

[4 CONFIDENTIAL]

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UN RESTRICTED

TO : LIST B 3000.35 (OPS)

FROM : DCOS OPS *communit* *all* *18 Oct*

INFO : MA TO FC
MA TO DFC
COS
DCOS SP
HAC

DATE : 19 OCT 95

SUBJECT : ASSISTANCE TO UNHCR -
REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES

Reference :

A. Discussion between DCOS(SP) and DCOS(OPS) on 18 Oct 95.

1. It is envisaged that in the event of Forced repatriation of Rwanda Refugees from her neighbouring Countries, there will be the requirement for all contingents to provide a number of TCVS (10 each) to supplement the fleet of the UNHCR to transport the refugees from the Border to Transit Camp and also to provide Sy for UNHCR convoys of refugees between transit camps and Communes.
2. Units are therefore to be prepared to perform these tasks on order from UNAMIR HQ.
3. It is anticipated that an allocation of Pol will be held in reserve for such a task.
4. The border points where the ex will be more concentrated will be the Crossing points in the Cyangugu and Gisenyi prefectures.
5. It is expected that a joint recce of Transit Camps and routes leading in and out should be carried out by all sector Comds in conjunction with UNHCR reps and reports submitted soonest to enable action taken to remove any bottle-necks prior to the commencement of the repatriation operations.

UN RESTRICTED

COS

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: VAN KAPPEN, DPKO, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

INFO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

FROM: TOUMIA, UNAMIR, KIGALI

DATE: 22 AUGUST 1995

NUMBER: MIR

NO. OF PAGES: 3

1000.7(DFC)/6/15

SUBJECT: ZAIRE: IMPOSED REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO RWANDA

1. On 19 Aug 95, the Zairan forces began to impose a repatriation of Rwandan refugees in both the Goma and Bukavu areas. Zaire claims that this repatriation is a result of the suspension of the arms embargo against Rwanda, however there are indicators to suggest that the embargo is merely an excuse for an action Zaire had decided upon more than a month ago. There is some indication to suggest the plan based upon a UN agency repatriation plan which foresaw using the ex-TUNBATT facility (3118) as a transit camp. Under this plan, it was anticipated that 600 returnees per day could be processed, a figure very close to the announced Zairan plan of 500 per day.

2. This repatriation is in Zaire's best interests and currently appears to be of a magnitude achievable by the Rwandan authorities. However, fears and rumours generated amongst the refugee populations are likely to cause many other refugees to make their own ways to Rwanda threatening Rwanda's ability to meet the threat.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

19/20 AUG 95

3. Between the hours of 1630 and 1730 on 19 Aug, a regional forced repatriation of refugees occurred in Eastern Zaire. The repatriation was executed by the Zairois military, the UNHCR camp security force (CZSC) were not involved. The following number of refugees were transported across various border crossings (crossing points unspecified):

- a. 181 persons from Mungunga camp, Goma (of which 50 are reported to have been Rwandan medical staff working for the NGO GOAL);
- b. 42 persons from Bukavu;
- c. 50 Rwandan prisoners from Uvira;

Seen by SAS G.

22/8

21 AUG 95

4. We have information to suggest that some firing did occur at the Mugunga camp. The report was incomplete, however there are no indications that the fire was directed at the refugees and probably a sonic control measure. Another report citing the burning of 12 shelters is reminiscent of Kibeho, when shelters abandoned in a panic caught fire due to unattended cooking fires.

5. UNHCR was asked by Zaire to assist in the movement of returnees to Rwanda. According to Milob reports, UNHCR refused because the repatriation was being forced. By day's end, 1,102 returnees had crossed the Rusizi 1 crossing and 1,173 had crossed into Gisenyi.

6. At 211606B Aug the Milobs report that UNHCR could no longer monitor the situation in Goma and may withdraw its people.

22 AUG 95

7. As at 22 1400B Aug: 4,196 had crossed Rusizi 1, while 1483 had crossed into Gisenyi.

UNAMIR ACTIVITIES

8. The crisis management Committee immediately swung into action with all the resources at its hand and also coordinated the activities of all UN agencies and NGOs. Vehicles were rushed to Gisenyi and Cyangugu to transport refugees to Transit Camps. The SRSG accompanied by the A/FC, members of diplomatic corps, UN agencies and Minister of Rehabilitation visited affected areas to coordinate, fine tune and optimise our own effort in conjunction with the Government of Rwanda. Additional vehicles from first and second line transport has been sent to ease the transportation bottleneck.

COMMENT

9. Zaire appears to be capitalising on its threat to forcibly repatriate the camps. The camps have presented a threat to Zaire for both security and sovereignty reasons. With the suspension of the arms embargo, the prospects for a return of the FRG to Rwanda in the near future are remote, while prospects of problems for Zaire increasing over time quite likely. Zaire has begun to repatriate what appears to an "easy target" at a rate which does not yet seem to be impossible for Rwanda to handle. Sources indicate that RPA in Gisenyi may well have been forewarned of the numbers to expect and Rwandese reaction to the returns appears controlled, so far. The Zairan action at the Mungunga camp presents a good example to the refugee populations that they cannot "settle" in the camps and may act as a motivation to get people to begin to return. (There had been little incentive to move from a place where free food and water were provided in location, guaranteed). It has yet to be seen whether this action is a token display or a systematic clearance, camp by camp. If the latter, unless an accommodation had been reached between Zaire and the FRGF, the military refugee camps would present difficulties. Sources indicate the repatriations currently underway will continue. However, it would work better if international pressure is brought to bear on Zaire to repatriate refugees in a deliberate and controlled manner to enable the Government of

Rwanda to cope with the situation. This arrangement could be worked out between UNHCR and the Zairean Government.

10. The greatest threat to Rwanda's security will come from its ability to process the volume of returnees while still maintaining its security and political cohesion. Regardless Zaire's intentions, the returnee flow will likely increase as refugees succumb to rumours and fear to make their own ways to the border, independent of the Zairan operation.

UN CONFIDENTIAL

To: DFC
COS

From: G2

21 Aug 95

SUBJECT: RETURNEE BORDER CROSSING
GOMA TO GISENYI 21 AUG 95

19 AUG 95 (source C2)

1.(R) Between the hours of 1630 and 1730 on 19 Aug, a regional forced repatriation of refugees occurred in Eastern Zaire. The repatriation was executed by the Zairois military, the UNHCR camp security force (CZSC) were not involved.

2.(C) The following number of refugees were transported across various border crossings (crossing points unspecified):

- a. 161 or 181 persons from Mungunga camp, Goma (of which 50 are reported to have been Rwandan medical staff working for the NGO GOAL);
- b. 40 persons from Bukavu;
- c. 50 Rwandan prisoners from Uvira;

3.(C) Source reports:

- a. the order for this operation came from Kinshasa;
- b. discussions between UNHCR camp representatives and influential Hutus established that the international community was not being held responsible by camp inhabitants for the forced repatriation and that the international community was not involved in any way;
- c. the repatriations were likely to continue;

4.(C) Source's own sources in Gisenyi identify the refugees that were repatriated to Gisenyi are still in location and had not been harassed. The males had not been segregated and remained part of the group. Unconfirmed reports stated that the returnees would be sent to the NKAMIRA transit camp prior to being returned to their places of origin. (On 21 Aug, Milobs report that 21 Aug returnees were being segregated by RPA: males on one side, females and children to another)

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5.(C) Some local UN/NGO staff report refugees preparing to resist forced repatriation. They further report a build-up of Zairois military presence in Goma.

6.(C) It is reported that the Zairan Prime Minister announced that 500 refugees would be returned daily.

7.(C) Comment: The forced repatriation may meet some resistance. Armed elements are unlikely to allow themselves to be repatriated which could result in one or a combination of the following:

- a. aid agency members taken hostage for negotiation purposes;
- b. elements against returning to Rwanda will move further away from the clearing operation;
- c. armed elements resist with force of arms against the Zairan operation; and/or
- d. armed elements/FRG negotiate with the Zairan government from a position of disadvantage.

20 AUG 95

8.(C) We have information to suggest that some firing did occur at the Mugunga camp. The report is sketchy, however there are no indications that the fire was directed at the refugees.

9.(C) UNHCR has been asked by Zaire to assist in the movement of returnees to Rwanda. According to Milob reports, UNHCR refused because the repatriation was being forced.

10.(C) At the time of this report, 1,100 returnees had crossed the border in busses and on foot. Milobs estimate the flow to be about 100 per hour. 750 returnee are already in the NKAMIRA transit camp.

11.(C) It is reported by a B2 source that the RPA had been forewarned to expect approximately 1,000 returnees today.

12.(R) 21 1606B Aug: Milobs report that UNHCR can no longer monitor the situation in Goma and may withdraw its people.

13.(R) Major Johnson, OC of the intelligence line unit will return shortly from Gisenyi. He will review this document and update you personally.

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UNAMIR Activities.

The crisis mgt Committee immediately swung into action with all the resources at its hand as also coord the activities of all UN agencies and NGOs. Vehicles were rushed to Gisenyi and Cyangugu to tranship refugees to Transit Camps.

The SRSG, accompanied by A/FC, ^{UN agencies,} members of diplomatic Corps, and Min of Rehabilitation visited affected areas to coord ~~and~~ fine tune and optimise UN effort in conjunction with Govt of Rwanda. Additional vehicles from first and second line bpt has been sent to ease transportation bottleneck.

OUT GOING CODE CABLE

To : VAN KAPPEN, DPKO UNATIONS, NEW YORK

Info: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

From: TOUMIA, UNAMIA, KIGALI

Date: 22 AUG 1995

NO : MIR _____

NO of Pages:

Subject: . ZAIREAN IMPOSED REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO
RWANDA

Fax sent to UNNY.
File Int or open a
separate file on
Refugee Repat - Zaire

UN SECRET

ZAIRE: IMPOSED REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO RWANDA

Reference: UNAMIR INFOSUM 21-23 Jun 95

OVERVIEW

1. (R) On 19 Aug 95, the Zairan forces began to impose a repatriation of Rwandan refugees in both the Goma and Bukavu areas.

2. (S) Zaire claims that this repatriation is a result of the suspension of the arms embargo against Rwanda, however there are indicators to suggest the embargo is merely an excuse for an action Zaire had decided upon more than a month ago. There is some indication (~~Annex A~~) to suggest the plan based upon a UN agency repatriation plan which foresaw using the ex-TUNBATT facility (3118) as a transit camp. Under this plan, it was anticipated that 600 returnees per day could be processed, a figure very close to the announced Zairan plan of 500 per day.

3. (S) This repatriation is in Zaire's best interests and currently appears to be of a magnitude achievable by the Rwandan authorities. However, fears and rumours generated amongst the refugee populations are likely to cause many other refugees to make their own ways to Rwanda threatening Rwanda's ability to meet the threat.

19/20 AUG 95 (~~source C2~~)

3. (R) Between the hours of 1630 and 1730 on 19 Aug, a regional forced repatriation of refugees occurred in Eastern Zaire. The repatriation was executed by the Zairois military, the UNHCR camp security force (CZSC) were not involved.

4. (C) The following number of refugees were transported across various border crossings (crossing points unspecified):

- a. 181 persons from Mungunga camp, Goma (of which 50 are reported to have been Rwandan medical staff working for the NGO GOAL);
- b. 40 persons from Bukavu;
- c. 50 Rwandan prisoners from Uvira;

RP 4

UN SECRET

5.(C) Source reports:

- a. the order for this operation came from Kinshasa;
- b. discussions between UNHCR camp representatives and influential Hutus established that the international community was not being held responsible by camp inhabitants for the forced repatriation and that the international community was not involved in any way. However, those returning to Rwanda appear to blame or at least criticize UN/UNHCR anyway;
- c. the repatriations were likely to continue;

6.(C) Sources in Gisenyi identified the refugees that were repatriated to Gisenyi had not been harassed. The males had not been segregated and remained part of the group. Unconfirmed reports stated that the returnees would be sent to the NKAMIRA transit camp (ex-TUNBATT location) prior to being returned to their places of origin. (On 21 Aug, Milobs report that 21 Aug returnees were being segregated: males on one side, females and children to another, although whether this was done by Zairan forces or Rwandan is unclear.)

7.(C) Some local UN/NGO staff report refugees preparing to resist forced repatriation. They further reported a build-up of Zairois military presence in Goma.

8.(C) It is reported that the Zairan Prime Minister announced that 500 refugees would be returned daily.

329 returnees of 21 Aug
21 AUG 95

9.(C) We have information to suggest that some firing did occur at the Mugunga camp. The report was incomplete, however there are no indications that the fire was directed at the refugees and probably a sonic control measure. Another report citing the burning of 12 shelters is reminiscent of Kibeho, when shelters abandoned in a panic caught fire due to unattended cooking fires.

10.(C) UNHCR was asked by Zaire to assist in the movement of returnees to Rwanda. According to Milob reports, UNHCR refused because the repatriation was being forced.

check. 11.(C) By day's end, 1,102 returnees had crossed the Rusizi 1 crossing and 1,173 had crossed into Gisenyi.

UN SECRET

12.(C) It is reported by a B2 source that the RPA had been forewarned to expect approximately 1,000 returnees for 21 Aug.

13.(R) 21 1606B Aug: Milobs report that UNHCR could no longer monitor the situation in Goma and may withdraw its people.

22 AUG 95

14.(C) As at 22 1030B Aug: 2,703 had crossed Rusizi 1, while 793 had crossed into Gisenyi.

COMMENT

15.(S) Zaire appears to be capitalizing on its threat to forcibly repatriate the camps. The camps have presented a threat to Zaire for both security and sovereignty reasons. With the suspension of the arms embargo, the prospects for a return of the FRG to Rwanda in the near future are remote, while prospects of problems for Zaire increasing over time quite likely. Zaire has begun to repatriate what appears to be an "easy target" at a rate which does not yet seem to be impossible for Rwanda to handle. Sources indicate that RPA in Gisenyi may well have been forewarned of the numbers to expect and Rwandese reaction to the returns appears controlled, thus far. The Zairan action at the Mungunga camp presents a good example to the refugee populations that they cannot "settle" in the camps and may act as a motivator to get people to begin to return. (There had been little incentive to move from a place where free food and water were provided in location, guaranteed). It has yet to be seen whether this action is a token display or a systematic clearance, camp by camp. If the latter, unless an accommodation had been reached between Zaire and the FRGF (and there are indicators to suggest this has likely happened), the military refugee camps would present difficulties. Sources indicate the repatriations currently underway will continue. However, it would work better if international pressure is brought to bear on Zaire to repatriate ~~THREAT TO RWANDA~~ refugees in a deliberate and controlled manner to

16.(C) The greatest threat to Rwanda's security will come from its ability to process the volume of returnees while still maintaining its security and political cohesion. Regardless of Zaire's intentions, the returnee flow will likely increase as refugees succumb to rumours and fear to make their own ways to the border, independent of the Zairan operation.

ATTACHMENT

ANNEX A - SECTOR 5 MILOB SITREP, 21-22 JUN 95

3/3

UN SECRET

Enable Govt of Rwanda to cope up with the situation. This arrangement could be worked out between UNHCR and Zairian Govt.

4.C. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECTOR UNHCR STAFF INDICATE THAT STARTING IN JULY THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO RESTART THE REPATRIATION FROM GOMA. THE GOAL WOULD BE TO GET UP TO 600 PEOPLE PER DAY FROM ZAIRE INTO RWANDA. THE GOVT HAS INDICATED THAT THE TRANSIT CAMP ESTABLISHED TO CONTROL THE FLOW SHOULD NOT BE IN THE GISENYI AREA. ONE POSSIBILITY WAS RATHER THAN TEARDOWN THE TUNBATT CAMP AT GS 3118 PERHAPS IT COULD BE UTILIZED AS A TRANSIT CAMP. THIS OF COURSE WOULD SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES. THE OTHER ISSUE RAISED WAS THE IMPACT ON THE MILOB'S IN THE AREA. AS MORE PEOPLE ENTER THE COMMUNES THERE IS BOUND TO BE A REQUIREMENT FOR ESCORT PATROLS. AS VARIOUS AREAS EXPERIENCE A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, THIS WILL DRIVE THE NEED TO INCREASE THE MILOB DAILY PATROL ACTIVITY. UNLESS A RAPID INCREASE IN VEHICLE ALLOCATION OR CONSIDERABLY SHORTER MAINTENANCE TURN AROUND IS ACHIEVED, IT WILL NOT PHYSICALLY BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY VISIBILITY.

5.A. THE NUMBER OF RETURNEES THROUGH CYANIKA BORDER-POST WAS 11.

5.B. NUMBER OF RETURNEES FROM ZAIRE AT GISENYI\GOMA BORDER-POST WAS 61.

6.A. THREE VEHICLES FROM THE SECTOR 1032, 1115 AND 1012 PRESENTLY IN WORKSHOP KIGALI FOR REPAIRS. FOR THE SLGO. GIVEN OUR VEHICLE SHORTAGE, COULD YOU APPROACH THE CTO TO GET A PRIORITY ON THE REPAIR OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE VEHICLES OR ARRANGE FOR A TEMPORARY ISSUE.

6.B. THE SECTOR LOG OFFR WAS DISPATCHED TO KIGALI THIS AM TO ATTEMPT TO SORT OUT SOME OF OUR LOG PROBLEMS WITH THE UNAMIR AGENCIES AND THE SLGO. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR CONCERNS; THOSE OF THE VEHICLE PROBLEMS AND THE FACT THAT THIS SECTOR SHOULD HAVE A CAPSAT SITUATED IN GISENYI. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED BY OUR RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CH10 REPEATER. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE SECTOR WILL REMAIN DIFFICULT HOWEVER, AND GIVEN THAT GISENYI DOES NOT HAVE LAND LINE, IT WILL PROVIDE A LINK WITH UNAMIR HQ SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE ABOVE TWO PROBLEMS BE ADDRESSED BY THE SLGO TO THE APPROPRIATE UNAMIR AUTHORITY.

7.A. AUTHORIZED STRENGTH:37

PRESENT: 24
CTO/LEAVE:00

LCOL BELSKI
CAPT MILED
CAPT M'RABET
MAJ GUMBO
MAJ MSOMELA
MAJ ALAMK
CAPT MULPINDE
MAJ SIDIBE

7.B. DEFICIENCY:05

Or
23/6

TO : MILOB GP HQ (OPS)

INFO : HQ UNAMIR KIGALI (DCOS OPS)

TUNBATT

FROM : SECTOR-5 MILOB HQ, GISENYI

SUBJECT : SITREP COVERING PERIOD 211700 TO 221700 B JUN 95

1.A. CALM.

1.B. ZAIRIAN/RWANDESE BORDER IS OPEN FOR ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT UNAMIR PERSONNEL. NORMAL BORDER TRAFFIC BETWEEN UGANDAN / RWANDESE BORDER AT CYANIKA BORDER POST. TRAFFIC STILL CLOSED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO GOMA CAMPS.

2.A. NTR.

2.B. NTR.

3.A. ONE 5A MILOB PATROL CONDUCTED A LOCAL PATROL. THIS WAS NECESSITATED AS A RESULT OF THE LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS ON CH 10. THE TEAM VISITED THE MURARA MSF CLINIC (2015) - NYUNDO (2511) - RUBAVU (2313) AND RETURN. MURARA MSF ORPHANAGE/CLINIC - THE SECURITY SITUATION IS REPORTED AS CALM. THE ORPHANAGE IS NEWLY ESTABLISHED, CONTAINS 80 ORPHANS AND IS EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE OF CLOTHING, ACCOMMODATION AND ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT/TOYS. NYUNDO ORPHANAGE - NOW CONTAINS 500 ORPHANS AND IS SHORT OF SOAP (BOTH BATHING AND WASHING), SUGAR, RICE, SALT AND MILK. THE ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED TO THE RELEVANT UN AGENCIES.

3.B. ONE 5A MILOB PATROL ON D ROUTE. SITUATION REPORTED AS CALM.

3.D. ONE 5B MILOB PATROL ON H ROUTE. SITUATION CALM.

4.A. AS OF TODAY ONLY 100 PERS REMAIN IN THE COLLEGE TRANSIT CAMP LOC. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL BE CLEAR OF THE COLLEGE WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS MAXIMUM. COOPI ENTERED THE COLLEGE TODAY TO START THE TEARDOWN OF THE TEMPORARY SHELTERS THAT HAD BEEN ERECTED.

4.B IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A SHELTER PROGRAM MAY COMMENCE IN LATE JULY TO EARLY AUGUST. WITH SOME 5000 SHELTER KITS ASSIGNED TO THE GISENYI AREA. THE SEED PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE UNHCR WILL BE STOPPED DUE TO REDUCTION IN BUDGET.