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in Uganda, Rwanda e Burundi
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UGANDA - Orrore della guerra civile in Rwanda

Oggetto:

Mio tel.mma del 4/5/1994

Riferimenti:

TELESPRESSO indirizzato a:

MINISTERO AFFARI ESTERI

-D.G.C.S. UFF. VIII, XI, XV

-D.G.A.P. X

-D.G.A.E. X

R O M A

e, per conoscenza:

**Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Nazioni Unite**

NEW YORK

**Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali**

GINEVRA

Ambasciata d'Italia

-DAR ES SALAAM

-NAIROBI



Si informa che da circa tre settimane il fiume Kagera sta trasportando dal Rwanda al suo sbocco nel Lago Vittoria nel distretto di Rakai, sito in Uganda meridionale, una innumerevole quantita' di corpi umani orrendamente mutilati. All'inizio il loro numero e' stato stimato intorno a qualche decina al giorno mentre negli ultimi due giorni sono state superate le 2.000 unita' giornaliere. Cio' comporta ovvi gravissimi problemi di inquinamento delle acque e conseguentemente igienici alla popolazione per il rischio di epidemie.

E' opportuno sottolineare che viene stimato in appena 40-50 ore il tempo necessario a ciascun corpo per passare dal Rwanda al Lago Vittoria: come comunicato con Mio telegramma in riferimento, a Kigali vi sono sintomi di colera e un'eventualita' del genere non potrebbe essere scartata anche a Rakai.

Alleg.

N.

Per opportuna conoscenza e per il seguito di competenza che il superiore Dicastero vorra' dare, si allega la richiesta di aiuti d'emergenza qui pervenuti da parte delle Autorita' locali con alcune cruente foto sulla vicenda, nonche' copia di un articolo sull'argomento pubblicato in data odierna dal locale quotidiano "New Vision".

Mauro Zucchi
Rosolino

MANUEL PINTO, M.P.

***NRC Representative Kakuuto County - Rakai District
Member National Executive Committee
Delegate Constituency Assembly***

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6 May 1994

**HUMAN HORROR AT KASENSERO IN KYEBE, KAKUUTO COUNTY
RAKAI DISTRICT**

A ^{ful}horror scene has been observed at Kasensero Landing site, in Kyebe Sub-county of Kakuuto County in Rakai District where hundreds of human bodies are floating, decomposed, beheaded, amputated, stabbed, etc. Mutilated bodies of adults and children now litter the shores of Lake Victoria.

The bodies have come down from Rwanda on River Kagera to enter Lake Victoria for the past three weeks. From a point at Kibuuko on River Kagera, I observed a body or two floating down the river trapped in the water hyacinth or floating freely every three minutes. The stench on the river and at the Lake shores is sickening. The local people have voluntarily contributed money to pay shallow grave diggers who bury the bodies in the sand close to the water line. At first there was a charge of Shs. 3000/= per burial but due to increased decay, costs are escalating and up to 20 bodies may be buried daily.

Dogs and pigs have been eating these bodies and it appears they are getting wild, threatening to attack people who try to send them off. The shallow graves are dug up by the dogs or the water waves soon exposing the decomposing bodies in the shallow graves.

The threat is looming for cholera and other epidemics. The people of this area who depend on Lake Victoria and River Kagera for water and fish are now faced with a great hardship.

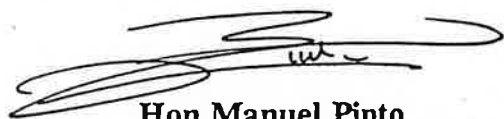
It is possible to trap these bodies by nets at Kibuuko Landing site on River Kagera before the bodies enter Lake Victoria so that they could be buried in mass graves on firmer ground well before the Lake sand on the shore line.

It is possible to dry up these bodies with formaldehyde and to bury them in mass graves.

On behalf of the people of Kakuuto County, I appeal for emergency assistance from Government, friends and well wishers to save this horrorsome condition from raising further epidemics.

The people of this area have suffered grossly after every civil strife in and outside Uganda:

- In 1966 - When the President of Uganda and King Freddie fled Uganda, Obote posted murderous soldiers along the lake shores.
- In 1971 - When Obote tried to invade Uganda from Tanzania, Amin retaliated by posting murderous soldiers in this area until he was deposed.
- In 1979 - UNLF and Tanzania Forces attacked Uganda from this position. Soon afterwards SLIM or HIV/AIDS surfaced at Lukunyu and Kasensero.
- In 1990 - During the first war between Rwanda and RPF Kagera River brought down numbers of decomposing bodies.
- In 1994 - This is the most horrorsome scene that so many human beings who have been murdered in Rwanda are decomposing at our Lake shore.



Hon Manuel Pinto

Requirements:

- Gloves - for the grave diggers
- Gumboots
- Rain Coats
- Soap
- Antiseptic Liquid
- Blankets - to wrap the bodies
- Plastic sheeting
- Formaldehyde - to treat the bodies/to prevent stench
- Strong Fish Nets - to trap the bodies
- Nylon Ropes

Note: The ropes and nets should be able to resist wight of water hyacinth bushes flowing with the current.

HUMAN HORROR AT KASENSERO IN KYEBE, KAKUUTO COUNTRY RAKAI DISTRICT
UP DATE: On 7.5.94

The Hon Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Hon Tom Butime went to Kasensero and Kibuuko and was able to observe:

1. A body or two every other minute floats down river Kagera at Kibuuko heading for Lake Victoria.
2. Few bodies are swept ashore at Kasensero after they enter Lake Victoria which means that a number keep floating away to other shores in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. It is therefore necessary to stop them on River Kagera at Kibuuko and further up the river.
3. Many bodies, adults males, female and children have been mutilated, beheaded, genitals removed and others show signs of extreme torture such as burns.
4. The local people have voluntarily been removing the bodies from the Lake and burying them in shallow graves meeting the costs which have far exceeded their capacity.
5. Dogs, pigs, etc eat the decaying bodies on the shores and also dig up the shallow graves.
6. An epidemic is feared and may, if it breaks, reach all parts of Lake Victoria in East Africa. Since River Kagera ultimately comes out at Jinja as River Nile, the spread could reach Sudan and Egypt.

Local people's livelihood is threatened as they are dependent on Lake/River water which is polluted and fishing is hampered.

7. The Local Committee:

- (i) Mr. Frank Lule Ssalongo (Mayor) - Chairman
- (ii) Mr. Sengendo - Chairman RCI, Kasensero - Secretary
- (iii) Mr. Moses Ssanyu
- (iv) Mrs. P.N. Kigoye
- (v) Mr. Kabiito
- (vi) Mr. Kawesi - Secretary for Defence - RCI Kasensero

8. Statistics of the previous burials at Kasensero

<u>Date</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Unidentified</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.4.94	4	2	-	-	6
27.4.94	18	12	5	-	35
28.4.94	14	9	7	-	30
29.4.94	9	7	5	-	21
30.4.94	16	8	4	-	28
1.5.94	11	9	-	-	20
2.5.94	15	17	8	-	40
3.5.94	13	10	7	-	30
4.5.94	16	8	5	20	49
5.5.94	16	9	7	6	38
6.5.94	18	39	11	-	68
7.5.94	9	5	7	-	21

Previous average cost per body - Shs. 5,000/=

9. The bodies which had earlier been buried in the shallow graves on the Lake shore have to be exhumed and reburied.

10. Immediate Requirements

- A. Burial Place - Purchase of land on firm ground in the village. Mr. Mulongo's land has been identified.

Estimated cost - Maximum - Shs.2,000,000/=

- B. Trapping the bodies at Kibuuko on River Kagera:
24 hour surveillance boat with engine - hiring at Shs.40,000 -50,000/- per day.
Mr. Frank Luke Ssalongo could sell his boat with engine available immediately at estimated cost between Shs.4,000,000-5,000,000.

C. Materials -

As observed a body or two floats down every other minute. The surveillance boat and crew require substantial quantities of: Plastic sheets, gumboots, stretchers, masks, 400 metre 1" nylon rope, sisal Ropes, disinfectant, formalin and life jackets. The 400 metre rope firmly secured across the river placed about 2ft above the water would act as an anchor for the crew at Kegera to push the bodies ashore.

D. Manpower per day

- i) Kagera River: 24 hour shift
8 workers @ 15,000/=
2 shifts Foreman @ 20,000/=
- ii) Exhumation - Kasensero
5 workers @ 10,000/=
1 Foreman @ 15,000/=
- iii) Burial Group
5 people @ 7,500/=
2 Foremen @ 15,000/=
- iv) Grave diggers
10 mass grave diggers @ 5,000/=
- v) Supervisor - 20,000/=

E. Kibuuko

- i) Tractor with trailer to take the bodies from Kibuuko to the uphill mass grave.

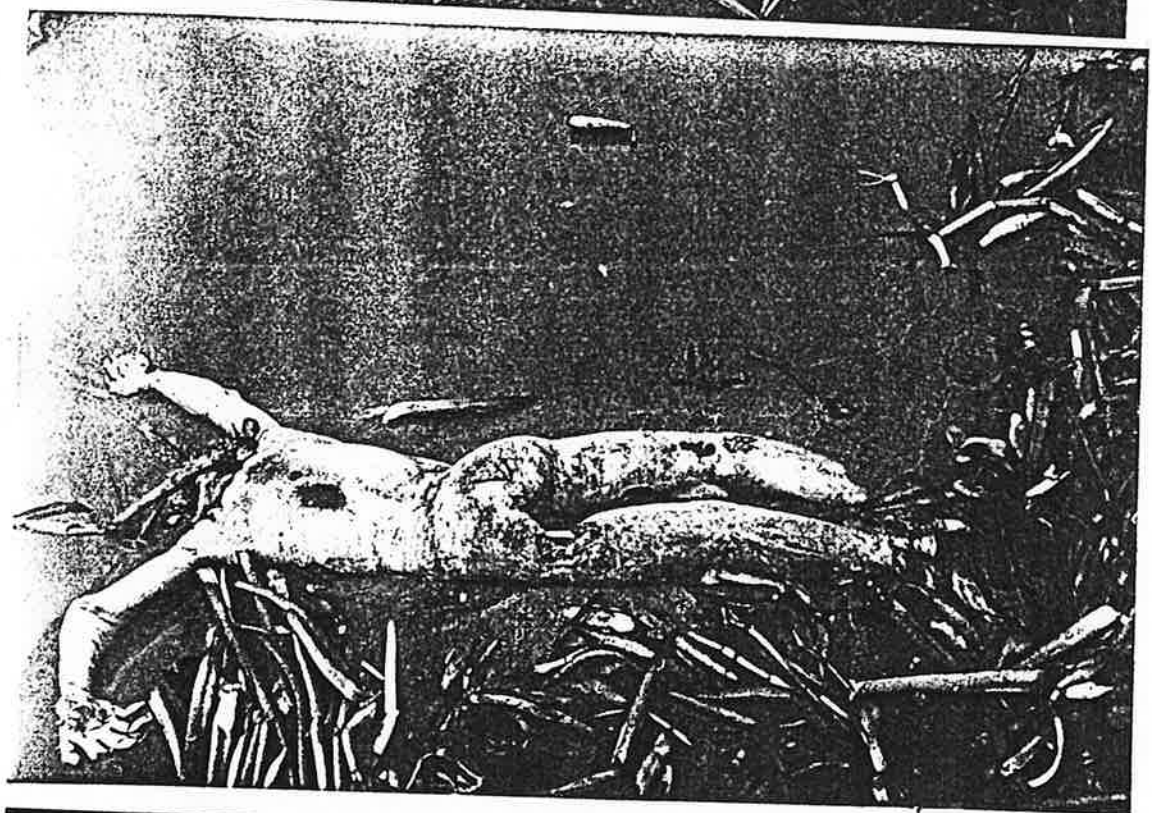
F. Water Tanks or a borehole should be provided to supply clean drinking water.

- G. 2 or 3 pit latrines should be made at Kasensero as the present ones are shallow and would increase the danger of an epidemic.

10. An alternative proposal has been made to use a traxicavator/wheel loader to pick up the bodies from the river along the anchor rope to be loaded on four wheel tipper or tractor trailer so as to transport them uphill to the mass graves.

It is necessary to feel the path from Kibuuko to Kasensero with murrum in order to carry the tipper or tractor weight as it is on marsh.

15 ft deep mass graves could receive several bodies brought from the traxicavator at the river by the tipper or tractor trailer until each is filled, etc.



floating bodies vex Rakai

By Enoch Katende
and J.S.K Lusegana in Rakai

RAKAI District officials have expressed horror and concern over the amount of pollution that may affect Lake Victoria waters as a result of the hundreds of dead bodies believed to have come from war-torn Rwanda, on the River Kagera.

The district officials who included the Central Government Representative (CGR) for Rakai, Mr Alex Joseph Apecu, the District Executive Secretary (DES), Mr Vincent Semakula and the RC V Secretary for Defence, Mr Badiru Rashid Ssemmanda, recently visited Kasensero fish-landing site in Rakai border sub-county of Kiyebe following reports by fish mongers and other travellers that dead bodies were being washed ashore in big numbers.

Fishermen reported that at least 450 bodies had arrived at the fish-landing site within a period of three days.

The bodies, some of them naked, included those of women, children and men, some without limbs.

The DES, Mr Semakula has instructed the District Medical Officer (DMO), Rakai and other health personnel to move in quickly with gloves, drugs and other logistics with which to assist local RC officials at Kasensero who have been handling the difficult situation bare-handed.

RC officials reported that the decomposing bodies were giving off stench which was so unbearable that the men hired to bury the bodies were demanding 3,000/= per dead body.

It is feared that unless urgent steps are taken an epidemic might break out in the area and gravely affect the communities living along the shores of Lake Victoria.

Lake shore communities including those at Kasensero, fetch their water for domestic use from the lake which is now polluted with the rotting bodies.

Another problem which the

district officials realised was the likelihood that the fish industry would be affected because fish consumers detest fish which they say is feeding on dead bodies. Many people in

Kakuuto county and Kyotera town have now resorted to eating fish caught from swamps.

The fish mongers who commute between Kyotera and

Malembo fishing villages of Masaka district have reported that dead bodies have become food for wild pigs, dogs and even cows.

Meanwhile, in an unfortunate development last week a

man fishing in a swamp in Kamuganja village, Rakai, was attacked by a buffalo which inflicted severe injuries on him. The man was rushed to Kitovu Hospital in Masaka for treatment.