat it. The recent censure by the Parliament of a Government Minister may also demonstrate the emergence of helpful checks and

balances.

What is the U.S. reaction to opposition charges that Kenya's general elections have been manipulated and are seriously flawed by irregularities?

* There was much confusion in Kenya about the election process. Some polling stations opened for an additional day of voting. Others did not. There also was uncertainty about when vote counting would begin and end in specific locations. We regret the poor organization.

* Despite the flaws in the process, we are encouraged by the level of peaceful, popular participation in the election and the conduct of party agents, election observers and presiding officers at many polling places. The Kenyan people have demonstrated a commitment to democracy. Now we urge all parties to resolve election flaws and uncertainties non-violently and transparently.

* (If Asked) There have been some reports that the organizational flaws in the election were more damaging to opposition candidates and may have been intentional.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Elephants/Ivory Trade

Does the United States support Botswana's policies on elephants and the resumption of trade in elephant ivory?

* We accept the decision last year of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Convention approved enabling Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe eventually to resume limited trade in elephant products, including ivory.

* We have pledged to work with Botswana and other countries to ensure that CITES criteria and controls for trade in ivory are implemented.

* Botswana's thriving elephant population is testimony to the government's commitment to protect the species.

Does the United States support the killing of elephants for profit?

* No.

We understand that Randall Robinson and TransAfrica are opposed to the African Growth and Opportunity Act? Why? What is the Administration's position?

* The Administration strongly supports rapid passage of the bill. We have been working with bi-partisan backers of the bill to try and ensure the broadest possible support.

* Randall Robinson has expressed concerns about the bill.

* Certain of his assertions are incorrect:

* The bill does not affect existing GSP eligibility for countries that do not qualify for enhanced GSP benefits. It offers new GSP benefits and does not restrict current benefits.

* The bill will not lead to termination of existing U.S. assistance programs in countries not found eligible for enhanced benefits. In fact, it encourages nation-building assistance in such areas as health, education and governance.

* The dean of the African diplomatic corps in Washington has written to Mr. Robinson noting that "African nations overwhelmingly support H.R. 1432" and that they "believe that this legislation will reinforce the efforts of the Clinton Administration announced last summer to begin a new partnership with Africa for growth and opportunity."

* The bill also has broad support in the larger community. Andrew Young, David Dinkins, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, Dorothy Height and the National Council

of Negro Women, a number of church organizations and others have spoken out in favor.

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