

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 5-1120  
BOX 41  
FILE 3  
ACC. 1998/0278

PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY - FRI 16 DEC 94  
ON 'OPERATION HOPE'

DR KABIA  
Comments pse.  
16/12  
DFC/LOS

MISSION

1. The Mission of 'OP HOPE' was to get rid of the criminal elements and to establish a secure environment which will encourage DP repatriation, - Mission accomplished.

DP POPULATION

2. All the displaced people remained calm throughout the operation. Indeed they cheered and waved at us as we approached the camps at dawn.

BLOODSHED

3. The bloodshed perceived by certain individuals/organizations did not take place.

STAMPEDE

4. There was none.

FEAR OF DPS

5. There was no sign.

SUSPECTS

6. 47 arrested, 4 were cleared on the spot and 43 being held by our Military Police/Civpol together with Human Rights and ICRC officials. Indeed Representatives of these Organizations were present in the camps as the operation was underway. UNREO officials even moved in the convoy with us during the advance from the Assembly Area in Butare to the camps. They saw it all, ~~and had no negative accounts to give.~~

WEAPONS

7. What most people did not understand is that during the genocide, it was not modern automatic weapons that did the killings. The machetes, pangas, spears & swords which are traditional weapons were those that were used. It is a shame that ignorance on the part of people who saw the genocide at a distance are trying to comment on things they do not know.

AGENCY COMPLAINTS

8. The operation was not done to please ~~agencies.~~ ~~UNAMIR~~  
~~conducted the operation~~ in fulfilment of its mandate among which  
are;

at all stages of such operations is important, and thank you again for your understanding.

I am  
asking Sam  
Bono to  
interact with  
Ms Mutuli

[6] Public Relations/Media/ and the Integrated Humanitarian Response. Thank you for your response to my memorandum regarding greater emphasis on the "integrated humanitarian response" in your press briefings, etc.. I have asked our head of Information, Ms Millicent Mutuli, to contact your press officer to determine specific ways these matters might be followed-up, and also to determine how best we can be of support with regard to the radio station. I also understand that you intend to raise the matter of the radio at the regular inter-agency meeting of 20 December, and I shall inform our colleagues accordingly.

yes

[7] Integrated Operations Centre. I heard about the very strong message that you gave to colleagues last Saturday about supporting the IOC in practical ways. Here, too, I am very grateful for the support, and wonder at the same time what the response to your request had been. We are both anxious to move on this matter quickly, and now particularly so in light of #2, above. Also, I sense a certain "credibility problem" with the Minister of Rehabilitation who keeps pressing me about when the transfer from the Stadium will take place.

[8] ECHO/UNAMIR Flights. This issue, I understand from UNREO and ECHO, has been resolved. Hence, my hope that you might be able to save all those Christmas hopes and plans is no longer a concern. [Paradoxically, had it not been resolved, we might have had a lot more help on hand for Operation Retour during the last two weeks of December!!].

yes I have  
heard the same  
news.

[9] Dillon Mission. ...And speaking of "Operation Retour", I forgot to mention to you that Ambassador Dillon and Serge Telle will be returning to Kigali this coming Sunday, 18 December.

Again, thank you for all the time you gave me. Perhaps, we might get together for a brief meeting tomorrow if you have some time.