

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Roma, luglio 25, 1994

Egregio Presidente,

la Casa Bianca mi ha pregato di farLe avere l'accluso messaggio del Presidente Clinton riguardante aiuti umanitari per il Rawanda.

Saro ben lieto di trasmettere, a mia volta, al Presidente Clinton qualunque risposta o commento riguardanti il presente messaggio.

Con l'occasione, voglia gradire i rinnovati sensi della mia stima ed i piu cordiali saluti.



Reginald Bartholomew
Ambasciatore

Allegati: N.1

On. Dott. Silvio Berlusconi,
Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri,
Palazzo Chigi,
Roma.

July 23, 1994

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I write to inform you of our efforts to assist in the international response to the Rwandan refugee crisis and to urge you to support a greatly enhanced international effort to deal with this tragedy.

On July 23, I announced an immediate and massive increase in the American response, including an additional \$75 million in cash and commodities to assist in the relief effort. I also ordered our Defense Department to establish and manage an airlift hub in Uganda, which will be used as a staging area for around-the-clock shipments of relief supplies to the refugees. Consultations are underway now with the Government of Uganda.

I directed our military to assist in expanding airlift operations near the refugee camps in Goma and Bukavu by providing personnel and equipment to enable airfields to operate on a 24-hour basis. We must increase the capacity to receive, transfer and distribute goods at these airfields, as our aim is to move food, medicine and other supplies to those in need as quickly as possible. Finally, I directed the military to establish a safe water supply and to distribute as much water as possible to those at risk. Safe water is essential to stop the outbreak of cholera and other diseases that threaten the refugees.

These efforts only address four of eight essential "service packages" identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the overall relief task is more than the civilian relief organizations and the U.S. and French military units can handle. In particular, the UN has identified road servicing and road security, site preparation, provision of domestic fuel and sanitation facilities as additional essential "service packages." If you have military units that can operate with ours and the French to deliver these packages, assist in providing and delivering parts of the packages to which the U.S. has already committed, and/or provide other humanitarian relief (such as medical care and engineering services), I urge you to have your military commander immediately contact the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and General George Joulwan at the U.S. European Command. I also urge that you make financial assistance available to the UN and non-governmental organizations which are responding to this crisis.

Second, we must make it possible for the refugees to return home as quickly as possible. For them to have confidence that they can do so in safety, the UN peacekeeping force UNAMIR must be fully functioning. Unfortunately, it has taken months to deploy, due in part to a lack of equipment for African nations that have pledged to join UNAMIR. The United States has proposed

the "adopt a battalion" plan whereby nations would pair with African units to ensure they are equipped and can deploy. We have paired with the Ghanian battalion, and have delivered 50 armored personnel carriers for that unit last month. I urge you -- either alone or in concert with others -- to offer to the UN to deploy a peacekeeping contingent of your own forces to UNAMIR or to offer to pair with and equip one of the African nations that have offered to join. Every day that UNAMIR is not yet fully functioning is another day that refugees will be unable to return. As a result, many will die in the terrible conditions their exile has caused.

I deeply appreciate your careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,
/S/
Bill Clinton