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63 OPERATIONS/PLANS - HAC - OPERATION PETOUR

23-27 MAR 1995

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

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INTEGRATED OPERATIONS CENTRE

(IOC)

OPERATION RETOUR WEEKLY REPORT 20 - 26 MARCH 1995

Kigali, 27 March 1995

SUMMARY

The government reiterated its desire to see IDPs return home as soon as possible, through a revitalised Operation Retour.

The Integrated Task Force focused on immediate action to rehabilitate basic commune infrastructure, alongside the plan to empty the camps.

Numbers of IDPs transported under Operation Retour remained low.

SECURITY

Restricted access

Restriction of movement was reported in Mugesera commune. The Prefet of Kibungo is tackling the problem.

Possible insurgency

A routine check by RPA soldiers resulted in two people being arrested on 17 Mar in Ngarama. According to military observers, those arrested were found to be carrying grenades, and are believed to be members of the former government forces.

Rwamiko security incident

UNAMIR reported a man in Rwamiko commune, which houses Rwamiko IDP camp, robbed on 21 Mar and killed on 22 Mar, apparently by bandits.

NUMBERS

Low numbers continue

Very few people chose to leave the camps and go home. 490 people were transported from the camps, mainly Kibeho, during the reporting period. A number of these take no belongings, and are therefore not thought to be returning home but taking advantage of the transport for other reasons. Daily numbers transported were as follows:

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20 Mar - 190	23 Mar - 86
21 Mar - 64	24 Mar - 85
22 Mar - 65	

This brings the total number transported by vehicle since Operation Retour began on 29 Dec 94 to 41,050.

CAMPS

New arrivals in camps

Buhoro camp was reported to have received new arrivals from Nyabisindu, Maraba, Ngoma, Muyira and Ngenda communes. Gisunzu camp was reported to have recently received 48 new arrivals, mainly from Huye, Maraba and Runyinya communes.

Calm in camps

All camps were reported to be calm during the reporting period.

New Kibeho camp figure

Kibeho camp is now reported to have a population of around 84,000, considerably lower than previously thought. Previous figures were largely drawn from food registration lists, which are routinely inflated.

Government visit to Kibeho

The Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Information and the Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie visited Kibeho camp on 24 Mar. They held discussions with the inhabitants of the camp on the

prospects of returning home, and current moves towards peace and national reconciliation.

Government urgency for camp closure

The Prefet of Gikongoro, a senior local government official, insisted on 23 Mar that a revitalised operation to close the camps be operational within two weeks. He wished Kamana camp - the southernmost - to be emptied first, and then for the operation to work north. He announced new curfew arrangements, and the forcible closure of markets - two measures which he intends to impose in Ndago and Rwamiko camps.

Liaison between Kigali and local government

Meetings in the field between central and local government are planned to ensure good consultation and coordination over Operation Retour.

Operation "Topaz"

A further 315 people were transferred from Groupe Scolaire (Butare educational establishment) to newly built facilities in Runyinya under "Operation Topaz". The operation has been arranged by local officials with the help of international agencies, in order to enable Groupe Scolaire to reopen. Those moving are people originating from Gikongoro communes but who are unable or unwilling to return home until the IDP camps there diminish. Groupe Scolaire has until recently been occupied by about 10,000 IDPs. A lack of water in Runyinya is being tackled by Unicef, who will provide

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water pending a longer-term solution.

COMMUNES

Communes in south-west Butare

The communes of Runyinya, Gishamvu and Nyakizu in the south-west of Butare prefecture are reported to be ready to absorb large numbers of returning IDPs, with few security problems. As many as 90,000 people currently in the Gikongoro camps are thought to come from these three camps, which are within 20 km of Kibeho camp. At the moment almost none of these IDPs take the opportunity to go home.

Commune rehabilitation

A detailed plan for commune rehabilitation is nearing finalisation. The aim is to mobilise funds for institutional support at commune level. Basic infrastructure assistance (office equipment, transport for officials, etc) is needed very quickly in communes due to receive most returning IDPs.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Target communes

It will be for the information campaign to target communes that will receive most people from the camps and are most ready to receive new arrivals. As other communes are judged by the Task Force/IOC to be ready for large inflows, the information campaign can also include those communes.

Sake

The bourgmestre of Sake has been addressing the sectors of his commune in an attempt to calm those who because of rumours may be thinking of leaving Rwanda for Burundi.

DATABASE

CARE International and WHO are contributing to the integrated humanitarian database. The British Overseas Development Agency also expressed interest in participating alongside the other organisations already involved.

VISITS

Ambassador Khan, the SRSG, visited the IOC on 24 Mar.

COORDINATION

The Integrated Task Force was attended by a Ministry of Justice official for the first time for many weeks - a very welcome addition. The Commune Rehabilitation Committee was tasked to produce a detailed written plan by the next Task Force meeting.

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INTERGRATED OPERATIONS CENTRE

(IOC)

OPERATION RETOUR -DAILY SUMMARY 23.3.95

MOVEMENT - A total of 86 IDPs were transported by vehicle to their respective communes today. The break down figures as supplied by UNHCR sub-office Gikongoro were as stated below:

FROM: Kibeho camp	63
TO: Butare communes	53
KGL Town	3
Ngenda	5
Gashora	1
Kibungo	1
FROM: Ndago camp	23
TO: Butare communes	21
KGL Town	2
TODAY'S TOTAL	86

GIKONGORO PREFET'S MEETING - IOC Coordination staff participated in a meeting chaired by the Prefet of Gikongoro today. The agenda concerned how to enable the IDPs to go home as soon as possible. The

Prefet outlined his proposed strategy, which was similar to the provisional plan currently under discussion in the Task Force. He concluded that the Task Force should include his proposals in the plan. Planning could continue even while action was simultaneously being taken, in the Prefet's opinion. He wished to see the camps closed as soon as possible, and for the revised plan to begin to be operational within two weeks.

CURFEW IN THE CAMPS - The Gikongoro Prefet announced that there will be a curfew in the camps and their surrounding areas from 1900 hours in the evening. Start date was not announced. The markets in the camps will also be suppressed - again, start date not known.

ECHO representatives visited the IOC today and announced their intention to participate in IOC meetings, with a full-time presence in the IOC.

BYUMBA SHOOTING - Investigations into the Byumba shooting incident are continuing with new evidence providing a different perspective from what initial reports indicated.

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