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27-MAR-1996 Extradition of Rwandan colonel to Belgium snagged

BRUSSELS, March 27 (Reuter) - Formalities are blocking the extradition by Cameroon of former Rwandan army colonel Theoneste Bagosora to Belgium, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Bagosora is wanted in Belgium in connection with the killing of 10 Belgian soldiers on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in 1994.

"Paying attention to national and international legislation and given the lack of an extradition treaty between Cameroon and Belgium a number of formal rules have to be obeyed first," Luc De Temmerman said.

A decree by Cameroon President Paul Biya must be drawn up and signed before Bagosora can be extradited, he said. As a result Bagosora "cannot as planned come to Belgium on Friday."

He was arrested in Cameroon this month on suspicion of having played a key role in the killing of up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda two years ago.

Rwanda too is seeking his extradition, but efforts to get Cameroon to turn over Bagosora have been thwarted by the absence of a treaty on the subject. In this case too president Biya is the only person able to grant an extradition.

Bagosora is the most important suspect detained so far in connection with the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. If convicted, he faces a death sentence in Rwanda.

27-MAR-1996 U.S. sends mine-sniffing dogs to Rwanda

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 27 (Reuter) - Lando dines on a meal of chicken, vitamins, garlic, cheddar cheese and extracts of rosemary shipped in from the United States.

Lando is not your average dog in Rwanda. He arrived in the Central African country on a plane from the United States with five other Belgian dogs trained to sniff mines.

The dogs, together with bags of high-nutrition pet food, were recently donated by the U.S. government to help clear some of Rwanda's half a million mines laid before and after the 1994 genocidal civil war, said Rwandan de-mining officer Frank Ndore.

A U.S. military contingent trained officers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army last year in mine clearance, gave them equipment and initially supervised the operation.

Rwandan de-miners wearing body armour and helmets and using dogs and electronic detectors are a far cry from the days before the arrival of U.S. trainers when soldiers used to clear mines with their bare hands or using machetes.

In border areas, more mines are being laid each day by extremist Hutu infiltrators waging a guerrilla campaign against the Rwandan government from

camps in neighbouring Zaire, home to a million refugees who fled after the genocide in which up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed, Ndore said.

"Sometimes our boys clear a road, they work all day, and the next day we have another mine," Ndore said.

"But the infiltrators should fear these dogs. We are training them to sniff all sorts of explosives -- mines, grenades, mortar bombs, trip-wires and booby traps."

The dogs are getting field training at an army base on a mist-shrouded hill overlooking the tropical capital Kigali.

It takes each dog half an hour to sniff an area half the size of a tennis court. When they find an anti-personnel mine, the size of a tin of shoe polish packed with enough TNT to blow off your leg, they are trained to sit before it and wait.

U.S. trainer George Conrad, who has been involved in similar programmes in Afghanistan, former Yugoslavia and Mozambique, said the U.S. government would ship in 12 more dogs to Rwanda.

"Rwandan soldiers are learning fast on the job. We're only giving them initial training. They're the ones who'll be left alone with these dogs," he said.

There are some communication problems, however. Rwandan soldiers born in Rwanda speak French, others who came from Uganda speak English, and the dogs are trained to understand commands only when given in Dutch.

Each dog cost the U.S. government up to \$8,000 in transport, training and food, Conrad said.

"These dogs are expensive," said Rwandan de-mining officer Lieutenant Francis Kabucye, pointing at bags of special American dog food including tins of "Sportman's Chunky Beef Dinner" stocked in a room inside the army barracks.

"These dogs only eat dog food from America. The Americans told us our local African food may harm them," he added.

27-MAR-1996 U.N. expert blames EU for Burundi timewasting

By Philippe Naughton

GENEVA, March 27 (Reuters) - A U.N. investigator criticised the European Union on Wednesday for failing to send human rights monitors to Burundi almost a year after promising to do so to help calm ethnic tensions in the central African state.

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, an outspoken Brazilian jurist, also said nothing was being done to stop Burundian extremism because of a misguided idea that the genocide which tore apart neighbouring Rwanda in 1994 was bound to spread to Burundi.

"They're playing at fighting the extremists, but in fact what is the international community doing about those people who want to take power through violence or genocide? They are doing nothing," Pinheiro told a news conference.

Pinheiro was appointed last April as the U.N. Human Rights Commission's "special rapporteur" for Burundi. He formally presented his first two reports to the Commission on Wednesday during a session dedicated to the Burundian crisis.

Pinheiro's appointment last year came shortly after EU leaders agreed to finance the deployment of five monitors who could register major human rights violations amid Burundi's simmering tensions between Tutsis and Hutus.

The U.N. had asked for 35 and Pinheiro said he thought a force of 100 monitors was needed -- but even the five had not yet been sent. "We have lost a year," he said, adding that Europe had an "historic responsibility" for the region.

EU officials have said the delay was caused by a Burundian refusal to accept the monitors and they would soon leave for Bujumbura, but Pinheiro said Burundian leaders had told him they were willing to accept as many monitors as the international community wanted to send in.

Pinheiro's second report, which followed a visit to Burundi in January, spoke of a kind of "genocide by attrition" in Burundi, where tens of thousands have been killed since the assassination by Tutsi troops of President Melchior Ndadaye in October 1993.

It complained of a paralysis in Burundi's weak coalition government, a biased and lax judiciary, and an undisciplined army that takes few prisoners in its clashes with guerrillas.

The Brazilian jurist warned that Burundi could still explode into full-scale civil war, with unpredictable consequences for the Great Lakes region and Africa as a whole.

Among the report's recommendations were the sending of at least 100 human rights observers, the strengthening of a U.N.-appointed commission of inquiry into past atrocities, travel restrictions on Burundian leaders and a strict international arms embargo on Burundi.

Some of those points were to be taken up by the 53-nation Commission in a resolution due to be adopted later on Wednesday. A draft of the resolution, although short on concrete measures, expressed the Commission's strong support for reinforced U.N. human rights activity.

Pinheiro said he had not read the final draft, but he had been unimpressed by what he heard of earlier versions.

"From the rumours I heard of the elements in the first drafts I didn't recognise Burundi," he said. "I was shocked. I said, 'Is this Burundi, or is it Iceland?'"

23-MAR-1996 French court ends Rwandan priest genocide probe

PARIS, March 23 (Reuter) - A French appeals court has put an end to an investigation into charges that an exiled Rwandan priest was involved in the 1994 genocide that claimed up to a million lives in his country, French media said on Saturday.

They said the court in the southern town of Nimes ruled on Friday that the French magistrate investigating Wenceslas Munyeshyaka was not competent to investigate a Rwandan national for crimes which occurred in Rwanda.

The media quoted William Bourdon, a lawyer for victims of the genocide, as urging the state prosecutor to appeal to the supreme court against the ruling, arguing that it was contrary to the 1984 New York convention on torture.

Munyeshyaka was being formally investigated on suspicion of genocide, inhuman and degrading treatment, torture and barbarism.

He was briefly detained after coming into exile in France in 1994 and has been living under police control in the southern village of Bourg-Saint-Andeol.

Several Rwandan Tutsi witnesses who sought refuge in the Sainte Famille church in Kigali during the killing have accused him of giving Hutu militias lists of Tutsi sympathisers who were later taken away and killed. Munyeshyaka has denied the charges and said his offers of sanctuary had saved many lives.

23-MAR-1996 Rwanda slaps curfew on rebel-hit northwest region

KIGALI, March 23 (Reuter) - Rwanda has introduced a night curfew in a troubled northwestern region near the border with Zaire after increased rebel attacks, state-run radio said on Saturday.

It said the military and government authorities of Gisenyi region ordered the overnight curfew and announced plans to start issuing new identity cards in border districts to try to catch infiltrators from Zaire.

Rwanda's Tutsi-led army has in the past introduced brief curfews in regions bordering Zaire, a base of hardline Hutus responsible for the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

The Hutus, driven out of office in a three-month civil war, are now waging an insurgency campaign, striking from camps in Zaire and Burundi to where one million Hutu refugees fled.

Early on Friday, suspected rebel infiltrators fired six mortar bombs into an area near the centre of Cyangugu in the southwest, a picturesque town within striking distance of some of the most militant refugee camps across the border in Zaire.

Rwandan army troops encircled the area after the attack, in which there were no casualties.

22-MAR-1996 UN panel says Zaire involved in Rwanda arms smuggling

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS, March 22 (Reuter) - A U.N. panel on Friday accused the Zairean government of either helping or turning a blind eye to arms smuggling to former Rwandan army officers attempting to recapture power in Kigali.

The six-member commission also said Zaire had obstructed its work and gave misleading and inadequate statements, claiming it had no knowledge of any misdeeds in Goma, where many Rwandan refugees as well as former militia now live.

In one 1994 study of arms smuggling, the commission showed how a former Rwandan officer, Col. Theoneste Bagosora, working with a South African middle man, Willem Ehlers, pretended to be a Zairean official and smuggled arms through the Seychelles on Air Zaire planes with Zairean government documents.

The report also criticised the U.N. Security Council for slapping an arms embargo on Rwanda and then doing nothing to follow up or to provide adequate resources for those who did so. It made recommendations for the council on sanctions enforcement.

The commission was created last September after independent reports, particularly from the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said forces of the former Rwanda government, including leaders of Hutu death squads that were involved in genocide in the spring of 1994, were rearming and training in Zaire.

The U.N. report said "that senior figures among the former Rwandan government forces were still actively raising money among sympathisers abroad, apparently for the purpose of funding an armed struggle" against the current Tutsi-led government.

Friday's report was the second one on the subject. The investigators wrote to or revisited several states whose nationals were alleged to have been involved in arms trade.

They received strong cooperation from the Seychelles and visited at length with French officials, but got scant information or flat denials from South Africa, Kenya, China and Bulgaria.

The commission also interviewed leading French arms dealers, who denied they had shipped weapons since 1992. But it was not able to interview a man Human Rights Watch identified as a former consular official in Goma in mid-1994. The commission came to no conclusion on French involvement.

However, the panel spent a good deal of time in the Seychelles documenting at length smuggling routes and payments.

One payment of \$179,965 was from the Union Bancaire Privée in Geneva to the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York to the Central Bank of Seychelles account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. A second sum was listed as \$149,982 and the Federal Reserve Bank said it came from "one of our clients."

The transactions were in June 1994 and the former Rwandan colonel, Bagosora, told Human Rights Watch the deals were legal because Rwanda's civil war was still going on.

The Seychelles allowed the shipments, the U.N. report said, because it believed Zaire was the end user. But the panel said it had no doubt that two plane-loads of AK 437 rifles, ammunition, mortars and hand grenades went to the Rwandan rebels.

"The commission is satisfied that the government of Zaire knew or should have known that one of the very few functioning aircraft in its national airline had engaged in the transportation of arms from Seychelles to Goma," the report said.

"Similarly the Commission believes that the Zairian government knew, or should have known, that a high-ranking Rwandan army officer was acting or purporting to act on its behalf in arms negotiation in Seychelles on the basis of an end-user certificate apparently issued by the Zairian Ministry of Defence in Kinshasha," it added.

22-MAR-1996 Rwandan Tutsi soldiers said to rape Hutu women

KIGALI, March 22 (Reuters) - Rwandan government soldiers raped two Hutu women at a transit camp after they returned from refugee camps outside Rwanda, U.N. refugee agency officials said on Friday.

The women were raped at the Nyakarambi transit camp in the southeastern border region of Kibungo last week, they said.

Officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) interviewed one of the women but the whereabouts of the other victim was not known. UNHCR sources said soldiers were flogged after the rapes.

Rwandan defence ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

The rapes were likely to complicate UNHCR's efforts to repatriate 1.7 million Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled to neighbouring Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania after the 1994 genocide.

Many of the Hutu refugees killed or silently watched others kill up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates in the three months of the genocide before fleeing to eastern Zaire.

They refuse to return home for fear of reprisal attacks by soldiers of Rwanda's Tutsi-led army. Many soldiers had family members slaughtered in the genocide by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

2-MAR-1996 Mortar bombs fired at southwestern Rwandan village

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 22 (Reuters) - Rwandan army troops have encircled a southwestern village facing Zaire across Lake Kivu after suspected rebel Hutu infiltrators attacked it with mortar bombs, U.N. security officials said.

Troops surrounded Kamembe village in southwestern Cyangugu region on Friday after the attack shortly before 2 a.m., the officials said. Soldiers gathered

villagers at a football stadium and carried out checks, they said.

Three of the bombs struck a mosque, one hit a vehicle station, one fell near the marketplace and another on a coffee plantation, but there were no reports of casualties, they said.

The attackers appeared to have struck from within one km (half a mile) of the village centre, the officials said. Rwandan defence ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Rwanda's border regions are plagued by a guerrilla insurgency waged by exiled Hutu rebels operating from refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire and Burundi.

One million Rwandan Hutu refugees live in Zaire and Burundi where they fled in fear of reprisal for the 1994 genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu hardliners.

Cyangugu, a picturesque town on the shores of Lake Kivu, is within striking distance of some of the most militant refugee camps across the border in Zaire where Rwandan Hutus in exile are being fed by the United Nations and Western aid agencies.

Another haven for Hutu guerrillas is the mist-shrouded mountains of the northwestern border region of Gisenyi, where two nuns -- one Rwandan and one Spanish -- were killed when their vehicle struck a mine on a dirt road on Wednesday.

In a sign of growing government nervousness at the rebellion, Prime Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema made a rare appeal to Rwandans on state-run radio on Friday, urging them to collaborate with security forces to track down infiltrators.

In Cyangugu last week, a local government official was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Bugarama village and two other local officials and three civilians were killed in neighbouring Gikongoro region in the south.

22-MAR-1996 Rwanda to issue new identity cards for security

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 22 (Reuters) - Rwanda will issue identity cards to tighten security in its fight against Hutu insurgents who led the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi minority, Interior Minister Alexis Kanyarangwe said on Friday.

He said the four-month operation would start in a week in regions bordering Zaire and Burundi which have been hit by mine blasts, killings and attacks on power and water installations.

"The infiltrators are hiding inside the country. It's clear they get support from local people. Identity cards will help us fight this insecurity," Kanyarangwe told Reuters in an interview.

Rwanda's former Hutu government, its 40,000-strong army and two million Hutu refugees, fled to Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania after the genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and moderates from the Hutu majority.

Rebel attacks have so far been limited to border areas and much of the central African country is relatively secure.

Kanyarangwe said the new identity cards would not mention ethnicity, unlike previous ones dating back to Belgian colonial rule which strengthened divisions between Hutus and Tutsis.

The old cards helped Hutu militiamen to identify Tutsis slaughtered at checkpoints and hiding places in the genocide.

Kanyarangwe said new identity cards would also help security forces to catch genocide killers hiding inside the country.

The operation is likely to be a logistical nightmare for the Tutsi-led government, which took power after three months of civil war in 1994 and lacks proper offices, stationery, typewriters and cars.

The task will be complicated by huge population movements since the end of the genocide, including the arrival of 800,000 Tutsis from exile in Uganda, Zaire and Burundi.

Some Rwandan human rights activists said they feared troops would use new cards to clamp down even more and detain suspects.

Rwanda's overcrowded jails are already stuffed with 67,000 Hutu genocide suspects, including more than 1,000 children.

In December, officials started registering people in notebooks given to families in Kigali region where scores have since been arrested in army sweeps, human rights observers said.

In 1995, officials tried to issue identity cards to classify people ethnically by differentiating Tutsi returnees with passes in separate colours.

The plan was dropped after opposition from then Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga, a Hutu who was sacked in August last year and now lives in exile in Kenya.

19-MAR-1996 Burundi bans "ethnic hatred" publications

By Christian Jennings

2 BUJUMBURA, March 19 (Reuter) - Burundian authorities have banned seven publications which they accuse of inciting ethnic hatred among both Tutsis and Hutus.

Officials said Burundi's National Council for Communication suspended the publications indefinitely on Monday for stirring up ethnic hatred among the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority tribes.

They were: La Nation, Le Carrefour des Idees, L'Etoile -- accused of being Tutsi hardline; L'Aube de la Democratie, Le Temoin-Nyaburorongo, Le Miroir and L'Eclaireur -- accused of being Hutu hardline.

1 The international press freedom organisation Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) in a report earlier this year called for the banning of six of the seven on the grounds they were being used as tools of both Hutu and Tutsi extremism.

C 3 International aid agencies, fearing an outbreak of violence similar to the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda, have urged banning of radio stations and publications stirring up ethnic hatred.

The slaughter of up to a million Tutsis and Hutus in Rwanda in 1994 was encouraged by Radio-Television Mille Collines.

Francois Sendazirasa, president of the Burundian Journalists' Association, said on Tuesday the move was "absurd" and anti-democratic. He said he was surprised as some of the seven had ceased publishing themselves up to eight months ago.

Communication Minister Antoine Baza said the government did not put pressure on the council for the seven suspensions but added: "We want a constructive press, not a destructive press."

More than 100,000 people have been killed since 1993 in Burundi where the Tutsi-dominated military is battling Hutu rebels in a civil war that frequently includes attacks on civilians.

C 1 X In another development, Leonard Nyangoma's rebel National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD) set out conditions for agreeing to a ceasefire and negotiations with authorities.

1 It said it was ready to call on its armed wing FDD to adhere to a ceasefire if the government army withdrew to its barracks.

2 During a ceasefire, CNDD said in a statement it hoped for negotiations to abolish a powersharing convention of government agreed in 1994 and to allow for 3 presidential and parliamentary polls.

4 It demanded the arrest of rebel soldiers who assassinated president Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first freely-elected head of state, in 1993 and the creation 5 of a new truly national army.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter told Reuters in Tunis on Tuesday a summit on the crises in Rwanda and Burundi agreed the power-sharing convention should be scrapped as it favoured Tutsis.

But a communique issued at the end of the three-day summit between the presidents of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire mediated by Carter made no mention of scrapping the pact.

In Bujumbura, a U.S. missionary said on Tuesday gendarmes arrested 72 Hutu civilians in a raid on a centre for displaced people on Sunday but 45 were later reported released.

U.S. Baptist missionary Carl Johnson, who along with his wife and two sons run the Johnson Centre in the troubled northern suburb of Kamenge, said gendarmes arrives at dawn at the centre, which has a hospital and is home to 5,000 Hutus.

"They were looking for firearms which they didn't find. They were polite and there was no violence," Johnson told Reuters.

18-MAR-1996 11:29 U.N. tribunal trials on Rwanda set for April

KIGALI, March 18 (Reuter) - The deputy prosecutor of the international tribunal on Rwanda's genocide said on Monday that the first suspects would go on trial in mid-April.

Judge Honore Rakotomanana told Reuters the trials, at the tribunal's base in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, would begin with two Rwandans, now held in Zambia.

"We'll start the trials in mid-April," he said, adding that a prison and a temporary court would be ready in Arusha by then.

The tribunal was set up 1994 to bring to book leaders of the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu hardliners.

Its work has been hampered by lack of cash and it has only 30 investigators instead of the at least 100 it has sought.

More than a year of investigations have led to indictments against only 10 genocide suspects, mostly local officials.

18-MAR-1996 Cameroon yet to act on Rwanda genocide suspect

YAOUNDE, March 18 (Reuter) - Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana said on Monday he had made no progress since arriving in Cameroon last week to seek the extradition of an arrested Rwandan genocide suspect.

Gasana arrived last Wednesday, three days after Cameroon police seized former Rwandan army Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, chief of cabinet at the defence ministry during the 1994 genocide of about one million Rwandan Tutsis and their allies.

"I am still waiting to be received by President Paul Biya," the minister told Reuters.

Biya has been on a private visit to Europe since March 10 and the date of his return has not been disclosed. Officials say he is the only person able to

grant an extradition in the absence of a specific treaty.

Cameroon foreign ministry sources said a Belgian application for the extradition of Bagosora over the murder of 10 Belgian U.N. peacekeepers in Rwanda in 1994 stood a better chance.

"The Rwandan move is parallel to that of the Belgian government. Now, from a humanitarian point of view, Belgium offers greater guarantee for the life of Colonel Bagosora than Rwanda," one source said.

Belgian officials say the colonel was arrested following a request by Belgium.

Rwandan government officials describe Bagosora as one of the most wanted men in connection with the genocide.

17-MAR-1996 Rwanda gets its own British-equipped "bobbies"

By Elif Kaban

KIBUNGO, Rwanda, March 17 (Reuter) - With helmets, uniforms and batons supplied by the British, Rwanda's own "bobbies" passed out on Sunday in the first wave of civilian police to be deployed since 1994's genocide.

To victory marches played by a military brass band, a first group of 750 civilian policemen paraded before officials and diplomats outside their training school in southeastern Rwanda.

The highlight of the graduation ceremony was a mock demonstration when newly-trained riot police fought a group of villagers who attacked them with stones and sticks.

Rwandan riot police in neat uniforms, wearing helmets and clutching clubs in one hand and shields in the other, made for a bizarre scene in the middle of the lush countryside of this tiny central African country.

The police force will form one of the building blocks for a more ordered society in a country laid waste by the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Under the previous extremist Hutu regime that organised the genocide, civilian policemen were village thugs who joined the militia in hacking Tutsis to death with machetes.

Western diplomats see the deployment of civilian police as a step towards normalcy and a sign of the country getting back on its feet after one of the worst killings of the century.

Officials declined to give the ethnic breakdown of the new civilian police force.

The young graduates did a four-month crash course in police drills, field training and anti-riot techniques. But western diplomats voiced concern that basic human rights training was omitted from the course at the last minute.

Rwandan Interior Minister Alexis Kanwiyarengwe told Reuters at the graduation ceremony that his government aimed to train a total of 4,000 civilian policemen in the next 12 months.

The policemen will assist local judiciary officials in arrests and will form the first level of law enforcement bodies in Rwanda's 145 villages, Kanwiyarengwe said.

"This is a very important step towards providing security. These policemen face a big challenge in helping to keep order."

The civilian policemen will be deployed in villages where genocide wounds are still festering.

Dealing with the raw recruits of Rwanda's army, who in some cases act with complete military impunity, will perhaps be one of the biggest challenges facing the civilian policemen.

Since the end of the genocide, Rwanda's Tutsi-led army, which took power in July 1994, has remained the only source of real power in the countryside simply because it had vehicles, fuel, weapons and portable telephones.

Rough justice has been taking its course in the countryside where army soldiers, many of whom lost families in the genocide, carry out arbitrary arrests.

One of the graduates, Francis Musafiri, a Tutsi who came home from exile in Uganda, said: "It's going to be tough. Many people in our villages are traumatised. We'll have to deal with ethnic problems. We'll have to deal with returning refugees."

Britain supplied the uniforms, including the conical helmets of the British "bobby," the Netherlands provided material assistance and Germany and the United States sent instructors, said Sukehiro Hasegawa, head of the U.N. Development programme in Rwanda.

"We hope the police force we are establishing here does not become armed elements of oppression," he told the ceremony. "We are confident this will never be the case."

'15-MAR-1996 U.S. advises Americans to take precautions

WASHINGTON, March 15 (Reuter) - The State Department on Friday cautioned U.S. citizens against travel in northern Uganda and urged them to be "extremely vigilant" regarding personal security.

The warning came after the murder this week of an American doctor and the theft of his car outside the hospital in Kampala where he worked.

Professor Rodney Belcher, 64, an orthopedic surgeon from Arlington, Virginia, was shot in the chest as he arrived for work at Mulago Hospital Monday. He died instantly.

The State Department said the perpetrators of the crime claimed it was a political act directed against Americans. Despite the fact that police did not regard the claim as credible, U.S. citizens should maintain security awareness, it said in a written statement.

"Suspicious activities should be reported to police authorities and the U.S. Embassy. Persons confronted by thieves are advised to offer no resistance."

Americans also were advised to avoid travel in northern Uganda that the State Department described as "extremely dangerous."

"During the past several weeks, the Lord's Resistance Army has attacked many vehicles and villages and caused numerous deaths," the statement said. "Travel to northern Uganda is unwise at this time."

"These attacks are designed to destabilise the precarious political situation and to foment violence in the region, underlining the necessity to promote reconciliation and the duty of each person to do something about these incidents," it added.

U.N. security sources said last week that 73 civilians were killed in two attacks in northwest Burundi by Hutu rebels in a new round of violence that had broken out two weeks earlier.

More than 100,000 people have died in the past 30 months in Burundi, which has the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda where Hutus killed up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in mid-1994.

Civil war between Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels infiltrating from Zaire is concentrated in the north.

The U.N. Security Council last week called for dialogue in Burundi but shelved plans to create a standby force to intervene in the central African country if violence suddenly escalated.

"The United States will continue to work with the international community to find ways of defusing the tension and to warn against such explosions of violence," the U.S. embassy said. "We appeal to all sides in the Burundian conflict to renounce violence and to work for national reconciliation."

In another development, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Wednesday it had protested to Burundi over reports that its troops had recently intimidated Rwandan Hutu refugees at Rukuramigabo camp in northeastern Burundi.

"I have sent a letter to the minister of defence and the minister of the interior about the treatment of refugees in Rukuramigabo," said Hitoshi Mise, UNHCR's chief in Burundi.

UNHCR said on Tuesday they had interviewed 14 injured Hutu refugees who said they had been beaten by Burundian troops.

Mise said the protests were lodged at the end of last week and following a visit to the region on Monday two soldiers had been identified as troublemakers and the army was taking steps against them.

Rukuramigabo camp is about five km (three miles) from the border with Rwanda and is home to some 14,500 Rwandan refugees.

Voluntary repatriations from Rwandan refugee camps in north Burundi plummeted last week and Mise said he largely blamed the drop on Rwandan refugees returning from U.N.-sponsored visits to Rwanda and giving negative reports about conditions back home.

13-MAR-1996 Tunis summit could herald Burundi talks

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, March 13 (Reuters) - Next weekend's Tunis summit on Burundi and Rwanda could herald direct talks between Burundi's government and Hutu rebels, a senior Burundian politician said.

Fresh violence has flared in Burundi in recent weeks. U.N. sources estimate that 117 people were killed in rebel and army activity between February 23 and March 6 alone.

The worsening civil war, which is concentrated in the north, pits the Tutsi-dominated army against Hutu rebels infiltrating from Zaire. Civilians have frequently been caught in the middle.

Ntibantunganya said he would talk to Leonard Nyangoma, the former interior minister and leader of Hutu rebels' Forces for the Defence of Democracy -- which has turned large parts of Burundi into no-go zones -- on condition he surrendered weapons.

"I am ready to talk to anyone," he added. "But you can't talk to people who gratuitously massacre the population."

Ntibantunganya, a Hutu, said his country faced a political, not ethnic, crisis and the only way forward was to move towards "a real national dialogue" and strengthen Burundi's institutions.

The president was making his second visit within a year to the Rome headquarters of the Sant'Egidio Community, a Roman Catholic organisation which brokered peace in Mozambique and has fostered dialogue between opposition parties in Algeria.

Sant'Egidio has also hosted two other meetings with senior Burundi figures in recent months. A senior member of the community said he thought talks between all sides were now "not impossible" but were likely to take place outside Burundi.

The United Nations special envoy Marc Faguy this month said he saw little hope for a dialogue between Hutus and Tutsis to break an "infernally cycle of violence" despite U.N. calls for talks. Ntibantunganya said he was "personally optimistic."

13-MAR-1996 U.S. condemns killing of more than 70 in Burundi

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, March 13 (Reuters) - The United States condemned on Wednesday violence in Burundi after more than 70 civilians were killed in the northwest and appealed for all sides to work for peace.

"The United States is profoundly preoccupied by the information that more than 70 civilians have been killed in the northwest of Burundi," the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

"We condemn these cowardly attacks against innocent people, notably against women, children and old people. We deplore these recent incidents which make up part of a recurrent pattern of deaths, military as well as civilian," the statement added.

"In Burundi violence engenders violence," said the embassy, ahead of Saturday's summit in Tunis convened by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter on the twin crises in Burundi and Rwanda.

relief organisations to agree on "a global, coordinated strategy" to tackle all the problems of the former Belgian colony whose economy he said was in ruins.

The world community, he said, should consider sanctions including travel bans on the leaders of both sides, a total arms embargo and the freezing of funds held in foreign banks by Burundians involved in arms trafficking.

The outside world, he said, should never renounce any means offered by international human rights accords "including an eventual resort to force to immediately halt massacres, killings and other forms of gross violations of human rights."

14-MAR-1996 Two priests, nun killed in Burundi attack, radio

NAIROBI, March 14 (Reuter) - Two priests and a nun were killed when 200 people attacked a seminary in northern Burundi, state-run radio said on Thursday.

Burundi radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the seminary was ransacked in the attack last Sunday and officials had closed it for repairs.

It did not say whether the three dead were Burundian.

On Wednesday, the U.S. embassy in Bujumbura condemned violence after more than 70 civilians were killed in northwest Burundi last month and appealed for all sides to work for peace.

More than 100,000 people have died in the past 30 months in Burundi, with the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda where Hutus killed up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

Civil war between Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels infiltrating from Zaire is concentrated in the north with Hutu and Tutsi civilians frequently caught in the middle.

13-MAR-1996 Burundi leader urges world to help disarm militias

By Jude Webber

ROME, March 13 (Reuter) - Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya called on the international community on Wednesday to help disarm local militias in the central African country, where thousands have been slaughtered in ethnic strife.

"The international community can and must intervene... These arms must be destroyed," he told a news conference in Rome, where he is visiting a Roman Catholic peace-making organisation involved in African affairs.

Ntibantunganya said the issue would be on the agenda at a meeting of African leaders in Tunis on March 16-18 convened by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in the past 30 months in Burundi, which has a similar ethnic composition to neighbouring Rwanda where Hutus killed up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in mid-1994.

15-MAR-1996 Murders of women, children routine in Burundi-UN

By Robert Evans

GENEVA, March 15 (Reuter) - A United Nations investigator on Friday portrayed the central African state of Burundi as a land of terror where women, children and old people were routinely murdered by government forces and rebels in a nascent civil war.

In a report for the U.N. Human Rights Commission, lawyer Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of Brazil said the international community should consider the possibility of armed intervention to put an end to massacres of civilians.

Without a change of heart by the country's Hutu and Tutsi ethnic community leaders and pressure from its neighbours and the world at large, Burundi could explode, sparking a new wave of instability across the heart of Africa, Pinheiro wrote.

How long, he asked could the outside world allow part of the Tutsi-dominated army and police and the mainly Hutu rebels to "terrorise defenceless people, target women, children and old people, sometimes finishing them off out of sight of witnesses with bayonets and machetes."

Pinheiro's report, to be presented to the Commission next week, reflects fears among U.N. officials of a bloodbath in Burundi like the one in Rwanda were up to a million people, mostly members of the Tutsi minority, were slaughtered by majority Hutus in 1994.

Burundi borders Rwanda and has a similar history and ethnic make-up.

The study is one of many ordered by the U.N. body, which sits for six weeks in Geneva every spring, on human rights problems around the world.

Most -- including those on regular targets Iran, Iraq and Cuba -- focus on government violations, but Pinheiro made clear he saw little difference between forces controlled by the authorities in Bujumbura and the rebels.

The report was issued in Geneva as former U.S. president Jimmy Carter prepared to open a conference in Tunisia on the twin crises in Burundi and Rwanda to which he has not invited the United Nations or the Organisation of African Unity.

Pinheiro said he had noted that prisoners were rarely taken and few wounded were counted after clashes between the government army and what it calls "armed bands."

This led him to the conclusion that both sides were guilty of "systematic extermination" of captured and wounded opponents -- although the Burundian army had special training in the Geneva conventions on warfare.

Pinheiro, who visited Burundi twice last year, said that at least a dozen members of parliament had been murdered during 1995, while many deputies' families had been attacked or killed and their houses pillaged or burned.

The investigator noted that of the country's 6.4 million people, more than half a million had been forced to flee their homes to other parts of Burundi or to neighbouring states -- where there were some 200,000 Burundian refugees.

And he called on outside governments, U.N. agencies and non-governmental

But first Leonard Nyangoma's guerrillas will have to lay down their arms, Leonce Ngendakumana said on Tuesday night.

"This is why we are going to Tunis. We're striving for dialogue," the speaker of parliament told Reuters. "The (Burundian) government accepts to talk to Nyangoma if he accepts to lay down his arms," he said.

The presidents of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire are due to meet in Tunis from March 16-18 at a summit convened by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The talks are aimed at ending the conflict and refugee crisis in the Great Lakes region surrounding Rwanda and Burundi, whose Hutu and Tutsi populations appear unable to cohabit.

As many as one million minority Tutsis and Hutu allies were killed by Hutu extremists in Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

At least 100,000 people have died in ethnic conflict in Burundi in the past 30 months and the tiny country is precariously perched on the edge of the abyss.

Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's former president and one of Africa's most respected elder statesmen, will mediate at the summit. He was given informal backing last month, as a free-lance peacemaker, by the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and the European Union.

Nyangoma, Burundi's former interior minister, heads a Hutu rebel militia called the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) which has launched an increasingly effective insurgency against the overwhelmingly Tutsi army.

So far the feeble bi-ethnic coalition government has rejected outright the idea of talks with Nyangoma, fearing an army putsch if it took a different view.

As speaker of parliament Ngendakumana is not a spokesman for the government but he is a leading member of the majority Hutu party, Frodebu.

The Atlanta-based Carter Center has not publicly invited the FDD's political wing, CNDD, to participate at Tunis.

"Nyerere can be extremely useful in resolving this conflict because he understands us. There are Americans and Europeans who want to help us but they don't understand us," Ngendakumana said.

The CNDD says its delegation met Nyerere in Tanzania several weeks ago. Nyerere has not announced this.

Ngendakumana said Nyangoma had growing support among ordinary Burundi Hutus and was helped by the "excesses" of Tutsi security forces.

"Nyangoma disports himself around the place as though he owned the country, stealing cows here, burning houses there, killing innocent people.

"His people are a big problem for us," Ngendakumana said.

12-MAR-1996 Rwandan Hutus build world apart in crumbling jail

By Elif Kaban

GITARAMA, Rwanda, March 12 (Reuter) - The smell of decay and sweat permeates the alleyways and dark cellars behind high ochre walls of the jail in this Rwandan town.

Thronging the alleys and cellars are 6,350 Rwandan genocide suspects.

Prisoners of Rwanda's Hutu majority, accused of killing in the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates, jam crumbling Gitarama prison, designed for 700.

As dusk gathers under rain-filled clouds, prisoners sing hymns within earshot of Tutsi genocide survivors.

"At night, the prisoners' voices travel very far. I hear them from my house. One day, they're going to jump the wall and come out," says a Western aid worker.

Seen from the air aboard a helicopter, a teeming mass of half-naked bodies in the prison yard form a smudge of darkness in the lush, soft colours of the land.

There are no guards but a few soldiers outside the gates.

The prison has 220 women and 30 infants, many born behind bars. Outside the women's block, the scene is the same as any African village. Women do the washing. Babies crawl underfoot.

In the capital Kigali, a friend seeks news of her mother in the jail and hands over a photograph. The old woman in the picture, with her shaved head, does not look like a genocidal maniac. She is a grandmother.

Located in the prison, she says: "They say I helped to kill my neighbours. I did not."

Behind padlocked iron gates, the prison throbs with life. Bodies in rags move across the courtyard. Smells of food, sweat and smoke from fires mix with those of excrement and disease. Men stir beans in pots to feed inmates their single daily meal.

Last year, 20 inmates a week died because of overcrowding. Now deaths are rare because of an extension and prisoners can even play football in the courtyard where many of them live.

Most inmates, among the 67,000 Hutus crammed into jails across the central African country, have been here for over a year. Few have case files. Nearly two years after the genocide not a single suspect has been tried.

Prison has become the only reality for inmates, polite and calm in contrast to the horrors many are accused of committing.

In crowded dormitories, former government bureaucrats iron clothes on wooden benches. Elderly men play backgammon. Prisoners cut each others' hair.

In the cellars, prisoners have set up a "school" as well as a "church" in a stifling dormitory with rows of benches where they lie, eat, learn, sleep and pray.

Mathias Munyangabe, before the genocide a rich businessman from the town of

Gitarama, sells other prisoners everything from Colgate toothpaste and cigarettes to notebooks and T-shirts.

Every Wednesday, visiting day, is market day. A kilogram of sugar goes for five ballpoint pens. Most deals are barter.

Most inmates steadfastly refuse to recognise that the mass slaughter of Tutsis for three months in 1994 was a huge crime. There is a collective state of denial and no sign of remorse.

"We are all innocent here," says Justin Nyandwi, a former mayor of Musambiro village in Gitarama district. He says troops jailed him because he was rich and took his house and car.

Nyandwi is surprised the U.N. tribunal indicted a friend, Jean-Paul Akayesu, former mayor of Taba village, on genocide charges. "I know Jean-Paul Akayesu very well. He was a very nice and very gentle guy. He wouldn't harm anyone," he says.

Reflecting Rwanda's highly organised social and political structure where every hill has a chief, the prison order runs from the lowest social group to the highest authority figure.

Inmates have created their own police force that patrols the prison at night. They have strict rules for using the 54 latrines, one for every 117 inmates. Former politicians go to toilet first. Those down the line have to wait for hours.

A dark cellar is the "Amputees District" of 23 men, their legs amputated below the knee or missing toes and feet from gangrene and rot because of overcrowding.

In the privileged "Intellectuals' District," a cellar full of former politicians, journalists, businessmen, civil servants and priests, former journalist Peter Bisetsa teaches English.

"We must keep our intellects alive," says Bisetsa, middle-aged, wearing thick-framed spectacles and accused of killing the director of the school where he taught -- a charge he denies.

Prison Director Francois Mugemangango says soldiers found hidden machetes and knives. The inmates deny planning to escape.

"Tutsi soldiers don't come into our jail. They don't meddle in our business," says prisoner and former teacher Laurent Nsemgiyumva. "Tutsis are scared of us. But we don't fear them."

11-MAR-1996 British aid worker arrested in Rwanda, diplomats

KIGALI, March 11 (Reuter) - Rwandan airport authorities have arrested a Briton working for an aid agency and charged him with trying to smuggle marijuana, diplomatic sources said on Monday.

They said the Briton worked for the British medical agency Merlin and was arrested on Friday at Kigali airport with a small amount of marijuana as he was about to board a flight for Kenya.

His identity was not revealed but he was expected to appear in court later on Monday. Workers at Merlin confirmed the arrest but declined to comment further.

Merlin is among 120 foreign aid agencies that flocked to Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 genocide of up to one million Tutsi and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

11-MAR-1996 Rwanda says genocide suspect faces tribunal trial

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 11 (Reuters) - Authorities in Cameroon will hand over a former Rwandan official charged with involvement in the 1994 genocide to a U.N. tribunal, Rwanda's foreign minister said on Monday.

Former Rwandan army colonel Theoneste Bagosora, chief of cabinet at the defence ministry during the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates, was arrested on Sunday in Yaounde.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana said Bagosora, who also commanded a large military base at Kanombe near Kigali airport, played a key role in arming Hutu militiamen who with Hutu government troops led the massacres from April 1994.

The state prosecutor's office in Yaounde would not say what would happen to Bagosora, in Cameroon since September last year.

But Gasana said he was arrested by security officials at his Yaounde residence and would be held until he was handed over to the international tribunal on war crimes during the genocide.

In a separate development, a tribunal spokesman said an indictment was due to be issued for Alfred Musema, a former tea factory director held in custody in Switzerland and suspected of involvement in slaughters in the western Rwandan town of Kibuye.

Spokesman Alain Sigg said the tribunal's judges would meet later on Monday in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha and an indictment for Musema would be announced following that meeting.

Bagosora is also wanted in connection with the April 1994 killings of 10 Belgian soldiers protecting former Rwandan prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, who was killed at the start of the genocide.

He is the first Rwandan genocide suspect arrested by Cameroon. Several others were arrested by Zambia on information supplied by Kigali including two indicted by the U.N. tribunal last month.

The tribunal, hit by a shortage of cash and international political infighting, has so far only issued indictments against 10 genocide suspects including the two held in Zambia.

Gasana said the latest arrest followed his talks with Cameroon's deputy foreign minister in Addis Ababa last month.

"Authorities in Cameroon...promised us to eventually hand him over to the

international war crimes tribunal," he said.

Bagosora was implicated in a report by Human Rights Watch, which alleged he paid for a \$300,000 arms shipment from the Seychelles islands to eastern Zaire in violation of an arms embargo.

Gasana said he would soon travel to Cameroon for talks on the possible arrests of other Hutu exiles there, including a founding member of Radio Milles Collines radio station which incited Hutus to kill Tutsis.

Sigg said the first trials at Arusha would start in April for the two indicted suspects held in Zambia.

The tribunal has only 30 investigators working on one of the worst mass killings of the century and has yet to set up a witness protection system. None of the first eight Rwandans who were indicted by the tribunal in December have been arrested.

The tribunal's strategy is to try the alleged henchmen first to establish a link with top organisers. But diplomats say it is hard to see how it can be much more than a symbolic gesture unless Zaire and Kenya hand over key exiled genocide suspects.

13-MAR-1996 Rwanda minister in Cameroon over genocide suspect

YAOUNDE, March 13 (Reuter) - Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana arrived in Cameroon on Wednesday to seek the extradition of an arrested genocide suspect, by far the biggest alleged ringleader of 1994's slaughter in detention.

Officials said Gasana would travel from the port of Douala to the capital Yaounde but they noted that President Paul Biya, the only person able to grant an extradition in the absence of a specific treaty, was on a private visit to Europe.

Gasana himself told Reuters in Kigali before leaving he would ask Biya to extradite former Rwandan army Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, chief of cabinet at the defence ministry during the genocide, who was arrested in Cameroon on Sunday.

He said Rwanda did not have an extradition treaty with Cameroon, but "when we're talking genocide crimes, people can be extradited without conventional extradition treaties."

He added that during his three-day visit he would also ask Cameroon to arrest four other genocide suspects here.

In Belgium, the foreign ministry said Bagosora was suspected of involvement in the killing of 10 Belgian U.N. peacekeepers in 1994 and was being held on a Belgian arrest warrant.

Rwandan government officials describe Bagosora as one of the most wanted men in connection with the genocide.

13-MAR-1996 Rwanda, Belgium, U.N. tribunal scrap over suspect

(Updates with tribunal statement, quotes)

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 13 (Reuter) - Rwanda, Belgium and a U.N. war crimes tribunal engaged in a tug of war on Wednesday over a genocide suspect arrested by Cameroon, the biggest prize so far in efforts to catch leaders of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The three-way diplomatic skirmish began after Cameroon on Sunday arrested former Rwandan army colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the former cabinet chief at the defence ministry and one of the most wanted men in Rwanda in connection with the slaughter of up to one million people.

The U.N. tribunal's chief prosecutor, Richard Goldstone, announced in a statement that Bagosora was arrested on a Belgium initiative.

Belgium in May last year issued an international arrest warrant for Bagosora for his alleged role in the 1994 killings and the murder of 10 Belgian soldiers in Kigali, Goldstone said.

Rwanda launched its own diplomatic initiative on Wednesday when Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana headed for Cameroon on what he called an urgent mission to seek the extradition of Bagosora to Rwanda where he could face a death

sentence.

Goldstone's statement said Bagosora might be transferred from Cameroon to Belgium according to an earlier agreement on extradition between the two countries.

But it added that Bagosora was a key member of the former Rwandan government and therefore should be tried by the tribunal, seated in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha.

"It's appropriate that he stands trial for alleged crimes before the international tribunal in Arusha," Goldstone said.

Tribunal spokesman Alain Sigg said discussions would be held shortly between the authorities of Rwanda, Cameroon, Belgium and the tribunal to decide Bagosora's fate.

Belgium parliament has yet to ratify a genocide law convention and diplomats say Bagosora faces only a civil suit there if he is handed over by Cameroon.

Bagosora, who was also the commander of a big military base in Kanombe near Kigali's airport, is by far the biggest alleged ringleader of the genocide in detention so far.

Rwandan Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said he played a key role in arming Hutu militiamen responsible for the deaths of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

"Bagosora had a big responsibility in carrying out the genocide in Rwanda," Kagame told Reuters.

For the Rwandan government, Bagosora is a double-catch because he is also accused of being one of the leaders of a Hutu military insurgency waged inside Rwanda from refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire and Burundi.

He was implicated in a report last year by human rights Watch which alleged he paid for a \$300,000 arms shipment from Seychelles on board a Zairean DC-8 aircraft to eastern Zairean town of Goma in violation of an arms embargo.

13-MAR-1996 Rwandan ex-colonel arrested on Belgian warrant

(adds detail on legal proceedings in Belgium)

BRUSSELS, March 13 (Reuter) - A former-Rwandan army colonel suspected of involvement in the killing of 10 Belgian United Nations peacekeepers in 1994 is being held in Cameroon on a Belgian arrest warrant, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

Cameroon authorities had not made clear whether Theoneste Bagosora -- who was arrested in Yaounde on Sunday -- was being held at Belgium's request or on a warrant issued by an international war crimes tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that if Bagosora were sent to Belgium he would be questioned and possibly charged for his role in the killing of the Belgian soldiers.

Whether Bagosora would serve a jail term in Belgium would depend on the Tanzanian tribunal.

The United Nations tribunal wants to try Bagosora for his role in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in which up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates were killed.

"If the international tribunal asks us to hand over Bagosora, we will," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Rwanda also seeks the extradition of Bagosora, who was chief of cabinet at the Defence Ministry during the genocide.

On Tuesday Bagosara's Belgian lawyer Luc de Temmerman said his client would welcome being deported to Belgium to prove his innocence.

13-MAR-1996 Rwanda says security guaranteed after U.N. pullout

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 13 (Reuter) - Rwanda's defence minister said on Wednesday his army was capable of guaranteeing internal security after U.N. forces withdraw from the central African country where a 1994 genocide killed up to one million people.

Defence Minister and Vice-President Major-General Paul Kagame said the pullout of U.N. troops, whose mandate ended on March 8, would give Rwanda the opportunity to get on with looking after security.

Some diplomats and aid workers are worried the withdrawal of 1,230 U.N. peacekeepers and 146 observers from Rwanda will leave the Tutsi-led army more free to kill Hutus in revenge for the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

"Personally, I'm very happy that the U.N. force is leaving," Kagame told Reuters in an interview. "The U.N. force was here when genocide was being committed, and it was reinforced when our army stopped the genocide."

Kagame said he was sure the Rwandan army, which is still dominated by the Tutsi minority, would prove itself responsible.

"The government has established law and order and general stability across the country. We will continue on the same path without the U.N. force," he said.

"The U.N. troops are leaving and the situation in Rwanda will almost remain the same. It will even be better. Because sometimes the presence of U.N. troops overshadowed the actual progress on the ground achieved by Rwandans," Kagame added.

"The situation is improving at the hands of Rwandans who are putting a lot of effort into that," he said.

The mandate of the ill-starred U.N. force was continually questioned by the Rwandan government, which took power in July 1994. It blames the peacekeepers for doing nothing to stop the three-month genocide under the previous government by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

An independent report on lessons from the genocide said on Tuesday the reluctance of U.N. members to act on clear warning signs was largely behind the failure of U.N. forces to stem the slaughter.

It said failure to recognise Rwanda's killings as genocide, a lack of interest in the Security Council, inadequate communication and poor links between U.N. headquarters and the field contributed to the failure in halting the slaughter.

Kagame said he resented that the U.N. force was reinforced only after the genocide was halted in July 1994 by his rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Army, which became the new government army.

The last of the U.N. troops will be withdrawn in six weeks and the force will be replaced by a small U.N. political office, likely to be headed by U.N. Special Envoy Shaharyar Khan.

The political office however so far has no clear mandate.

Kagame suggested that Khan, an eloquent diplomat respected by the government in Kigali for his experience and involvement in international negotiations, could become an advocate for Rwanda and present its case to the international community.

"The U.N. office will do politics: look around, assess the situation and inform the United Nations on what's happening here. That's what we expect them to do," the vice president said.

12-MAR-1996 Rwanda genocide suspect "welcomes extradition"

BRUSSELS, March 12 (Reuter) - A former Rwandan official arrested in Cameroon on suspicion of involvement in the 1994 genocide would welcome being deported to Belgium to prove his innocence, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

Luc de Temmerman, who represents Colonel Theoneste Bagasora, said his client was willing to come to Belgium to answer charges of his alleged involvement in the killing of 10 Belgian U.N. peacekeeping troops in April 1994.

Bagasora was arrested in Yaounde on Sunday, but Cameroon authorities have not made clear whether he is being held at Belgium's request or on a warrant issued by a war crimes tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

Rwanda's Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana said on Monday that Bagasora was being held on the Tanzanian warrant, but De Temmerman insisted on Tuesday that it was at Belgium's request.

Bagasora was implicated in a report by Human Rights Watch which alleged he paid \$300,000 for an arms shipment from the Seychelles to eastern Zaire in violation of an arms embargo.

Bagasora commanded a large military base at Kanombe near Kigali airport when the central African country erupted into violence in which up to a million Tutsis or moderate Hutus were killed.

De Temmerman said Bagasora's arrest was unnecessary, adding that if Belgian authorities had sent him a ticket he would have got on the plane by himself.

"Now he is in jail in Cameroon and who knows how long it will take for the (extradition) process?" he said.

12-MAR-1996 U.N. failure helped Rwanda genocide - report

By Peter Smerdon

NAIROBI, March 12 (Reuter) - A lack of political action and reluctance by U.N. members to act on warning signs in Rwanda were largely behind failure to stem the 1994 genocide and may fail to halt a new crisis in Burundi, a report said on Tuesday.

The report -- "The International Response to Conflict and Genocide: Lessons from the Rwanda Experience" -- is the first to provide a multinational evaluation of the response to the killing of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

"There were significant signs that Hutu extremist forces in Rwanda were preparing the climate and structures for a genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus," said David Tardif-Doughlin, a principal author of the four-part report released on Tuesday.

"But the states, international organisations and other parties... ignored, discounted or misinterpreted these signs, indicating an inability of unwillingness to intervene," he said in Nairobi.

Nineteen OECD-member donor agencies, the European Union, the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, U.N. agencies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies contributed expertise or funds towards the report. The report took one year to prepare at a cost of \$1 million.

France withdrew from the report's Steering Committee in 1995, after reading early drafts critical of its role.

"Humanitarian action cannot substitute for political action," was one of the key messages of the 480-page report.

It accused the Security Council of again sidestepping action as recently as this month when it asked the U.N. to prepare only for humanitarian action in neighbouring Burundi despite U.N. fears of mass slaughter on a similar scale to Rwanda in 1994.

"A crucial precondition... is that the international community shows resolve and willingness to stop the killings, to halt the supply of weapons to the region and bring the killers to justice.

"But the recent decisions by the Security Council indicate that even the horror of Rwanda is not sufficient to teach the lessons... Are we prepared for another genocide?" Tardif-Doughlin said.

The report said failure to recognise Rwanda's killings as genocide, a lack of interest in the Security Council, inadequate communication and poor links between U.N. headquarters and the field contributed to the failure to stem the 1994 genocide.

"Those who could have quickly put a force on the ground, did not," said report co-author Astri Suhrke at a news conference in London. "In that sense, the U.N. failed the test."

The report said there were increasing warning signals of genocide from U.N. agencies in the region from early 1993. Yet "the UN Security Council did not

recognise these," it said.

"It (Burundi) should be put much more on the front than the back burner," said Tardif-Douglin, who worked for 42 months in Rwanda before the genocide and said he knew a major crisis was coming.

The report described as "fateful" the Security Council's decision to withdraw most of its troops when killings began in April 1994 and said a case could be made that thousands of lives could have been saved if the force had been expanded.

British charities Oxfam, Christian Aid, Save the Children, British Red Cross and CAFOD described the report as "a broadside against world leaders' indifference to genocide."

Advocating prevention as better than cure, the report urged the United Nations to create a unit charged with providing early conflict warnings directly to the U.N. secretary general.

It criticised the international media, saying distorted reporting reflected inadequate knowledge of Rwandan culture.

11-MAR-1996 05:22 Cameroon arrests former Habyarimana official

YAOUNDE, March 11 (Reuter) - Authorities in Cameroon have arrested the late Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana's chief of presidential staff, who is wanted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, gendarmerie headquarters said on Monday.

Colonel Theoneste Bagosora is wanted by the Hague-based tribunal in connection with the April 1994 deaths of 10 Belgian soldiers protecting the former Rwandan prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

The Yaounde state prosecutor's office, which ordered the arrest, declined to comment on what would happen to Bagosora, who has been in Cameroon since September 1995.

The war crimes tribunal has so far indicted 10 Rwandans in connection with the deaths of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the genocide after Habyarimana's plane was shot down in April 1994.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana said earlier this month Rwanda had formally asked African countries harbouring alleged leaders of the genocide to hand them over to the tribunal, which will hear cases in the Tanzanian town of Arusha.

10-MAR-1996 Rwandan exile group protests U.N. withdrawal

NAIROBI, March 10 (Reuter) - A Rwandan exile group, the Rally for the return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), has expressed "deep sorrow and disappointment" at the withdrawal of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda.

You will recall

The United Nations Security Council rang down the curtain on Friday on the ill-starred U.N. force in Rwanda, where up to a million people were massacred in 1994, but voted unanimously to retain a U.N. office to help revive the stricken country.

In a statement faxed to Reuters from Brussels on Saturday, the RDR said: "It is indeed shocking that the U.N. is withdrawing its troops and reducing human rights monitors at a time when the refugee problem is still in a deadlock...and when there are reports of systematic killings and persecution of the Hutu elite and other opposition members."

RDR information director Chris Nzabandora added: "The withdrawal, along with repressive policies such as the creation of the infamous people's courts and legal manoeuvres to confiscate the property of refugees will dash any hope of a quick and voluntary repatriation of nearly two million refugees."

Rwanda had demanded the withdrawal of the 1,230 peacekeepers and nearly 150 military observers of UNAMIR, which numbered more than 6,000 at its peak a year ago. The pull-out is expected to take about six weeks.

9-MAR-1996 Rwanda urges U.N. to back tribunal indictments

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 9 (Reuter) - Rwanda's foreign minister on Saturday urged the United Nations to strengthen a war crimes tribunal that is soon expected to issue an indictment against a genocide suspect held in Switzerland.

Anastaza Gasana also asked Madagascar and Cameroon to hand over to the tribunal several leading suspects of 1994 genocide who he said had found shelter in these countries.

"This is a good opportunity for the United Nations to do something for Rwanda. It must do all it can to make the international tribunal a success," he told Reuters a day after the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda ended.

"We want the U.N. to give enough means to the tribunal so it can be more dynamic. Justice is crucial to us," he added.

In a separate development, state-run Radio Rwanda on Saturday quoted the tribunal's chief prosecutor Richard Goldstone as saying that Alfred Musema, a former tea factory director in custody in Switzerland, would be indicted soon.

Tribunal officials in Kigali confirmed the indictment was due and the radio quoted Goldstone as saying he would demand Musema's extradition once he is indicted.

The tribunal, seated in the Tanzanian town of Arusha, was set up in 1994 to investigate the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in the Central African country.

Crippled by lack of cash, run by U.N. bureaucrats and hit by international political infighting, it has so far been able to indict only 10 genocide suspects, mostly local officials.

None among the first eight indicted in December have been arrested. Two Rwandans indicted last month are held in Zambia which arrested them on information given by Rwanda.

Gasana said a former businessman suspected of involvement in the genocide had moved to Madagascar from Kenya and asked Madagascar to arrest him.

He also appealed to Cameroon to arrest several other genocide suspects there -- including a former minister and a founder of the notorious Radio Milles Collines which incited Hutus to kill Tutsis during the carnage.

The tribunal says trials will start in Arusha in April but diplomats question preparations can be made by this date.

The tribunal's strategy is to try the henchmen first to establish a link with organisers at the top.

But diplomats say it is hard to see how the tribunal will amount to anything more than a symbolic gesture given Zairean and Kenyan hospitality for key suspects.

Gasana said Rwanda was helping the investigations but in the absence of results it was forced to do some of the work itself.

"We are the ones most concerned about the genocide. We are here to help the

tribunal. We have to push harder, we have to make more contacts," he said. "We want the tribunal to be successful. We do not want it to be symbolic."

The U.N. human rights office in Rwanda, expected to play a crucial role in investigating rights abuses now that the U.N. peacekeeping mandate is over, said on Saturday it was running out of funds.

Its chief, Ian Martin, said the mission was unable to boost its present 80-person human rights monitoring team because pledges made by several donors had not been forthcoming.

"We've got money until the end of the month. In recent months, the number of human rights observers have come down because there was no money in the bank," he told reporters.

Many diplomats are now looking at human rights monitors to report on reprisal killings and arbitrary arrests in Rwanda where 67,000 Hutus are in jail for genocide and others have been killed in reprisal.

8-MAR-1996 U.N. rings down curtain on ill-starred Rwanda force

By Anthony Goodman

UNITED NATIONS, March 8 (Reuters) - The Security Council rang down the curtain on Friday on the ill-starred U.N. force in Rwanda, where up to a million people were massacred in 1994, but voted unanimously to retain a U.N. office to help revive the stricken country.

Rwanda insisted on the withdrawal of the 1,230 peacekeepers and nearly 150 military observers of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), which numbered more than 6,000 at its peak a year ago. The pull-out is expected to take about six weeks.

Until the withdrawal is complete, the council authorised remaining troops to protect the staff and local offices of a U.N. tribunal set up to prosecute people accused of human rights violations. Private security guards are later expected to take over.

Between 500,000 and a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were butchered between April and July 1994, until the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front defeated the old Hutu government and took power.

The U.N. force, then numbering only a few hundred, was powerless to halt the massacres and was not reinforced until the killing had abated.

More than 1.5 million Hutus, many fearful of reprisals if they return home, remain in camps in neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire. The withdrawal of U.N. troops who helped provide a climate of confidence in Rwanda will make refugees even more reluctant to be repatriated.

Rwanda's Tutsi-led government, scornful of UNAMIR's inability to prevent the 1994 killings, agreed only reluctantly last December to a final three-month renewal of a pared-down U.N. military presence, then comprising about 1,800 troops and 285 military observers.

The council resolution, which paid tribute to the work of UNAMIR and its

personnel, did not say how big would be the U.N. office that is to help the Rwanda government with an array of daunting tasks.

The office will be headed by the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan of Pakistan, and will assist in promoting national reconciliation, strengthening the judicial system, facilitating the return of refugees and rehabilitating the country's devastated infrastructure.

The government is holding some 67,000 prisoners on massacre-related charges, to be tried in Rwanda's own barely functioning court system, while 2,300 have died in horribly overcrowded jails. The U.N. tribunal, headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania, is expected to try only a few of the leaders who engineered the massacres.

The U.N. office will include the existing U.N. communications system and radio station, which serves as a source of impartial information. Inflammatory broadcasts helped fan the ethnic violence two years ago.

The secretary-general is to recommend what non-lethal equipment might be left behind, as requested by the Rwandan government, which is called on to ensure the U.N. pullout is not impeded.

8-MAR-1996 U.N. flag lowered in Rwanda as force mandate ends

(Releads with ceremony, anti-U.N. protest)

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 8 (Reuter) - Hundreds of genocide survivors protesting outside the U.N. headquarters in Kigali cheered on Friday as the U.N. flag was lowered to mark the end of the United Nations peacekeeping mandate in Rwanda.

The mandate of 1,230 U.N. peacekeeping troops and 146 military observers ends at midnight on Friday, closing one of the most inglorious episodes in peacekeeping.

U.N. troops failed to stop the genocide in 1994 of up to one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the tiny central African country.

U.N. officials, including Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, have admitted that the force failed during the massacres but have not put the blame on the peacekeepers.

U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan, said at the ceremony that the U.N. forces were leaving with a sense of success and dignity because stability had returned to Rwanda.

"As we lower the U.N. flag for the last time, I look back with a sense of pride and fulfillment at the honourable end of the U.N. mission in Rwanda," Khan said.

"The long road towards ethnic tolerance and national reconciliation has begun and must be encouraged," he said.

The last of the troops will be withdrawn in six weeks. Khan said the U.N.

Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) would be replaced by a political U.N. unit of up to 12 officers.

The U.N. will not be missed by Rwanda's genocide survivors.

As Khan spoke, an ill-assorted crowd of hundreds of Tutsi survivors -- women, men and children -- demonstrated outside the U.N. headquarters with banners accusing Boutros-Ghali of doing nothing to save the victims of the slaughters.

"Boutros. The blood of our husbands, children and relatives will always be with you," read a banner carried by a woman.

Claude Dusaidi, political adviser to vice-president and defense minister Paul Kagame, said: "The U.N. presence in our country was very disappointing -- one of the most inglorious peacekeeping operations. We're happy they're going."

But the withdrawal of the U.N. force will present Rwanda's Tutsi-led army with one of its greatest challenges: how to win over the hearts and minds of many Hutus who see the U.N., and not the national army, as their defenders.

The government needs to allay Hutu fears of reprisal killings and arbitrary arrests if it is to have any chance of persuading refugees to return.

U.N. officials said they received letters from fearful Hutus in Kigali begging them not to leave. Hutu intellectuals voice similar fears and some are looking for ways to leave.

There are 67,000 Hutus accused of genocide jammed into Rwanda's jails, where 2,300 have died so far in overcrowding, and scores of others have died in revenge attacks by Tutsis.

8-MAR-1996 African housing fund to help Rwandans build homes

KIGALI, March 8 (Reuters) - An African organisation will help build homes in Rwanda where a housing shortage is hampering the return of refugees who fled after the 1994 genocide, Rwanda's foreign minister said on Friday.

Anastaza Gasana told Reuters the African Housing Fund (AHF), an inter-governmental organisation with 39 member countries, would use local resources and bricks to build 6,000 homes in the next 10 months in a \$2.4 million project.

"Our housing needs are very big. This is the priority of our priorities. We need to solve the problem of property rights and resettle the refugees," Gasana said.

"Many people are occupying the houses of refugees and they have nowhere else to go. The government has to help them to solve the problem of repatriation (of Rwanda's 1.7 million refugees)," he said.

More than 800,000 Tutsis who fled abroad during earlier bouts of ethnic conflict have returned home since the Tutsi-dominated army took power and forced an end to the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutus.

The new Tutsi arrivals, almost a one-to-one replacement of the genocide

dead, have settled in abandoned homes of Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi in fear of being killed by Tutsis in reprisal for the genocide.

Some Tutsis, trying to quash property claims of returning Hutus, have falsely accused them of taking part in the genocide.

The government has allocated previously unsettled land near the southeastern border with Tanzania for Tutsi refugees but many have instead settled in abandoned Hutu homes in the relative security of towns next to bases of the Tutsi-led army.

Gasana said many Tutsi arrivals caused chaos by resettling in empty houses they found before the government had time to designate new housing areas.

He said nothing had so far come out of promises by several countries to help build homes in Rwanda, including a recent offer by Israel to construct prefabricated houses.

Rwanda is Africa's most crowded country and a centuries-old rivalry over farmland has been at the root of much of the animosity between Hutus and Tutsis. Diplomats say solving the housing crisis is key to government reconciliation efforts.

Ingrid Munro, head of the African Housing Fund, said money for the project had been raised by Sweden, Norway and Denmark, which she said marked the first Nordic assistance to Rwanda.

"It will be a self-help project. We will put in big orders for bricks and procure tiles and pay in advance. The families will be doing the construction themselves," she said.

8-MAR-1996 U.N. says most Rwandan children haunted by genocide

By Peter Smerdon

NAIROBI, March 8 (Reuter) - A U.N. survey released on Friday showed that virtually every child in Rwanda witnessed violence in the 1994 genocide and that they remain traumatised by what they saw and suffered.

The survey by the U.N. Children's Fund of a representative sample of 3,030 children one year after the slaughter revealed that nearly 80 percent saw someone wounded or killed and the same number had a killing or killings in their immediate family.

"This is a truly unprecedented level of exposure to violence," said Dan Toole, UNICEF Rwanda representative. "It's not just the events they saw but also their reactions which are very strong indeed."

The U.N. estimates 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates out of Rwanda's population of five to six million were slaughtered in the three-month genocide by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs, which included children.

"Thirty-six percent witnessed someone in their family being killed, two-thirds of the children saw someone being killed... 90 percent of the children believed they would die. This is something that marks for life," Toole told a news conference.

"Eighty percent of the children had to hide and 16 percent hid under dead bodies, truly a traumatic experience. Half the children had to hide for a period of one to two months."

More than a third of the children surveyed in Rwanda's 11 provinces last year said both their parents were killed in the genocide; 95.5 percent saw violence, 78.5 percent heard people screaming and 61 percent were threatened with being killed.

On what they witnessed, 43 percent saw someone being shot, 57.5 percent saw machetes being used to kill or wound, 31.4 percent saw rape or sexual assault and 59.2 percent saw people being beaten.

Nearly 52 percent said they saw many people killed at one time in a massacre or massacres, 35.5 percent saw children taking part in attacks and 36.3 percent saw family members being killed.

"The data is compelling. I was frightened as I analysed it," said Dr Leila Gupta, the U.S. psychologist who wrote the report.

"Perhaps one of the saddest things is that nearly a third of these children now worry that they will never reach adulthood."

More than 50 percent had difficulty concentrating and paying attention and 34.9 percent said they had often thought about the genocide -- even when they did not want to -- in the two weeks before they were interviewed for the survey.

"There is no baseline in modern history that enables one to compare adequately the magnitude of traumatic events that these children personally witnessed during the recent genocide," Gupta wrote in the report.

"Not only are they haunted by horrific sensory impressions that intrude on their lives while inhibiting their concentration and depriving them of adequate

sleep, they also face the formidable task of trying to make sense of these...events."

Toole said UNICEF had trained 6,000 trauma advisers in basic methods to alleviate the pain and they had in turn assisted some 145,000 children -- a small proportion of the total number of children in Rwanda, where half the population is under 16 years.

"We are talking about extraordinary numbers who still need to be reached," Toole said. "This is a long-term problem."

UNICEF distributes a booklet in Rwanda explaining how children can deal with their bad memories from the genocide. It features fearful pictures drawn by youngsters showing fighting, dead parents, a war scene and a Hutu militiaman with a machete.

"Their trauma must be treated now even if it may take generations for the scars to heal," Toole said. There are 1,800 children among the 67,000 genocide suspects in Rwanda's prisons.

8-MAR-1996 U.N. force ending mandate to lower flag in Rwanda

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 8 (Reuters) - The U.N. flag in Rwanda will come down on Friday when the mandate expires for its 1,230 troops and 146 military observers, marking the end of one of the most inglorious episodes in peacekeeping.

The flag will come down shortly after 1510 GMT during closure ceremonies at the headquarters of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

"The U.N. presence in our country was very disappointing. It was one of the most inglorious peacekeeping operations and we're happy they are going," said Claude Dusaidi, political adviser to Rwandan strongman and Vice President Major-General Paul Kagame.

U.N. troops failed to stop 1994's genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the tiny central African country during which their number was cut to a minimum.

U.N. officials, from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali down, admitted after the genocide that UNAMIR failed and expressed shame but did not put the blame on the U.N. force.

Since the genocide, the force mandate has been continually questioned by Rwanda, which is also unhappy with U.N. efforts to bring key leaders of the genocide to justice or repatriate 1.7 million Hutu refugees who fled in fear of reprisals.

U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan, told Reuters the force was likely to be replaced by a political U.N. unit of up to 12 officers to deal with the "unfinished agenda."

"We are closing down today, but almost certainly the Security Council will decide in keeping a civilian office to succeed the U.N. force," Khan said.

The last of the troops will be withdrawn in six weeks, and the civilian

office will help Rwanda repatriate its refugees, rebuild the paralysed justice system and repair an infrastructure shattered by the genocide, Khan said.

Anti-U.N. feelings run high among Tutsi survivors who have been living with the trauma of seeing their husbands, wives and children hacked to pieces and of relatives having vanished.

But the withdrawal of the U.N. force will ironically present the Tutsi-led army with one of its greatest challenges -- how to win over the hearts and minds of many Hutus who see the U.N. and not their own national army as their defenders.

Observers say the government, seen as a Tutsi clique by many Hutus, needs to allay Hutu fears of reprisal killings and arbitrary arrests if it is to have any chance of persuading the Hutu refugees in camps in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi to come home.

U.N. officials said they received letters from fearful Hutus in Kigali begging them not to leave. Hutu intellectuals voice similar fears and some are looking for ways to leave.

"If you are an educated Hutu male, chances are that you'll be arrested," said a Hutu professional in Kigali who requested anonymity. "In my home commune, all Hutu intellectuals and businessmen have been jailed. There's only one teacher left."

There are 67,000 Hutus accused of genocide jammed into Rwanda's jails, where 2,300 have died so far in overcrowding, and scores of others have died in revenge attacks by Tutsis.

The government's stated goal is reconciliation but there is an unfulfilled yearning for revenge among Tutsi survivors and some diplomats fear killings once U.N. troops leave.

But Khan said fears of insecurity following the withdrawal of the U.N. force were overestimated.

"In the past year and a half we've been here, we have seen a remarkable normalisation and stabilisation period. Yes, there is a sense of fear in some regions and there is tension but by large there is an atmosphere of security," he said.

The Rwandan government is incensed by the extent of international criticism of the overcrowding in prisons and its human rights record while a U.N. tribunal for the genocide has failed to bring to book a single leader of the slaughter.

"People who planned the genocide in Rwanda forgot to plan for prisons. It is not this government that planned the genocide," Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana told Reuters.

"The United Nations has failed in Rwanda. It failed during the genocide and it is still failing," he said.

"We are about to commemorate two years of genocide and there is still no judgement for its leaders. Does the world think that people here have no emotions? The Rwandan people have hearts too, and they are traumatised."

8-MAR-1996 Rwanda urges Kenya to free its arrested diplomat

KIGALI, March 8 (Reuter) - Rwanda's foreign minister called on Kenya on Friday to free an arrested Rwandan diplomat accused of taking part in an attempt to kill a leading Hutu dissident in Nairobi.

Kenyan police say Administrative Attache Francis Mugabo was arrested at the scene of the attack on former Rwandan interior minister Seth Sendashonga with a pistol, silencer and ammunition on February 26.

Kenya a week ago asked Rwanda to waive Mugabo's diplomatic immunity so that he could be investigated and prosecuted.

But Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana accused Kenyan police of framing Mugabo and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi of working against Kigali. He said Rwanda would not lift the immunity.

"Mugabo was framed and the whole thing was staged by Kenyan police. There is no proof against him," Gasana told Reuters. "We will not lift his diplomatic immunity. We are asking Kenya to free our diplomat."

Sendashonga, a leading Hutu dissident now living in Kenya, was shot in the left arm and his nephew was critically wounded by three gunmen in the attack on the outskirts of Nairobi.

The Rwandan government says Sendashonga was no enemy and it had no reason or the capability to attempt to assassinate him.

Sendashonga was sacked from the government in Kigali last August and moved to Kenya after he complained about arrests and killings by the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA).

He had been a senior member of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front rebel movement which seized power in July 1994, forcing an end to the three-month genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Gasana said that Rwanda's relations with Kenya, where many leading Hutus accused by Kigali of leading the 1994 genocide have sought exile, were unlikely to improve in the near future.

He accused Kenya's president Moi, a close friend of Rwanda's late Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana whose assassination in 1994 sparked the genocide, and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko of working against the Rwandan government.

"Moi, Mobutu and Habyarimana were the 'Old Men's Club' in Africa. But now one of the club members is dead and Moi and Mobutu are worried. They are joining forces against Rwanda," he said.

"This is a struggle between the old order and the new order. But the 'Old Men's Club' will lose in the end and the new order will win," the foreign minister added.

Anastaza
Gasana

7-MAR-1996 U.N. wants security force for Rwanda prosecutors

By Philippe Naughton

GENEVA, March 7 (Reuters) - United Nations prosecutors investigating Rwanda's 1994 genocide are concerned that the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers could leave them without adequate protection, a senior U.N. official said on Thursday.

But Kofi Annan, the U.N.'s undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, said he thought an international security force could be organised despite Rwanda's refusal to renew the peacekeepers' mandate when it expires on Friday.

Annan told a Geneva news conference he would be meeting Judge Richard Goldstone, chief prosecutor of the Hague-based war crimes tribunal, later on Thursday to discuss the problem.

"As you are aware the government did not want the U.N. peacekeepers to continue and our mandate expires on March 8. We will maintain a political presence but there will be no military presence," Annan said.

"We hope to continue all the other humanitarian activities and the work of the tribunal, but of course the lawyers and the prosecutors have to be given some protection," he added.

"Because of the nature of the work and sometimes the passengers they have to carry, the people working with the tribunal would want to be given a surer sense of security and better protection."

Against U.N. advice, Rwanda has refused to renew the mandate of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), which has 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers in the central African state.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said last week he regretted the Rwandan decision because the peacekeepers' presence might have encouraged 1.7 million Rwandan refugees to return home from exile in Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire.

Annan warned that if the predominantly Hutu refugees -- many of whom fear reprisals if they return -- did not go home, the risk was that they might develop into a military force on Rwanda's borders, in the same way as earlier generations of Tutsi refugees formed the now-victorious Rwandan Patriotic Army.

Annan, who resumed his functions last week after four months as head of U.N. operations in former Yugoslavia, was asked about the chances of getting a force together to protect the personnel of the tribunal. The tribunal, which will hear cases in the Tanzania town of Arusha, has so far indicted 10 Rwandans.

"I think we should be able to come up with an acceptable solution and put together a security package that will reassure the judges and prosecutors working in the region," he replied.

"This is something that will have to be done fairly quickly, but I think it do-able."

Asked whether the force would be comprised of Rwandans or foreigners, Annan said: "I think it might be an international group."

*Security
force for
Rwanda*

7-MAR-1996 Zairean troops withdraw from around refugee camps

NAIROBI, March 7 (Reuter) - Zairean troops have withdrawn from around Rwandan refugee camps in eastern Zaire, officials said on Thursday.

Aid officials and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Zairean troops ringing Kibumba camp near the border town of Goma disappeared by March 1. They had been mounting an operation to put pressure on the one million refugees to return home.

"On February 29, the military around Kibumba pulled out as they hadn't been paid. Refugees now come and go without hindrance and businesses are back in operation in the camp," an aid official said.

"If anything, the feeling in the camps is that the whole exercise to pressure the refugees to go back was self-defeating because the refugees now believe that it was a UNHCR exercise and the Zaireans don't really want them to go back," he added.

When they first surrounded Kibumba camp on February 13, the Zairean troops said they expected to be there for two weeks. But the numbers of refugees returning remained too low for Zairean officials.

Zaire said on February 21 a new operation to press the refugees to return to Rwanda voluntarily would start in March after a new series of steps including ending economic and social activities in the camps were implemented.

The refugees are from Rwanda's Hutu majority. They fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many of the Hutu refugees say they still fear they will be killed in reprisal for the genocide if they return to Rwanda.

Zaire banned a refugee lobby group, the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), and said its officials would be expelled along with anyone else hindering the operation.

"Troops outside Kibumba had gone by March 1," said UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler in Nairobi. "But security is still maintained inside the camp in the form of the Zairean camp contingent."

"We believe the same thing, troops pulling back, happened at Nyangazi camp near Bukavu," said Stromberg. "This was just a trial run for an operation that won't have overnight success."

But Kessler said the first two weeks of measures by Zaire last month had increased the number of refugees returning home.

"We had a total of 314 leaving the Bukavu area, which was an increase on what we had before. From Kibumba, we had 1,251 return in February which was also up. Figures from the Goma area since the start of March have been very low," Kessler added.

7-MAR-1996 France favours boosting aid to Burundi government

PARIS, March 7 (Reuter) - France said on Thursday it favoured boosting support for Burundi's weak coalition government.

French officials quoted junior cooperation minister Jacques Godfrain as telling visiting Burundi president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya that "France's support can only be strengthened."

Godfrain said security in the African country had improved and applauded joint efforts by the president and prime minister Antoine Nduwayo for "helping to reestablish a dialogue of trust with the people."

France's aid to Burundi, which is chiefly humanitarian, amounted to 48 million francs (\$9.5 million) in 1996.

Burundi has had a pitifully weak coalition government since 1994 but real power lies with the 15,000-strong Tutsi army.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in the past 30 months in Burundi. It has the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda, where Hutus massacred up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

African elder statesman Julius Nyerere arrived in Burundi on Thursday to mediate between the rival Hutu and Tutsi groups.

7-MAR-1996 Uganda court orders Burundi putschist produced

Niyongabo.

KAMPALA, March 7 (Reuter) - A Ugandan court ordered the military on Friday to produce a Burundian suspected of taking part in a 1993 coup attempt in which Burundi's president was killed.

Court officials said High Court Judge Herbert Ntabgoba ordered that Gilbert Niyongabo be brought before the court for trial or be released unconditionally.

Niyongabo was one of nine former Burundi army officers held on suspicion of masterminding the attempted coup. They were arrested in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, in November 1994.

The nine fled to Uganda after loyal Tutsi troops crushed the attempted coup by renegade Tutsi soldiers in which Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye was killed, unleashing massacres across ethnically-divided Burundi.

The suspects were detained at a military prison on the edge of Kampala but all except Niyongabo were released after their detention was challenged by their lawyers.

An estimated 50,000 Tutsis and Hutus were slaughtered in the two months after Ndadaye's killing and more than 50,000 more have been killed in repeated bouts of ethnic violence since then.

Burundi has asked Uganda to extradite the men. Uganda has yet to respond although President Yoweri Museveni has pledged to grant the request.

7-MAR-1996 International mediator Nyerere flies to Burundi

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, March 7 (Reuter) - African elder statesman Julius Nyerere arrived in Burundi on Thursday to mediate between Hutus and Tutsis in his new role as a peace maker with full international blessing.

His staff said the former Tanzanian president's low profile trip would lay the ground for more talks at a "Great Lakes" region summit on March 16-18 in Tunis.

Nyerere was expected to meet Burundi's Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, former Tutsi presidents Pierre Buyoya and Jean-Baptiste Bagaza as well as leaders of the Tutsi-dominated Uprona party and Hutu-dominated Frodebu party.

Burundi has had a pitifully weak coalition government since 1994 but real power lies with the 15,000-strong Tutsi army.

Nyerere's visit followed his selection by African, European and U.N. representatives in Addis Ababa last week as the focal point of steps to stop ethnic conflict spinning out of control.

"Mwalimu," the Kiswahili word for teacher, is one of the few statesmen who can speak to both sides. He is advising former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who has arranged the Great Lakes summit as an attempt to solve the region's deep problems.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in the past 30 months in Burundi. It has the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda, where Hutus massacred up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

The U.N. special envoy in Burundi said late on Wednesday he saw little hope for a dialogue between Hutus and Tutsis to break an "infernal cycle of violence" despite U.N. calls for talks.

"I've never particularly believed there exists the will for political discussion between the minority Tutsi and Hutu government," Marc Faguy, a Canadian, told Reuters.

"I haven't detected a desire for dialogue that is going to break the infernal cycle of violence afflicting the country."

The U.N. Security Council in a resolution on Tuesday called for dialogue in Burundi after deciding against creating an international force to intervene if the violence escalated.

The Council called on Burundians to enter into serious talks leading to national reconciliation but only asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to keep consulting on a rapid humanitarian response in case of sudden, widespread violence.

Fearing Burundi would descend into slaughter on a scale similar to Rwanda, Boutros-Ghali last month proposed a standby force of 25,000 soldiers. The Burundian army strongly opposed such a move.

African diplomats say one of the drawbacks of the Boutros proposal for foreign military intervention was that it might embolden Hutu rebels in Leonard

Nyangoma's Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD).

Like most Hutus, the FDD want foreign troops in Burundi to neutralise the army. The best way of getting a U.N. force would be for the FDD to step up its guerrilla attacks and cause chaos, the diplomats fear.

In its annual report on human rights, the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday human rights worsened in Burundi in 1995 as security forces and armed groups committed extensive abuses, which the government was largely unable to prevent.

"Troops brutally killed both armed and unarmed ethnic rivals, including women, children and the elderly," it said.

6-MAR-1996 Rwanda wants U.N. political presence

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 6 (Reuter) - Rwanda wants a non-military U.N. political office to replace peacekeepers whose mandate expires on Friday, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

Claude Dusaidi, political adviser to Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame, told Reuters the government wanted a small political office to stay behind under the U.N. special envoy, Ambassador Shaharyar Khan.

"We want five or 10 people to stay and just hang around, so they could be the ears and the eyes of the United Nations," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council on March 1 that there was no alternative to withdrawing the U.N. force because of Rwandan objections.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) has 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers here.

Boutros-Ghali said he regretted closing U.N. military and political operations in Rwanda, saying their presence might have encouraged 1.7 million refugees to return home.

The refugees are mainly exiled in Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire.

In a report to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations had failed in persuading Rwanda to accept even a small number of troops, military observers or political officers to promote reconciliation or help the judicial system.

Instead, Rwanda, according to its U.N. ambassador, wants the United Nations to leave behind its non-military equipment and step up development aid and provide construction engineers.

U.N. spokesman Ismail Diallo said the security council was expected to make a final decision before Friday.

"I think the security council will go along with Rwanda's request (for a political office to stay behind) with minor changes," Diallo added.

Diallo said the military force was almost certain to be withdrawn at the end of its mandate.

Contingency plans called for the withdrawals of 84 Malawian and 145 Ghanaian troops between March 14 and 18 and for 847 Indian troops between April 14 and 18, he said.

Some 144 Nigerian troops would also pull out soon and all military observers would stop work on the midnight of March 8 under the contingency plans, Diallo added.

Rwanda accuses the U.N. force of failing to stop 1994's genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus, during which the number of peacekeepers was cut to a bare minimum.

The genocidal killings erupted after the assassination on April 6 of that year of Hutu military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana.

Angry Habyarimana followers including his presidential guards, Hutu soldiers

and militia mobs took up arms and hunted down Tutsis and Hutus opposed to his military rule.

After the Tutsis retaliated and took over the government shortly afterwards, many Hutus fled in fear of retribution.

5-MAR-1996 Rights groups urge inquiry into attack on Rwandan

NAIROBI, March 5 (Reuter) - Two human rights organisations dismissed as "insufficient" on Tuesday a denial by Rwanda of any role in an attack on a Rwandan dissident in Kenya and called for justice.

Human Rights Watch Africa and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues urged Kenyan and Rwandan authorities to investigate last week's shooting and bring those implicated to justice.

Rwanda's embassy in Nairobi has protested at the arrest of one of its diplomats, accused by Kenyan police of taking part in the attempted assassination of former Rwandan interior minister Seth Sendashonga, a leading Hutu dissident now living in Kenya.

Kenya has asked Rwanda's government to lift the diplomatic immunity of administrative attache Francis Mugabo, held by Kenyan police who say he was found at the scene of the Nairobi attack with a pistol, a silencer and 13 rounds of ammunition.

"The charge d'affaires at the Rwandan embassy in Nairobi... denied any official involvement in the attempted assassination," the human rights groups said in a letter to Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu.

"Given the circumstances of the attack and the presence of an armed embassy employee in the vicinity of the crime, such a simple denial is insufficient to allay our concerns," they said.

They called on the Rwandan government to make investigation of the attack a priority, to make public the results as soon as possible and to ensure anyone implicated was brought to justice.

They asked for the same action from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

A Rwandan government spokesman has said that despite Sendashonga's affiliations he was no enemy of the administration and it had no reason or the capability to attempt to kill him.

Sendashonga was shot in the left arm and his nephew who was with him was critically wounded by two gunmen on February 26.

Sendashonga was sacked as Rwandan interior minister last August and moved to Kenya after he complained about arrests and killings by the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA).

The RPA took power in 1994 after three months of civil war and the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates carried out by Hutu government troops, militiamen and mobs.

2-MAR-1996 Rwanda begins hunt for genocide suspects in Africa

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 2 (Reuter) - Rwanda is going on a diplomatic offensive to track down key leaders of the 1994 genocide now living in African countries including Cameroon, Madagascar and Namibia, its foreign minister said on Saturday.

Anastaza Gasana told Reuters that Rwanda had formally asked African countries harbouring alleged leaders of the slaughter of up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates to hand them over to a U.N. war crimes tribunal.

In a wide-ranging interview, Gasana also welcomed a report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on closing down U.N. military and political operations in Rwanda and said all U.N. troops must leave after their mandate expires on March 8.

Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council on Friday that there was no alternative to withdrawing the force because Rwanda refused to accept even a small contingent to promote reconciliation or help the judicial system.

Gasana said Rwanda could negotiate a small, non-military U.N. political presence to replace the U.N. force which has 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers here.

But he said U.N. troops must leave because they undermined Rwanda's security.

"We want all the troops to go. Rwanda does not want to remain on the red map of conflict zones any more," he added.

Rwanda has continually questioned the force's mandate since the three-month slaughter in 1994 during which the number of peacekeepers was cut to a minimum.

The government is also running out of patience with U.N. agencies that have had little success so far on key issues such as the repatriation of 1.7 million Hutu refugees who fled to neighbouring Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi after the genocide.

U.N. officials in Kigali say the U.N. system is bogged down in inefficiency, political infighting and bureaucracy.

The government is also unhappy with the efforts of a U.N. tribunal crippled by lack of resources and direction since its creation in 1994.

The tribunal, seated in the Tanzanian town of Arusha, indicted eight Rwandans in December on charges of slaughters in the Western town of Kibuye but none have been arrested.

This month it indicted two more Rwandans held in Zambia including a vice-president of the feared Hutu militia.

Western diplomats say the tribunal's credibility is in question because it runs the risk of having its hands only on people caught often by chance by friendly governments and not the key leaders living in Zaire and Kenya.

In many ways, the Rwandan government is now doing the work of the tribunal in tracking down genocide suspects.

The arrests late last year of a number of genocide suspects in Zambia, including the two indicted by the tribunal, followed a Rwandan initiative which Gasana said would be expanded to other African countries including Namibia, Gabon, Cameroon, Madagascar, Ivory Coast and the Central African Republic.

"The tribunal is not being very dynamic, so we are going ahead with our own investigations," Gasana said.

He said Zambia promised Rwanda to arrest soon a former government minister accused of genocide and Switzerland promised to hand over to the tribunal a former tea factory director allegedly involved in killings.

To speed up arrests of genocide leaders, Gasana said he would soon travel to Cameroon, host to several important former Hutu government ministers, as well as Namibia which he said recently arrested a former Rwandan minister.

Rwanda is also in touch with officials in Madagascar where Gasana said several Rwandan Hutu exiles recently moved from Kenya and is negotiating with Canada, Gabon, Belgium and France for the handover to the tribunal of genocide suspects, he added.

2-MAR-1996 Rwanda protests at Kenya's arrest of diplomat

By Buchizya Mseteka

NAIROBI, March 2 (Reuter) - Rwanda on Saturday protested at Kenya's arrest of one of its diplomats in Nairobi, accused by the authorities of having taken part in an attempt to kill an exiled Rwandan Hutu politician.

A statement issued by the Rwandan embassy said Kenyan police not only arrested the diplomat, Francis Mugabo, but also looted his Nairobi residence in violation of his diplomatic immunity.

Kenya says Mugabo was one of the three gunmen who shot at former Rwandan interior minister Seth Sendashonga and his nephew near Nairobi on Monday night. The other two escaped.

Sendashonga was shot in the arm while his nephew was hit in the stomach and was reported in critical condition in a Nairobi hospital on Saturday.

"In the night of February 26, Francis Mugabo, a member of our diplomatic mission, was arrested by Kenya Police who, later on, looted his residence," said the Rwandan statement, signed by head of mission, Pierre Hakizimana.

"That violation of the immunity of the person and his residence is a serious transgression of the Vienna Convention," the statement added.

The Kenyan government on Friday said it had asked Rwanda to lift Mugabo's immunity to allow for him to be investigated and finally prosecuted.

Mugabo, an administrative attache at the embassy and member of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), which took power after a civil war in 1994 following genocide by the then Hutu authorities, army and militiamen, faces four charges including attempted murder.

RPF fighters are now the government army.

Kenyan Attorney-General Amos Wako told a news conference on Saturday he was still awaiting a response on the waiver request.

"The government is still waiting for a response from Kigali but the Rwandan diplomat (Mugabo) is in our custody," Wako said.

Sendashonga has told Reuters he had no doubt his attackers were members of the RPF, determined to silence exiled opponents.

Rwanda, through its Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana, on Wednesday categorically denied involvement in the incident.

The shooting took place two days before Sendashonga was due to leave for Brussels for a meeting with exiled former prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu on a new political initiative for Rwanda, Sendashonga said.

Sendashonga was sacked, along with Twagiramungu, from Rwanda's government last August, and moved to exile in Kenya, after complaining about an increasing number of Hutus detained by Rwanda's army.

Sendashonga say he intends to launch a new political party to address Rwanda's ethnic problems which pit the minority Tutsi against majority Hutus -- many of whom are now in exile after they fled their homeland in 1994.

Up to a million Rwandans, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were slaughtered in 1994 in genocidal killings sparked by the murder of Hutu military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6 of that year.

INTERNATIONAL

The United Nations heads for bankruptcy

ODD, really: governments instruct the United Nations to do a certain job, fail to give it the money needed, and yet conclude that it is the UN that is at fault, not themselves. Now the process has reached crisis point: the organisation is about to go bust. For several years past it has run out of cash two-thirds of the way through the year. Though not allowed to borrow from outside sources, or raise money in unconventional ways, it has always muddled through, dipping into reserves and praying that dilatory members would pay up in the end. Most of them did. But now the reserves are empty and prayers go unanswered—and the till, at the end of the year, looks set to be short of some \$400m.

So says Joseph Connor, a former chairman of Price Waterhouse, a firm of accountants, and now top manager at the UN, who was appointed in answer to the United States' (justified) criticisms of mismanagement. His attempts to put things right have been undermined by a cash flow that was always spasmodic and is now drying up. At the end of December, members' accumulated debts to the UN totalled almost \$2.3 billion, equal to roughly half 1995's due contributions, regular and peacekeeping combined. Of that figure, the United States owed more than \$1.2 billion.

Life at the UN staggered on last year, says Mr Connor, while negotiating with the dollar he took as a sure, he did not pay, or was dilatory in paying, countries

that provided men or equipment for peacekeeping: by the end of 1995 these unfortunate volunteers, who might have thought that they had done well by the world, were owed no less than \$1 billion. Moreover, between August and December, \$176m of the peacekeeping money that should have gone their way had been borrowed to pay salaries and suchlike at the UN that the regular budget could no longer afford.

This source of funds, Mr Connor points out, is diminishing. The end of the UN's huge Bosnian operation will mean a dramatic drop in the cost of peacekeeping. Fine, but it also means that in the short term there will be no new money to pay old bills—and less money for internal shuffling.

What was difficult last year may turn out to be impossible this. Even though 1996 began promisingly, with 25 dutiful countries paying their full assessments for the year in January, the size of the American debt is overwhelming. Even Russia, the second-largest debtor, is promising to try to pay its arrears over a stated number of years. The United States is not ready even to start trying. A Republican Congress sees virtue in doing down a scorned UN.

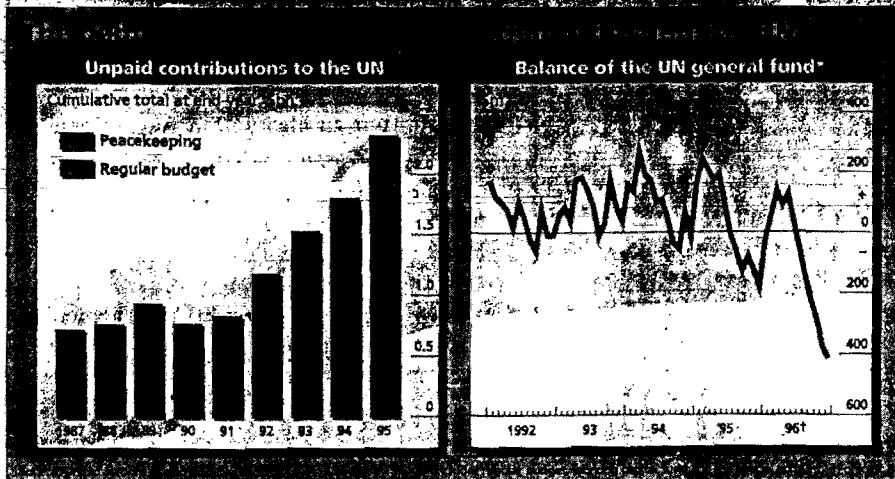
Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN's secretary-general, who this week backed up Mr Connor's stark diagnosis with a gloomy report of his own, believes that it would be possible to get the UN's Americans and must have a better idea of getting it. Members of the UN are not aware of the state of the world

GDP, with adjustments for their population and level of economic development. The United States is assessed to pay 25% of the regular budget and 31% of the peacekeeping one (though Congress has unilaterally voted to reduce the latter figure to 25%). Mr Boutros-Ghali suggests a ceiling of 15% or 20% on any member's contribution, to reflect the fact that the world body "is indeed the instrument of all nations".

But the United States prefers the UN, or at least the Security Council, to perform primarily as an American instrument; a diminution of influence would not be welcomed. Nor would Congress necessarily be mollified by an official reduction in American dues: its distrust of the organisation is implacable. From Somalia to Bosnia to New York, the UN is condemned as wimpy or bossy or both, and extravagant beyond compare, tales of its waste and incompetence abound. Before there can be any thought of arrears-paying, say the men on Capitol Hill who control their country's purse-strings, the UN must prove it has reformed itself.

Reform, as most UN types religiously acknowledge, is essential. For a start, the Americans and others insist that the UN's regular budget must show no growth (the peacekeeping budget, which is three times the size of the regular one, is unpredictable, but will certainly come down and probably be kept down). So this week Mr Connor outlined the cuts, including a painful 10% reduction in UN staff, that are needed for zero growth, allowing nothing for inflation. The fat-cat specialised agencies, the World Health Organisation and so on, are out of the UN's control; they have their own governing bodies and budgets raised directly from members. But the UN itself is being trimmed and, to an extent, refashioned. Mr Boutros-Ghali speaks of structures to be streamlined and rules to be simplified.

That would be all to the good. But the UN's cobwebs are in the fabric, calling for a much more radical shake-out than anything yet proposed. Right, says Mr Boutros-Ghali, but so long as the financial crisis remains unsolved "all other efforts to cut back, reform or restructure cannot possibly succeed". Financial underpinning is essential for radical restructuring: even so relatively straightforward a task as, for instance, getting rid of the worst of the human deadwood, is impossible if there is no money to pay people off. And until member countries, above all the United States, pay the money they owe, there will never be enough for deep reform.



29-FEB-1996 Rwandan deputy prosecutor jailed in the capital

KIGALI, Feb 29 (Reuter) - Rwanda's attempts to start trials against people accused of genocide suffered another setback on Thursday when a senior Rwandan prosecutor was placed in custody.

U.N. human rights spokesman Lee Woodyear said Silas Munyagishali, the deputy prosecutor in the capital Kigali, was sent to Central Kigali prison after six days under house arrest.

Woodyear said it was not clear whether Munyagishali had been charged, but legal sources said he faced charges of corruption. Neither justice nor defence ministry officials were available for comment.

Government officials say corruption in the judicial system is a problem even before Rwanda tackles trials for the more than 66,000 Hutus jammed into overcrowded jails on genocide charges.

In 1994 Hutu troops, militia and mobs killed up to one million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates before Tutsi rebels took control of the country.

A well-functioning justice system is seen as key to efforts to reconcile Rwanda's rival ethnic tribes and help repatriate 1.7 million Hutu refugees outside the country who fear returning to Rwanda with its Tutsi-led army.

Earlier this week, another senior judicial official, the president of Rwanda's court of magistrates, was suspended on charge of corruption and irregularities.

Several judicial police inspectors have recently been jailed on corruption charges, including freeing genocide suspects from jail in exchange for bribes.

The government, desperately short of trained workers, recently decreed that a law degree is no longer required for magistrates. Parliament has rejected legislation to let foreign judicial experts work in Rwanda.

Western legal experts say the bulk of the inmates in prisons were jailed with insufficient evidence or without arrest orders.

29-FEB-1996 Rwanda dissident calls U.N. force to be boosted

NAIROBI, Feb 29 (Reuter) - A leading Rwandan dissident shot in what he says was a botched assassination attempt in Nairobi called on Thursday for U.N. forces in Rwanda to be strengthened.

"I appeal to the international community to consider the deployment in Rwanda of a larger force which would guarantee external and internal security for Rwanda," said Seth Sendashonga, Rwanda's former interior minister.

He said in a statement increasing the 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers with the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was needed to protect human rights in Rwanda.

Under international pressure, Rwanda agreed three months ago to an extension of UNAMIR's mandate which expires on March 8.

Sendashonga, a Hutu and critic of the Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali,

was shot in the left arm by two gunmen after being lured to a meeting on the outskirts of Nairobi on Monday.

His nephew is in a critical condition after being shot in the abdomen.

The ex-minister accused gunmen loyal to the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) of being responsible for the murder attempt, a charge strongly denied by authorities in Kigali.

The Tutsi-dominated RPF is the party which seized power in Rwanda in July 1994, ending the genocide of up to a million people by Hutu hardliners. RPF fighters are now the government army.

29-FEB-1996 U.N. appoints Canadian as war crimes prosecutor

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 29 (Reuter) - The Security Council on Thursday unanimously appointed Canadian judge Louise Arbour to be the new prosecutor of the U.N. war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Her nomination was announced last week by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. She will take up her post on October 1 when the present prosecutor, Judge Richard Goldstone, returns to South Africa's constitutional court.

Arbour, 49, is a judge of the Ontario court of appeals and previously served on Ontario's supreme court.

The Montreal-born jurist was last year appointed to preside over an inquiry into a women's prison in Kingston, Ontario, and to make recommendations on the Canadian prison service.

Arbour, who has published extensively in both English and French, is married and has two daughters and a son.

The tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, based at The Hague, was set up in 1993 to try those accused of war crimes in the conflict that followed the breakup of the Balkan federation.

The tribunal for Rwanda was established in late 1994 to try people for alleged genocide and other serious human rights violations in that central African nation, where between 500,000 and a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 1994. Its headquarters are at Arusha, Tanzania.

The two tribunals share a prosecutor and five appeals judges. Each also has six trial judges. Neither has yet held any trials but they have handed down a number of indictments.

The courts are the first of their kind since those set up in Nuremberg and Tokyo to try war criminals after the Second World War.

1-MAR-1996 Main U.N. operation closing down in Rwanda

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS, March 1 (Reuter) - Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Friday said he regretted closing U.N. military and political operations in Rwanda, saying their presence might have encouraged 1.7 million refugees to

return home.

In a report to the Security Council, he said the United Nations had failed in persuading Rwanda to accept even a small number of troops, military observers or political officers to promote reconciliation or help the judicial system.

"I regret, therefore, that there appears to be no alternative, in the present circumstances, to the complete withdrawal of all the civilian and military components of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) after March 8," he said.

Instead, Rwanda, according to its U.N. ambassador, wants the United Nations to leave behind its non-military equipment and step up development aid and provide construction engineers.

Boutros-Ghali said some human rights officers and U.N. development and refugee assistance personnel would stay on.

He said he was drawing up a list for the General Assembly of what non-lethal UNAMIR equipment could be given to Rwanda.

"I trust that, in the meantime, there will be no obstacles to the transfer of equipment needed in other peacekeeping operations," he said.

The Tutsi-led Rwanda government has criticised the United Nations for its ineffective and small presence during the mid-1994 genocide that resulted in the deaths of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

After the Tutsis retaliated and took over the government shortly afterwards, many Hutus fled in fear of retribution.

Boutros-Ghali said the security of the country continued to be threatened as long as 1.5 million refugees were camped along Rwanda's borders in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

Although intimidation by armed groups loyal to the former government discouraged repatriation, he said "the reluctance of the refugees to return to their homes is motivated to a high degree by concern about security conditions inside Rwanda."

"It is my belief that in these circumstances the deployment of the United Nations military personnel, particularly in those areas to which large numbers of refugees are expected to return, could speed up the process of return both by building confidence and by providing much-needed logistic support," he added.

Rwanda's ambassador, Manzi Bakuramutsa, said his government could handle its own security problems and needed reconstruction aid. He complained that Rwanda had not received the list of equipment it needed from UNAMIR.

Boutros-Ghali said another factor discouraging refugees from returning home was the country's disastrous judicial system.

Since the Tutsi-led army swept to power, nearly 66,000 Hutus suspected of involvement in the genocide have been jailed. About 2,300 have died in overcrowded cells and scores more have been killed by Tutsis in revenge attacks.

1-MAR-1996 Rwanda rejects Church demand to move genocide day

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 1 (Reuter) - The Rwandan parliament said on Friday that the commemoration of the 1994 genocide would be held on the same day as Easter celebrations, rejecting a plea by the Roman Catholic Church that the date be changed.

State radio said bishops of the Church, which has faced accusations that some of its priests and nuns took part in the killings, formally asked the government to switch commemorations to April 8 because Easter celebrations fall on April 7.

But angry deputies said the commemorations had nothing to do with Easter and would go ahead, Radio Rwanda said.

The government has declared April 7 a national day of mourning because it was the start of the 1994 genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Dozens of priests and nuns have been accused by witnesses of taking up arms and machetes to hack their victims to death. One of the priests accused is Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, who has been performing his pastoral duties in France for more than a year.

The Vatican has not commented on accusations against Rwandan priests.

Some of the ugliest massacres were committed in churches, missions and parishes where Tutsis who took shelter were hunted down by extremist Hutu militias.

More than 5,000 Tutsis were slaughtered in and around a church in southern Rwanda and thousands more are thought to have been buried in mass graves outside another church in the western town of Kibuye.

The Rwandan Association of Genocide Survivors reacted angrily to the church's demand, urging it to recognise the genocide day and take lessons from it.

"April 7 is a lesson for Christians," Radio Rwanda quoted the appeal as saying. The association urged the church to refrain from Easter services in churches where massacres took place and instead hold prayers for victims at genocide sites.

Many officials of the Rwandan government, whose Tutsi-rebels swept to power after the genocide, feel the Church has done little to address its role in the genocide.

1-MAR-1996 Kenya asks Rwanda waive detained envoy's immunity

By Buchizya Mseteka

NAIROBI, March 1 (Reuter) - Kenya said on Friday it had requested Rwanda to lift the diplomatic immunity of one of its Nairobi-based diplomats detained for involvement in an attempt to assassinate an exiled Rwandan Hutu politician.

Attorney-General Amos Wako said in a statement that the diplomat was one of the three gunmen who shot at former Rwandan interior minister Seth Sendashonga and his nephew on the outskirts of Nairobi on Monday night.

"Two of the assailants escaped but one called Mr Francis Mugabo was arrested at the scene, and was found to be in possession of one pistol together with its silencer and 13 rounds of ammunition.

"The said Mr Mugabo was later found to be a diplomat working at the Rwandan Embassy in Nairobi as an Administrative Attache. The government has requested Rwanda to waive diplomatic immunity that Mugabo enjoys to enable criminal investigations to be carried out and prosecution to ensue," Wako said.

He said Mugabo faced four charges including attempted murder.

Sendashonga was shot in the arm while his nephew was hit in the stomach and was still reported in critical condition in a Nairobi hospital on Friday.

Mugabo is a member of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) which seized power in Rwanda in July 1994 ending the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutu hardliners. RPF fighters are now the government army.

Sendashonga told Reuters on Tuesday that he had no doubt that the attackers were members of the RPF determined to silence exiled opponents.

Rwanda, through its Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana, on Wednesday categorically denied involvement in the incident.

Gasana told Reuters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa that Sendashonga faced internal problems in his exiled opposition group.

"Assassinations are not part of their (RPF's) thinking," said Gasana, adding the attack could be part of criminal insecurity in Kenya's capital.

The shooting took place two days before Sendashonga was due to leave for Brussels for a meeting with exiled former prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu on a new political initiative for Rwanda, Sendashonga said.

Sendashonga was sacked, along with Twagiramungu, from Rwanda's government last August and moved to exile in Kenya after complaining about an increasing number of Hutus detained by Rwanda's army.

1-MAR-1996 Mob tries to lynch returning Rwandan refugee

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 1 (Reuters) - An angry mob tried to lynch a Hutu refugee returning to the Rwandan capital Kigali on a U.N.-sponsored visit, accusing him of taking part in the 1994 genocide of minority Tutsis, U.N. officials said on Friday.

Witnesses and U.N. officials said genocide survivors tried to lynch the refugee, a lawyer from Kahindo camp in Zaire, when they recognised him shortly after he left a U.N. car on a visit to Nyamirambo district in Kigali on Wednesday.

Rwandan soldiers saved the refugee from death by the crowd and then arrested him, U.N. officials said.

A U.N. report said many people in Nyamirambo knew the man. Witnesses alleged he was a member of the extremist Hutu Interahamwe (Those Who Fight Together) militia involved in killings in Nyamirambo mosque in 1994.

The Nyamirambo quarter of Kigali, partly populated by African Moslems, was the scene of some of the worst massacres in April 1994 when Hutu mobs and militia slaughtered members of the Tutsi minority as well as moderate Hutus.

The U.N.-sponsored return visits aim to allow refugees to see Rwanda for themselves and are a key element in the U.N. refugee agency's drive to encourage the repatriation of 1.7 million Rwandan Hutus in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

Refugees have been taken on U.N.-accompanied trips to other parts of Rwanda but Wednesday's visit was the first to the capital. U.N. soldiers do not escort the returnees.

A second refugee on the trip, a retired former army officer, was welcomed by neighbours and had no problems, U.N. officials said.

"We're going to reassess the policy of cross-border visits," Roman Urasa, head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, told Reuters after the lynching.

The government of Rwanda has made it clear that refugees on return visits are not immune from arrest. Even 18 months after the genocide ended, the government holds justice for the killers has scarcely begun.

Government officials say there are genocide suspects even among the ranks of the civil service such as Kigali's deputy prosecutor, thrown into jail on Thursday charged with genocide.

Few among the 1.7 million Hutu refugees admit to having taken part or witnessed the massacre of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus sparked by the April 1994 killing of president Juvenal Habyarimana.

Although hardline Hutu militias led the massacres, many ordinary people, including women and children, took part.

Since Rwanda's Tutsi-led army swept to power after the genocide, 66,000 Hutus suspected of involvement in the genocide have been jailed, 2,300 have died in overcrowded cells and scores more have been killed by Tutsis in revenge attacks.

"We've been asked to do what no other country had to do. There are still many criminals out there and we have no plans to stop arresting people," said justice ministry official Gerard Gahima.

"All the people in prisons were involved in the genocide. Ideally, we'd like to have one million people in jail because it took at least one person to kill another person," he added.

1-MAR-1996 Rwandan deputy prosecutor held on genocide charge

KIGALI, March 1 (Reuter) - The deputy prosecutor in the Rwandan capital has been thrown into Kigali's central prison on charges of taking part in the Hutu genocide campaign in 1994, a senior justice official said on Friday.

Official Gerard Gahima accused Silas Munyagishali, a Hutu who was suspended last month and sent to the prison on Thursday, of being involved in killings the Kigali.

Munyiagishali was a member of the Interahamwe (Those Who Fight Together) Hutu militia which led the mass slaughter of Tutsis with troops of Rwanda's former Hutu government, he said.

"Eyewitnesses saw him at roadblocks. He was involved in the killings of four people," Gahima told Reuters. "We discovered he was involved after he took office. But we had to move slowly."

U.N. human rights observers said they had been denied access to Munyiagishali, who was confined to his house for a week under armed guard before being taken to prison.

More than 66,000 Hutus are jammed into Rwanda's overcrowded jails on charges of genocide. The prison population is growing by 1,000 a week and justice ministry officials say arrests will continue.

Western legal experts say most held in prisons were detained unlawfully without any arrest orders or sufficient evidence. Many of them do not even have any files opened on their cases.

Rwanda's judicial system was wrecked in 1994 by three months of civil war and the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militias and mobs before the Tutsi-dominated rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) seized power.

A working justice system is a key to efforts to reconcile Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda and help repatriate 1.7 million Hutu refugees who fear returning to their country while the RPF holds power.

2-MAR-1996 Rwanda begins hunt for genocide suspects in Africa

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, March 2 - Rwanda is going on a diplomatic offensive to track down key leaders of the 1994 genocide now living in African countries including Cameroon, Madagascar and Namibia, its foreign minister said on Saturday.

Anastaza Gasana told Reuters that Rwanda had formally asked African countries harbouring alleged leaders of the slaughter of up to a million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates to hand them over to a U.N. war crimes tribunal.

In a wide-ranging interview, Gasana also welcomed a report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on closing down U.N. military and political operations in Rwanda and said all U.N. troops must leave after their mandate expires on March 8.

Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council on Friday that there was no alternative to withdrawing the force because Rwanda refused to accept even a small contingent to promote reconciliation or help the judicial system.

Gasana said Rwanda could negotiate a small, non-military U.N. political presence to replace the U.N. force which has 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers here.

But he said U.N. troops must leave because they undermined Rwanda's

security.

"We want all the troops to go. Rwanda does not want to remain on the red map of conflict zones any more," he added.

Rwanda has continually questioned the force's mandate since the three-month slaughter in 1994 during which the number of peacekeepers was cut to a minimum.

The government is also running out of patience with U.N. agencies that have had little success so far on key issues such as the repatriation of 1.7 million Hutu refugees who fled to neighbouring Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi after the genocide.

U.N. officials in Kigali say the U.N. system is bogged down in inefficiency, political infighting and bureaucracy.

The government is also unhappy with the efforts of a U.N. tribunal crippled by lack of resources and direction since its creation in 1994.

The tribunal, seated in the Tanzanian town of Arusha, indicted eight Rwandans in December on charges of slaughters in the Western town of Kibuye but none have been arrested.

This month it indicted two more Rwandans held in Zambia including a vice-president of the feared Hutu militia.

Western diplomats say the tribunal's credibility is in question because it runs the risk of having its hands only on people caught often by chance by friendly governments and not the key leaders living in Zaire and Kenya.

In many ways, the Rwandan government is now doing the work of the tribunal in tracking down genocide suspects.

The arrests late last year of a number of genocide suspects in Zambia, including the two indicted by the tribunal, followed a Rwandan initiative which Gasana said would be expanded to other African countries including Namibia, Gabon, Cameroon, Madagascar, Ivory Coast and the Central African Republic.

"The tribunal is not being very dynamic, so we are going ahead with our own investigations," Gasana said.

He said Zambia promised Rwanda to arrest soon a former government minister accused of genocide and Switzerland promised to hand over to the tribunal a former tea factory director allegedly involved in killings.

To speed up arrests of genocide leaders, Gasana said he would soon travel to Cameroon, host to several important former Hutu government ministers, as well as Namibia which he said recently arrested a former Rwandan minister.

Rwanda is also in touch with officials in Madagascar where Gasana said several Rwandan Hutu exiles recently moved from Kenya and is negotiating with Canada, Gabon, Belgium and France for the handover to the tribunal of genocide suspects, he added.

2-MAR-1996 Rwanda protests at Kenya's arrest of diplomat

By Buchizya Mseteka

NAIROBI, March 2 (Reuter) - Rwanda on Saturday protested at Kenya's arrest

of one of its diplomats in Nairobi, accused by the authorities of having taken part in an attempt to kill an exiled Rwandan Hutu politician.

A statement issued by the Rwandan embassy said Kenyan police not only arrested the diplomat, Francis Mugabo, but also looted his Nairobi residence in violation of his diplomatic immunity.

Kenya says Mugabo was one of the three gunmen who shot at former Rwandan interior minister Seth Sendashonga and his nephew near Nairobi on Monday night. The other two escaped.

Sendashonga was shot in the arm while his nephew was hit in the stomach and was reported in critical condition in a Nairobi hospital on Saturday.

"In the night of February 26, Francis Mugabo, a member of our diplomatic mission, was arrested by Kenya Police who, later on, looted his residence," said the Rwandan statement, signed by head of mission, Pierre Hakizimana.

"That violation of the immunity of the person and his residence is a serious transgression of the Vienna Convention," the statement added.

The Kenyan government on Friday said it had asked Rwanda to lift Mugabo's immunity to allow for him to be investigated and finally prosecuted.

Mugabo, an administrative attache at the embassy and member of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), which took power after a civil war in 1994 following genocide by the then Hutu authorities, army and militiamen, faces four charges including attempted murder.

RPF fighters are now the government army.

Kenyan Attorney-General Amos Wako told a news conference on Saturday he was still awaiting a response on the waiver request.

"The government is still waiting for a response from Kigali but the Rwandan diplomat (Mugabo) is in our custody," Wako said.

Sendashonga has told Reuters he had no doubt his attackers were members of the RPF, determined to silence exiled opponents.

Rwanda, through its Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana, on Wednesday categorically denied involvement in the incident.

The shooting took place two days before Sendashonga was due to leave for Brussels for a meeting with exiled former prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu on a new political initiative for Rwanda, Sendashonga said.

Sendashonga was sacked, along with Twagiramungu, from Rwanda's government last August, and moved to exile in Kenya, after complaining about an increasing number of Hutus detained by Rwanda's army.

Sendashonga says he intends to launch a new political party to address Rwanda's ethnic problems which pit the minority Tutsi against majority Hutus -- many of whom are now in exile after they fled their homeland in 1994.

Up to a million Rwandans, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were slaughtered in 1994 in genocidal killings sparked by the murder of Hutu military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6 of that year.

29-FEB-1996 Rwanda's Tutsis deny mass killings of Hutus

PARIS, Feb 29 (Reuter) - Rwanda denied on Thursday a French newspaper report that its ruling Tutsi minority, victims of genocide in 1994, had turned the tables and killed over 100,000 of their Hutu opponents in a wave of revenge massacres.

"The national unity government has never had a policy of systematic extermination of any part of the Rwandan people, as was the case for the previous regime," said Rwandan Information Minister Jean-Pierre Bizimana.

"No investigation has ever confirmed the gratuitous accusations of massacres, whether in the form of exterminations or systematic vengeance," Bizimana said in a statement distributed in the French capital.

"Isolated criminal acts that have been detected have always been severely punished by the Rwandan government, whether committed by civilians or members of the military," he said.

The centre-left French daily Liberation reported on Tuesday that it had compiled lists from various areas of Rwanda showing a wave of revenge massacres took place just after the collapse of the Hutu government in July 1994, when the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) came to power.

Massacres had continued and were being ignored or not reported by the international community, which was still shocked at the deaths of about 800,000 people, mostly Tutsis, massacred by Hutus in 1994, Liberation wrote.

It said the killings of Hutus "were being tolerated, if not organised, by the RPF."

At a later news conference, human rights activists acknowledged that killings continued after the RPF takeover but said they were neither as massive nor as deliberate as the 1994 genocide.

28-FEB-1996 Two local officials assassinated in southern Rwanda

KIGALI, Feb 28 (Reuter) - Unidentified gunmen have killed two local government officials and three other civilians in southern Rwanda near Burundi's border, state-run radio said on Wednesday.

Radio Rwanda said a commune official in Muko commune in Giko Ngoro region was shot dead with his wife, child and servant in his home on Monday night. The same day gunmen killed another local official in Rwamiko commune further to the south.

The identity of the attackers was not known.

Both killings took place near the Nyungwe forest, a haven for Hutu extremist guerrillas who infiltrate from refugee camps in Zaire and Burundi, where more than one million Rwandan Hutus live since they fled in fear of reprisal for 1994's genocide.

Another four people were killed and five wounded in two separate attacks by

gunmen near and in the southwestern border region of Cyangugu on Monday.

The insurgency has been rising since mid-January, after a lull following a raid by Rwanda's Tutsi-led army late last year on an island in Lake Kivu used by rebels as a training base.

A rise in cross-border raids last September was followed by the massacre of 110 Hutu villagers by government troops in the northwest, dealing a blow to U.N. efforts to woo refugees home.

On Wednesday, Radio Rwanda said six people were hurt when their truck overran a mine planted by suspected Hutu guerrillas in the lush southwestern border region of Cyangugu.

Cyangugu, bordering Zaire across the picturesque Lake Kivu, is within striking distance of the most militant refugee camps, located just across the Rusizi River frontier, where thousands of former government soldiers are being fed by Western aid workers.

28-FEB-1996 Rwanda denies it tried to kill exiled politician

By Buchizya Mseteka

NAIROBI, Feb 28 (Reuter) - Rwanda denied on Wednesday being behind the alleged attempted assassination in Kenya of a former minister and leading Hutu critic of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army.

Seth Sendashonga said on Tuesday he was sure two gunmen who shot him and a nephew on the outskirts of Nairobi on Monday night were members of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) out to silence him.

Sendashonga's nephew was hit in the stomach and was reported in critical condition in a Nairobi hospital on Wednesday.

The Tutsi-dominated RPF is the party which seized power in Rwanda in July 1994, ending the genocide of up to a million people by Hutu hardliners. RPF fighters are now the government army.

Wilson Rutayisire, Rwanda's chief government spokesman, on Wednesday poured cold water on Sendashonga's allegations, saying despite their political differences he was no enemy of Rwanda.

"We have political differences with him but he is not an enemy and we have no reason to kill him," he told Reuters by telephone. "We do not even have the capacity and capability to carry out such methods and assassination is not even our method of operation."

Rutayisire said the government in Kigali did not consider Sendashonga as an exile and had allowed the former minister to move freely in and out of Rwanda since sacking him last August.

"If we had wanted to kill him we would have done it right here (in Rwanda) instead of using foreign territory," he added.

Sendashonga said on Tuesday Kenyan police arrested a Rwandan suspected of involvement the failed attempt to assassinate him. He said he heard the man claimed to work for Rwanda's embassy in Nairobi.

Kenyan police and Rwandan embassy officials in Nairobi declined to comment on the report. Nairobi's Daily Nation newspaper also said a senior Rwandan diplomat was under arrest.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana, in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa for an Organisation of African Unity meeting on Wednesday, denied any member of Rwanda's embassy in Nairobi had been arrested.

Gasana told Reuters Sendashonga had internal problems in his exiled opposition group but in view of that he doubted that these could lead to a plot to assassinate the former minister.

"Any involvement of the RPF would astonish me. Assassinations are not part of their thinking," said Gasana, adding the attack could be part of criminal insecurity in Kenya's capital.

28-FEB-1996 Rwandan judge suspended over corruption charges

KIGALI, Feb 28 (Reuter) - Rwanda's government has suspended the head of its Magistrates Court on charges of corruption and irregularities, the Justice Ministry said on Wednesday.

Claudian Gatera faces disciplinary action on charges of ruling excessive damages in civilian suits without allowing time for appeals, said Gerard Gahima, the most senior civil servant at the office of the justice minister.

The move is yet another blow to efforts to rebuild a justice system shattered after 1994's genocide, in which three out of four judges in the country were killed or disappeared.

A justice system is key to efforts to reconcile Rwanda's rival tribes after the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and allied Hutus.

The genocide erupted after the murder of Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994.

His loyal followers, who included soldiers, militiamen and civilian mobs, picked up arms and hunted down Tutsis and Hutus who opposed Habyarimana's military rule.

The killings only ended after rebels of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) drove Habyarimana's Hutu army and government into exile and captured state power.

The U.N. Human Rights office in Rwanda says it investigated 190 killings attributed to the Tutsi-led army or others acting on behalf of the government in the four months from October 1995. The monthly figure of killings ranged between 36 and 63.

The number of jailed Hutus accused but not tried for genocide soared to 66,000 at the end of December from 18,000 early in 1995. The prison population is growing by 1,000 a week.

Parliament has rejected legislation to let foreign judicial experts work in Rwanda. The government, desperately short of trained workforce, was recently

reduced to decreeing that a law degree is no longer required for magistrates.

29-FEB-1996 Burundi talks with key role for Nyerere mooted

By Nicholas Kotch

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 29 (Reuter) - International talks on Burundi's ethnic conflict opened on Thursday with delegates advocating a mediating role for African elder statesman Julius Nyerere.

Nyerere, Tanzania's former president, attended the one-day meeting between African, European and United Nations diplomats.

The gathering was a "who's who" of senior officials seeking to avert catastrophe in Burundi between the Tutsi minority, which runs the army, and the Hutu majority. At least 20 African countries took part.

At least 100,000 people have died in the past 30 months in the central African country neighbouring Rwanda, where Hutus massacred up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

Peace initiatives are proliferating and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) called on Wednesday for better coordination. That is where Nyerere comes in, delegates said.

"Mwalimu," the Kiswahili word for teacher, is one of the few statesmen who can speak to all sides, they said. He is already involved in OAU peace efforts and is advising former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, whose Carter Center has its own initiative for the Great Lakes region of central Africa.

Senior European and U.N. officials in Addis were also positive about an enhanced role for Nyerere.

"He might be ready to accept the task. But he will want to be a free-lance, independent of the OAU, U.N. and European Union," one African diplomat said.

Nyerere privately met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the current OAU chairman, and OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim on Wednesday.

"They expressed their confidence that (Nyerere's) efforts will enjoy the support of the wide international community," an OAU statement said on Thursday.

Thursday's talks were co-chaired by Salim and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, and were formally a follow-up to the February 1995 Bujumbura conference on the three million refugees and displaced people in the Great Lakes region.

This refugee and displaced population is destabilising the entire region and Zaire and Tanzania, the main asylum countries, are pushing for repatriation. But the bulk of the 1.7 million Rwandan Hutu refugees are refusing to go home, fearing reprisals for the genocide.

Nyerere, Ogata and Salim were meeting separately on Thursday with the

special representatives for Rwanda and Burundi of the U.N., the OAU and the European Union to try to harmonise policies which have at times appeared disjointed.

Diplomats said a second Carter summit on the Great Lakes, postponed from next weekend, would be held in Tunis in mid-March.

Ogata told the opening session that little progress had been made in the past year. Salim told Burundi's leaders it was time to break "from the path of irrationality, violence and self-destruction."

Burundi has had a weak coalition government since 1994 but real power lies with the 15,000-strong Tutsi army.

Hutus comprise 85 percent of the population, as they do in Rwanda, and some Tutsi leaders in Burundi may be starting to accept they cannot monopolise power.

The army is battling an insurgency by Hutu rebels of Leonard Nyangoma's Forces for the Defence of Democracy which has made large areas of the country no-go areas.

Hutu politicians want a U.N. military peace force in Burundi but the army rejects the idea. The latest plan from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is for a standby force, with contingents from volunteer states, to move in if the killing worsens.

This is ruled out by Tutsis and in any case, diplomats say, the massacres would be almost over by the time a force was deployed. They note most of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda in 1994 withdrew as the genocide began.

27-FEB-1996 Zaire puts hardliner in charge of Rwandan refugees

By Arthur Malu Malu

KINSHASA, Feb 27 (Reuter) - A cabinet reshuffle in Zaire has put the fate of over a million Rwandans in the hands of a new interior minister who is a champion of mass repatriation of the refugees.

Monday's change in which 23 ministers -- half the cabinet -- were dropped, was in line with centrist Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo's efforts to form a national unity government.

Failure to form a broad-based government and the presence of the refugees, who are blamed for insecurity in eastern Zaire, have been cited by officials as obstacles to Zaire's long delayed democratic elections, now promised before July 1997.

A key change in the cabinet was the transfer of Kengo's political ally Kamanda wa Kamanda to the interior ministry -- the front line in the struggle to persuade or pressure the Rwandans to return home.

"Kamanda has generally taken a hardline position on the question of the Rwandan refugees," one Zairean commentator said on Tuesday. "He favours mass repatriation of the Rwandans."

Kamanda moved from the foreign ministry where he dealt with the Rwandan problem but did not have direct responsibility for the Hutu refugees who fled civil war in their country in 1994.

Hutu hardliners, including thousands of soldiers and militiamen who fled with the refugees, are accused of taking part in the massacre of up to one million people in Rwanda in 1994, most of them minority Tutsis who now rule in Kigali after winning a civil war.

The Hutu refugees fear reprisals if they return home. Attempts by Zaire last August to repatriate them forcibly were denounced by the international community.

Diplomats said they believed the pace of repatriations could accelerate next month. The government this month suspended an attempt to pressure the Rwandans to leave, saying it wanted to neutralise "intimidators" in refugee camps preventing people from leaving.

Former interior minister Malumba Bangula told Reuters last week he expected tough measures ordered by the government to encourage the Rwandans to return home. But if the measures did not work then the government would look at the matter again.

He expected camp closures to begin in early March.

Kengo's supporters hailed the new government as a triumph for the prime minister's drive for a national unity government because it includes a fringe group from the radical opposition that refuses to recognise Kengo as prime minister.

Kengo was able to bring on board the PALU party, which was given the post and telecommunications ministry, after it broke ranks with the main opposition

led by Etienne Tshisekedi, President Mobutu Sese Seko's chief political rival.

The mainstream radical opposition loyal to Tshisekedi remains out of the government.

Some Western diplomats were sceptical as to whether the new team could steer Zaire to elections and democracy to end over three decades of Mobutu's one-man rule.

"The important thing is to install democratic institutions in the country," one diplomat said. "If this government can do it, that will be great. But I fear that the absence of Tshisekedi's supporters could block things."

27-FEB-1996 Former Rwandan minister wounded in attack in Kenya

(Updates with former minister accusing Rwandan army)

By Buchizya Mseteka

NAIROBI, Feb 27 (Reuters) - A former Rwandan government minister shot in Nairobi said on Tuesday he was sure his attackers were members of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army out to silence him.

Sendashonga, a Hutu and critic of the Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali, was shot in the left arm in a township on Nairobi's outskirts on Monday night by two gunmen after being lured to a meeting.

"From their language, mannerisms and behaviour, I have no doubt the two young men who shot at me were members of the RPA (Rwanda Patriotic Army)," Sendashonga told Reuters from his bed at Nairobi hospital.

Sendashonga's nephew who accompanied him to the meeting was shot in the stomach and was in critical condition on Tuesday.

Sendashonga said police arrested a Rwandan suspected of being involved in the failed attempt to assassinate him. He said he had heard the man claimed to work for Rwanda's embassy in Nairobi.

"The man was caught red-handed with the firearm in his pocket," the former minister said. Police and Rwandan embassy officials were not available for immediate comment.

The attack took place two days before Sendashonga was due to leave for Brussels for a meeting with exiled former prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu on a new political initiative for Rwanda.

"I was due to travel to Brussels on Wednesday for a meeting with Twagiramungu and other Rwandan politicians on a new political agenda for Rwanda.

The idea, which will still go ahead despite my absence, is to form a new political party," Sendashonga said.

He went to the meeting after a Rwandan he knew telephoned him and offered to provide documents allegedly about impending defections from the Rwandan army. A police patrol intervened after hearing shooting.

Sendashonga was sacked with Twagiramungu from the government last August and moved to exile in Kenya after complaining about an increasing number of Hutus detained by the army, which seized power in Rwanda after three months of civil war in July 1994.

He was at the forefront of efforts to restore security in Rwanda after the victory of the Tutsi rebels halted the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militias and mobs.

In Paris, a French newspaper said on Tuesday Rwanda's ruling Tutsi minority, victims of genocide in 1994, had since turned the tables and killed over 100,000 of their Hutu opponents.

The centre-left daily Liberation said it had compiled lists from various areas of Rwanda showing a wave of revenge massacres just after the collapse of the Hutu government in July 1994.

27-FEB-1996 One dead, Spanish nurse wounded in Rwanda ambush

KIGALI, Feb 27 (Reuter) - A Rwandan man was killed when gunmen ambushed a vehicle belonging to an international aid agency in southwestern Rwanda, aid agency officials said on Tuesday.

They said three people including a Spanish nurse working for Medecins Sans Frontieres-Spain (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) were wounded in the attack near the town of Cyangugu on Monday.

Unidentified gunmen on a nearby hilltop riddled the car with bullets and killed a Rwandan man accompanying three sick relatives in the vehicle, which was also carrying two Spanish nurses and a Rwandan MSF employee and was driven by a Rwandan.

MSF officials said the car was shot at on a dirt road near Nyungwe forest, a haven for Hutu guerrillas operating in the region who infiltrate from neighbouring Zaire and Burundi.

It was the second incident involving Western aid workers in the southwest this month. A car of the U.S. International Rescue Committee ran over an anti-tank mine near Angugu last week but no one was hurt.

In a second ambush in the southwest on Monday, U.N. military observers said three people were killed and two children were wounded when their car was attacked in Bugarama commune near the border with Zaire.

The attackers were not identified, the observers added.

U.N. officers say a Hutu insurgency in border regions of Rwanda is on the rise after a brief lull following a government raid late last year on an island used by rebels as a training base.

The rebels infiltrate from Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania where 1.7 million Rwandan Hutu refugees live since they fled in fear of being killed in reprisal for the 1994 genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by troops, militias and mobs.

27-FEB-1996 Burundi army says Hutu rebels slaughter 46 people

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, Feb 27 (Reuter) - Burundi's army said on Tuesday Hutu rebels slaughtered 46 people in camps for displaced people in two attacks in northwestern Burundi.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lucien Rufyiri, a regional commander in the Tutsi-dominated army, said 30 people were killed and two soldiers wounded in attacks on Monday on displaced people and an army post in Cibitoke province.

Rufyiri told Reuters that Hutu rebels at Buganda in Cibitoke killed another 16 displaced people last Friday. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the rebel attacks.

"The internally displaced people were killed inside their huts and shelters with automatic weapons and machetes, and then they dismembered them and mutilated their bodies," he said.

Rufyiri is responsible for military operations in Cibitoke and neighbouring Bubanza province, where the army is at war with Hutu rebels and civilians are frequently caught between both sides.

He did not identify the ethnic origins of the dead but the army says Hutu rebels target displaced Tutsi. Burundi, like neighbouring Rwanda, has a Hutu majority and Tutsi minority.

In Rwanda in 1994, Hutu extremists butchered up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Burundi since the 1993 assassination by renegade Tutsi soldiers of Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first freely-elected Hutu head of state.

The Hutu National Council for the Defence of the Democracy said on Monday its forces paralysed a power plant in the north of Burundi and killed 32 government soldiers in three attacks.

An official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said on Sunday hardliners among refugees living in eastern Zaire were using their camps as bases to launch attacks into neighbouring Burundi.

In another development, Burundi's Tutsi-dominated Uprona party, which shares power with the Hutu-dominated Frodebu former ruling party, condemned any proposal for United Nations peacekeepers to deploy in Burundi.

"Any military intervention in Burundi would be inopportune, useless and dangerous for peace," said Uprona party president Charles Mukasi. The army also opposes any foreign military intervention.

"Uprona asks the Security Council not to follow the warlike ideas of the (U.N.) secretary-general," Mukasi added.

Fearing Burundi will descend into widespread genocidal massacres like those in Rwanda, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed that an

international rapid intervention force be assembled.

He says the force could be stationed in home countries with a start-up strength of 8,000 that could be boosted to 25,000.

France and Britain have endorsed the proposal but have declined to offer troops. Washington has said it would provide logistical support but asked for more details of the operation.

Selim Ahmed Selim, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, in a speech to African foreign ministers on Monday, ruled out foreign military intervention in Burundi.

He said priority should be given to efforts to promote dialogue and reconciliation in the tiny central African country.

27-FEB-1996 Panel gathers evidence on Burundi assassination

BUJUMBURA, Feb 27 (Reuter) - Officials said on Tuesday an international commission of inquiry into the 1993 assassination of Burundi's president Melchior Ndadaye was still gathering evidence and did not plan to convene any public hearing.

The commission officials, who asked not to be named, denied a Reuters report from the Burundian capital Bujumbura on Monday quoting diplomatic sources and local radio reports as saying the U.N. commission had opened a public hearing.

Ndadaye was Burundi's first freely elected Hutu president. The inquiry is into his death and three months of ethnic slaughter between majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes which followed. An estimated 100,000 people died.

Six government ministers, a third of the cabinet, were murdered along with Ndadaye during the abortive October 21 coup attempt led by mutinous paratroops of the Tutsi-dominated army.

The officials said the commission had been gathering evidence and testimony since arriving in Burundi last November and would report to the U.N. when it completed its work.

27-FEB-1996 OAU's Salim urges Burundi to work for dialogue

By Tsegaye Tadesse

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 27 (Reuter) - Organisation of African Unity (OAU) head Salim Ahmed Salim has urged Burundians to work for peace and reconciliation to avoid violence in their tiny state.

"It is crucial for the Burundi people to recognise and understand the importance and urgency to take the challenge of dialogue and move away from violence and destruction," OAU Secretary-General Salim told African foreign

ministers.

"A solution for (the) conflict in Burundi is possible if the people strive to restore confidence and throw away the curse of violence bedevilling that country," Salim said at the opening session of a three-day meeting of the ministers late on Monday.

But he ruled out military intervention: "Priority should be given to consolidating the on-going political efforts aimed at promoting dialogue and reconciliation."

Salim said there would be informal talks on Burundi and its neighbours in the Ethiopian capital on Thursday.

Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, U.N. Special Representative in Rwanda and Burundi General Amadou Toumani Touré and a special envoy of European Union will take part in the consultations aimed at promoting lasting peace in Burundi.

In Burundi on Monday, a U.N. international commission of inquiry into the 1993 murder of Burundian president Melchior Ndadaye started in Bujumbura, the capital.

Ndadaye was Burundi's first freely-elected Hutu president, and the inquiry is into both his death and the ethnic slaughter between majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes which followed.

An estimated 100,000 people died in the bloodbath.

Burundi, with a population of 5.6 million, has the same ethnic mix as neighbouring Rwanda where up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu troops, militia and mobs in mid-1994. Tutsi-dominated rebels ousted Rwanda's Hutu administration after a three-month civil war.

Salim regretted that efforts by West Africans to bring lasting peace to Liberia had been destroyed due to lack funds.

He said a stalemate still prevailed in Somalia. He appealed to the international community for food aid for Somalia, which he said faced food shortages because of drought.

Ethiopia's deputy prime minister Tamirat Layne appealed to OAU members in contribution arrears to "find ways of settling their outstanding dues."

He said that the imposition of sanctions on 17 member states that defaulted in payment was an unavoidable measure that the OAU took to save the organisation from financial paralysis.

The African foreign ministers are expected to discuss issues of serious concern to the poor continent which possibly included Sudan's alleged support for terrorism. There had been no mention of Sudan by speakers at the opening session on Monday.

Some 26 African foreign ministers attended the Monday session. Seven states were represented by their deputy foreign ministers and the rest by their ambassadors to Ethiopia.

27-FEB-1996 puts hardliner in charge of Rwandan refugees

By Arthur Malu Malu

KINSHASA, Feb 27 (Reuter) - A cabinet reshuffle in Zaire has put the fate of over a million Rwandans in the hands of a new interior minister who is a champion of mass repatriation of the refugees.

Monday's change in which 23 ministers -- half the cabinet -- were dropped, was in line with centrist Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo's efforts to form a national unity government.

Failure to form a broad-based government and the presence of the refugees, who are blamed for insecurity in eastern Zaire, have been cited by officials as obstacles to Zaire's long delayed democratic elections, now promised before July 1997.

A key change in the cabinet was the transfer of Kengo's political ally Kamanda wa Kamanda to the interior ministry -- the front line in the struggle to persuade or pressure the Rwandans to return home.

"Kamanda has generally taken a hardline position on the question of the Rwandan refugees," one Zairean commentator said on Tuesday. "He favours mass repatriation of the Rwandans."

Kamanda moved from the foreign ministry where he dealt with the Rwandan problem but did not have direct responsibility for the Hutu refugees who fled civil war in their country in 1994.

Hutu hardliners, including thousands of soldiers and militiamen who fled with the refugees, are accused of taking part in the massacre of up to one million people in Rwanda in 1994, most of them minority Tutsis who now rule in Kigali after winning a civil war.

The Hutu refugees fear reprisals if they return home. Attempts by Zaire last August to repatriate them forcibly were denounced by the international community.

Diplomats said they believed the pace of repatriations could accelerate next month. The government this month suspended an attempt to pressure the Rwandans to leave, saying it wanted to neutralise "intimidators" in refugee camps preventing people from leaving.

Former interior minister Malumba Bangula told Reuters last week he expected tough measures ordered by the government to encourage the Rwandans to return home. But if the measures did not work then the government would look at the matter again.

He expected camp closures to begin in early March.

Kengo's supporters hailed the new government as a triumph for the prime minister's drive for a national unity government because it includes a fringe group from the radical opposition that refuses to recognise Kengo as prime minister.

Kengo was able to bring on board the PALU party, which was given the post

and telecommunications ministry, after it broke ranks with the main opposition led by Etienne Tshisekedi, President Mobutu Sese Seko's chief political rival.

The mainstream radical opposition loyal to Tshisekedi remains out of the government.

Some Western diplomats were sceptical as to whether the new team could steer Zaire to elections and democracy to end over three decades of Mobutu's one-man rule.

"The important thing is to install democratic institutions in the country," one diplomat said. "If this government can do it, that will be great. But I fear that the absence of Tshisekedi's supporters could block things."

27-FEB-1996 French newspaper says Rwanda's victims now killers

PARIS, Feb 27 (Reuter) - A French newspaper said on Tuesday that Rwanda's ruling Tutsi minority, victims of genocide in 1994, have since turned the tables and killed more than 100,000 of their Hutu opponents.

The centre-left daily Liberation said it had compiled lists from various areas of Rwanda showing a wave of revenge massacres took place just after the collapse of the Hutu government in July 1994, when the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) came to power.

Massacres had continued and were being ignored or not reported by the international community still shocked at the deaths of about 800,000 people, mostly Tutsis massacred by Hutus in 1994, Liberation wrote.

It said the killings of Hutus "were being tolerated, if not organised by the RPF."

Liberation has closely followed events in Rwanda since early in 1994 and some of its reports about French military aid for the previous Hutu government embarrassed French authorities who at first tried to deny them.

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26-FEB-1996 Next exhumations for Rwanda tribunal seen in July

KIGALI, Feb 26 (Reuter) - The U.N. tribunal on Rwanda's genocide will begin a second round of mass grave exhumations in July after the completion of work on a first site this month, an international forensic official said on Monday.

Forensic Anthropologist William Haglund who led a team of international scientists for the tribunal's first excavation in the western town of Kibuye, said work was likely to start in July at gravesites identified in the central Gitarama region.

The delay was partly due to the rainy season which hampers work, he said. The longer the bodies rest in the earth, the more decomposed they got and the less information they offered.

The exhumations will provide evidence for the prosecution's case against the extremist Hutu ringleaders of 1994's genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and allied Hutus.

In Kibuye, Haglund's team took out nearly 500 bodies from the gravesite outside a Catholic church. A third of them were small children and nearly half were below 18 years of age.

The tribunal, seated in the Tanzanian town of Arusha, has been hampered by lack of funds and criticised for its painfully slow work and incompetence since it was created in 1994.

It indicted eight Rwandans in December on charges of organising killings in Kibuye but none have been arrested.

Last week, it indicted two more Rwandans held in Zambia including a former mayor accused of killings in Gitarama.

Tribunal spokesman Alain Sigg expected a third round of indictments to be announced in mid-March but gave no details.

Western diplomats and U.N. officials say the tribunal runs the risk of having its hands only on people caught often by chance by friendly governments and not the key leaders living in Zaire, Kenya and other African and Europe countries.

"The tribunal can only indict on the basis of sure evidence, and getting evidence against the top guys will not be easy," said U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan.

"There's also a limit to the number of people the tribunal can try. We're looking at maybe 20 people when there are hundreds more," Khan told Reuters.

26-FEB-1996 U.N. ponders future in Rwanda as mandate expires

KIGALI, Feb 26 (Reuter) - U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will present options to the Security Council on Tuesday on the future of nearly 1,400 U.N. soldiers in Rwanda whose mandate expires on March 8, a senior official said on Monday.

U.N. Special Envoy to Rwanda Ambassador Shaharyar Khan said Boutros-Ghali would invite the Security Council to study three options: complete withdrawal, renewal of the present mandate or its replacement by a much smaller, non-military political unit.

Khan told Reuters the force was ready to withdraw after its current mandate expires but added: "If Rwanda wishes to have another formula to succeed the U.N. force, it's up to it to work it out."

The current U.N. force in Rwanda includes 1,230 peacekeepers and 146 military observers.

Its last mandate was renewed in December after tough negotiations between the government which wanted the troops out and Western donors who wanted their continuing presence to deal with possible instability.

In negotiations in New York, Rwanda was likely to come under pressure to agree to a continuing U.N. presence but its composition has yet to be negotiated, diplomats said.

For the U.N. in Rwanda, uncertainty has become a way of life. The force mandate has been almost continually questioned by the Tutsi-led government since the 1994 genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus, during which the number of peacekeepers was cut to a bare minimum.

None of the U.N. staff in Kigali can say with any degree of certainty whether they will be in the Central African state in two weeks' time or what their role will be, U.N. officers say.

U.N. agencies have had little success on key issues such as the repatriation of 1.7 million Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled to neighbouring Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi after the genocide.

A U.N. tribunal set up in 1994 to bring the ringleaders of the genocide to

justice has been slowed by lack of resources, inexperience in legal matters and international political infighting, commentators said.

The tribunal last week accused two more Rwandans held in Zambia of taking part in the genocide after a first round of indictments in December against eight Rwandans who have yet to be arrested.

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26-FEB-1996 Burundi opposition claims military successes

By Nieck Ammerlaan

BRUSSELS, Feb 26 (Reuter) - Burundian opposition movement the National Council for the Defence of the Democracy said on Monday its forces had paralysed a power plant in the north of the central African country and killed 32 government soldiers elsewhere.

Jerome Ndiho, CNDD's Brussels-based national spokesman, told Reuters the Forces of the Defence of Democracy (FDD) -- the exiled CNDD's armed wing -- had "totally destroyed" the transformers at the hydro-electric power station on the Mugere river.

"The result is that 75 percent of the electricity provided to (the capital of) Bujumbura is lost," he said.

The attack took place at the end of last week.

C CNDD, which calls itself a popular liberation movement, is made up of Hutu rebels led by former Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma. They are fighting Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army mainly in the north of the country.

The raid on the Mugere plant is the second attack on the capital's power supply by FDD. In September it destroyed an electricity pylon providing two-thirds of Bujumbura's power.

Ndiho said the Mugere plant was the country's second-largest. "Bujumbura now gets electricity only from a plant on the border with Rwanda," he said.

The opposition spokesman said that in Karusi province in the north of Burundi, FDD forces had destroyed all military positions of the government army outside their barracks.

In Bubanza, near Zaire, the FDD killed 15 government soldiers and "wounded many," Ndiho said, quoting a report received on Monday from the FDD headquarters.

C In the area of Kigima in the Bujumbura Rural province five government soldiers were killed and 5,000 rounds of ammunition and eight unspecified arms captured.

In the town of Gatabo 12 government soldiers were killed.

Burundi has the same ethnic mix as neighbouring Rwanda, with a minority of Tutsis and a majority of Hutus.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in violence in Burundi since the 1993 assassination by Tutsi soldiers of the country's first freely elected head of state, a Hutu.

Despite poor organisation the FDD has made progress in the past year. It had a strong presence in a district bordering on Zaire and areas near Tanzania and Rwanda. It recently opened a new front in the southeast in Burundi.

CNDD has an estimated membership of over 20,000.

23-FEB-1996 Burundian opposition calls for arms embargo

By Nieck Ammerlaan

BRUSSELS, Feb 23 (Reuter) - A Burundian opposition movement on Friday called for an international arms and economic embargo to help re-establish peace in the ethnically-split African country.

National Council for the Defense of the Democracy (CNDD) spokesman Jerome Ndiho told a news conference such an embargo would put pressure on what he called the fascist dictatorship of Burundi's army, which is dominated by ethnic Tutsis.

An embargo should exclude food and medication, he said.

CNDD is the exiled political wing of the Forces of the Defense of Democracy (FDD), Hutu rebels led by former Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma, who are fighting the army, mainly in the north of Burundi.

CNDD was aiming to restore power to the Hutu majority from a position of strength. "The army cannot accept negotiations if we have no power," Ndiho said.

He said CNDD would respect the rights of the Tutsi minority once it regained power and appealed for international support.

Calling CNDD a popular liberation movement, Ndiho proposed talks about talks, which could be held in Cairo.

Ndiho said former U.S. president Jimmy Carter could act as mediator with a number of regional personalities – Ahmadou Toumani Toure, former president of Mali, Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania and South Africa's Bishop Desmond Tutu.

A summit was held in the Egyptian capital in November to seek an end the ethnic troubles on the central African countries of the Great Lakes – Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania.

Burundi has the same ethnic mix as neighbouring Rwanda, with minority Tutsis and majority Hutus. Burundi, like Rwanda, is a former Belgian protectorate.

In Rwanda, up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs in mid-1994.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in violence in Burundi since the 1993 assassination by Tutsi soldiers of the country's first freely-elected head of state, a Hutu.

In 1994 the army imposed a Government Convention returning to power political parties which had been voted out in the June 1993 elections, CNDD says.

An ethnic civil war ensued in which, Amnesty International estimates, 1,000 people are killed each month. The conflict is the most brutal in a series which began in 1965.

CNDD opposed foreign military intervention as proposed by United Nations

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali since the U.N. had expressed its support for the "anti-constitutional and undemocratic" Government Convention, Ndiho said.

The U.N. has proposed a rapid intervention force with a minimum start-up strength of 8,000 soldiers to prevent Burundi descending into widespread genocidal massacres.

Ndiho said the FDD had made progress in the past year and now had a strong presence in districts bordering on Zaire and areas near Tanzania and Rwanda while it had opened a new front in the southeast in Burundi.

22-FEB-1996 Zaire targets March start for camp closures

By Arthur Malu Malu

KINSHASA, Feb 22 (Reuter) - Zaire plans to start closing Rwandan refugee camps on its territory in early March, its interior minister said on Thursday.

Malumba Mbangula told Reuters in an interview that he expected tough measures ordered by the government to encourage the one million or so Rwandans to return home.

But he added that if the measures did not work then the government would look at the matter again.

"If all goes well, the operation to close the camps will begin in about 10 days," Malumba said. "The obstacles which are preventing the massive return of the Rwandan refugees have been identified. The government is working to remove them."

Clarifying a government statement made on Wednesday, he said representatives of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and other aid groups, who provide food and medical care in the camps, could continue work there until the refugees had left.

The refugees are from Rwanda's Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and after the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refuse to return home for fear of reprisals by the new Tutsi-led government and there have been clashes between refugees and local groups over land.

Zaire began a campaign of forced repatriation last August but President Mobutu Sese Seko, a close friend of Rwanda's slain Hutu leader Juvenal Habyarimana, ordered a halt to the operation after an international outcry.

The government announced a package of tough measures on Wednesday to pressure the Rwandans into going home.

It listed among other measures the shutting down of all commercial activity and social activities such as schools, bars and cinema in camps earmarked for closure.

The government says the measures are in line with a December agreement it struck with the U.N. refugee agency and Rwanda.

But both the government and the U.N. refugee agency, which is anxious to avoid violence, are treading a thin line between respecting and breaching international conventions on refugees which forbid forced repatriation.

Troops moved in last week to start the camp closure operation by sealing off Kibumba, the largest camp holding 190,000 refugees, and another camp near Bukavu.

But the move had little impact and Wednesday's statement accused a Rwandan refugee group and certain aid workers of hampering the repatriation campaign.

The government banned activities in the refugee zone of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), an exiled Hutu lobby group, and the expulsion of its officials along with anyone else hindering the repatriation.

But Malumba said that the 1,500 Zairean troops already in or around the camps would not be reinforced.

He urged respect for the December 20 agreement on the voluntary return of the refugees, but added:

"If, despite the measures taken yesterday the refugees still do not return to Rwanda, the government will examine what it will do to ensure their return."

An RDR official in Nairobi denied the group was scaring refugees into staying in Zaire but added that they wanted guarantees of security on returning to Rwanda. Tens of thousands of Hutus are crammed in wretched conditions in Rwandan prisons, awaiting trial or investigations linked to the 1994 genocide.

In Rwanda's capital Kigali, presidential aide Colonel Franck Muambage blasted the RDR, saying it frightened refugees out in 1994 and was blocking their return.

"The government of Rwanda cannot negotiate with RDR because leaders of this group belong to parties that organised and carried out the genocide," Mugambage said in a statement.

22-FEB-1996 Rwandan Hutu group warns of camp catastrophe

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, Feb 22 (Reuter) - An organisation of Rwandan Hutu refugees, threatened with expulsion by Zaire, warned on Thursday of possibly catastrophic violence in camps in eastern Zaire.

But the U.N. refugee agency reported calm in the camps a day after Zaire announced a set of measures including expulsion of anyone blocking its drive to pressure one million Rwandan Hutus to go home.

Innocent Butare, executive secretary of the Rally for the Return of Refugees

and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), told Reuters the Zairean operation would meet violence if food and medical supplies were cut.

"If they (Zairean troops) cut off food and medical aid then of course they are provoking the situation towards violence because people react badly when they are about to die anyway," Nairobi-based Butare said.

"We fear a catastrophe is on the way. People will fight for food in the camps and will be tempted to break through the Zairean army cordon to spill out and look for food elsewhere."

He gave as an example Kibumba camp, ringed by Zairean troops last week, saying the 250 Zairean soldiers would be overwhelmed easily by 190,000 camp residents if they decided to break out.

"Reducing the RDR to silence by imprisoning its leaders or expelling them will not resolve the problem," the RDR said in a statement. "On the contrary it will push refugees to the wall."

Zaire said on Wednesday money-making and social activities in the camps would be shut down. RDR officials and anyone else hindering the repatriation would be arrested and expelled.

But U.N. officials say Zaire has assured them aid agencies will still be allowed to deliver essential food, water and medical supplies to refugees in camps sealed off for closure.

"Everything is continuing normally. The situation in the camps remains calm," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in the Zairean border town of Goma.

He said UNHCR expected 80 refugees to leave Kibumba for Rwanda on Thursday.

A total of 356 refugees, the highest daily number so far this year, left Kibumba for home on Wednesday shortly before the announcement of the new Zairean measures.

The Hutu refugees fled to Zaire in 1994, fearing they would be killed in reprisal for the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutus in Rwanda by Hutu troops, militias and mobs.

Accusing RDR and "agents" of UNHCR and other aid agencies of intimidating refugees against going home, the Zairean statement signed by Foreign Minister Kamanda wa Kamanda said all RDR activities in the refugee camps would be barred.

"Our conscience is clear. If we are summoned by the Zairean authorities we will go to them," said Butare. "Even if some RDR leaders are seized, others will arise in the camps."

Butare denied that RDR was intimidating other refugees.

"We are in favour of voluntary repatriation. Those who want to go back should go back. RDR is not opposed to repatriation but it wants real guarantees of security (in Rwanda)," he said.

Asked whether he feared RDR officials would be expelled back to Rwanda by Zaire, Butare said UNHCR would oppose any being sent back to their homeland where they would fear persecution.

He said 10 alleged intimidators arrested by Zairean troops in Kibumba last week were not all RDR officials but included leaders of the camp, the largest in Zaire.

In Rwanda, officials were sceptical about the likely success of a ban on the RDR, saying Zaire had made no mention of the exiled Hutu political and military leadership still active in the camps.

22-FEB-1996 UNHCR says relief work in Zairean camps continues

GENEVA, Feb 22 (Reuter) - The United Nations refugee agency was continuing normal relief work in Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire despite reports of a government statement saying it would not be allowed to operate, a spokesman said on Thursday.

"We are in the camps today, continuing normal operations. We are in Kibumba camp," the spokesman in Geneva of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told Reuters after speaking with the UNHCR team in Zaire.

"We haven't officially received the government statement. We can't comment on it," he added.

On Wednesday, Zaire announced a package of measures to implement a campaign to send back a million Rwandan refugees through progressive camp closures, including expulsions of anyone blocking its efforts.

The government statement, which accused a leading Rwandan refugee group and certain "agents" of humanitarian organisations of hampering the campaign, said economic and social activities would be shut down in camps to persuade the refugees to leave.

It said the UNHCR and organisations it funds would not be allowed to operate in camps sealed off for closure.

It was not clear whether this meant food supplies would be cut off from Kibumba camp, which holds about 190,000 refugees. Zaire troops moved in to start the repatriation operation last week by sealing off Kibumba, the largest camp, as well as another camp near Bukavu.

The refugees are from Rwandan's Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

21-FEB-1996 Zaire steps up operation to oust Rwandans

(Adds fresh quotes, details)

By Arthur Malu Malu

KINSHASA, Feb 21 (Reuter) - Zaire announced a package of measures on Wednesday to implement a campaign to send back a million Rwandan refugees through progressive camp closures, including expulsion of anyone blocking its efforts.

A government statement, which accused a leading Rwandan refugee group and certain agents of humanitarian organisations of hampering the campaign, said economic and social activities would be shut down in camps to persuade the refugees to leave.

"The targeted repatriation operation which aims at the closure of the camps will begin after the execution of these measures," the statement said.

Zaire denies the operation amounts to forced repatriation.

The measures include a ban on activities in the refugee zone of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR), an exiled Hutu lobby group, and the expulsion of its officials along with anyone else hindering the repatriation.

The government statement listed among other measures the shutting down of all commercial activity and social activities such as schools, bars and cinema in camps earmarked for closure.

Any relief organisation working against the repatriation would be banned from all camps, it said, adding that the activities of the U.N. refugee agency and non-governmental organisations would halt in camps earmarked for closure.

It was not clear from the statement whether this meant an abrupt or a progressive halt and whether food supplies would be cut off from the camps.

"The administrative closure of the camps... brings with it the halt of the activities of the HCR and NGOs," Foreign Minister Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, who signed the statement, said later, referring to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organisations. He said their role ceased when a camp was closed.

The refugees are from Rwanda's Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

The Zairean government says that they have outstayed their welcome, following friction between refugees and local Zaireans.

Troops moved in last week to start the operation by sealing off Kibumba, the largest camp holding 190,000 refugees, and another camp near Bukavu. The move had little impact.

"The troops are still around the camps and it is very calm," UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg said from the eastern Zairean border town of Goma after the government statement was released.

He told Reuters by telephone that 356 refugees returned to Rwanda on Wednesday from Kibumba. "That figure of 356 is the highest number of returnees from Kibumba this year," he said, noting the the government statement firmed up earlier Zairean warnings.

The statement said a ministerial team that visited the region from February 9-18 had found what it called "new obstacles" blocking the start of the exercise. "The effective start of the operation to close refugee camps in North

and South Kivu, in line with the December 20, 1995, accords between the UNHCR, Rwanda and Zaire, has been delayed," it said.

The statement accused the RDR of orchestrating a campaign among the refugees to discourage them to return home.

It denounced what it called an "extension of the network of intimidators," which it said included agents of humanitarian groups such as UNHCR and non-governmental organisations.

The statement said RDR officials would be arrested and expelled and political meetings of the RDR and other refugee groups banned inside and outside the camps in the area.

Anyone else blocking the repatriation effort by spreading false information or inciting refugees to stay, whether from aid organisations or otherwise, would also be expelled, it added.

21-FEB-1996 Armed Rwanda Hutus uproot spear-carrying tribesmen

By Marc Hoogesteyn

MINOVA, Zaire, Feb 21 (Reuter) - Hutu gunmen who fled Rwanda after losing a civil war are fighting a local tribe to try to take over an area in the interior of eastern Zaire, aid officials and tribal leaders say.

Heavily-armed members of Rwanda's Hutu Interahamwe (We who Fight Together) militia have already forced about 150,000 people from their homes in the Masisi region, witnesses told Reuters during a visit to the area.

The Interahamwe are fighting members of the Hunde tribe who say their only weapons are spears and machetes.

"We think about 150,000 people from Masisi are displaced at the moment," said Piera Borradori of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"I do not think there is a genocide happening inside Masisi. But the situation is getting worse day by day," she added.

Hunde tribal leaders in Masisi accused Zairean authorities of allowing Rwandan Hutus to encroach on their traditional land.

"We can only defend ourselves with spears, bows and machetes," said Gustave Kalinda Ndandu, a tribal chieftain. "The Zairean army forbids us to carry weapons but allows the Rwandese extremists to walk around with machineguns and mortars."

Borradori said clashes erupted between Hutus already in the region and the Hunde in 1993. But the intensity increased after defeated Rwandan Hutu troops, many of them responsible for the 1994 genocide of up to a million people in Rwanda, fled to Zaire with their arms the same year.

The increasing insecurity in Masisi meant ICRC relief teams were now unable to provide assistance for the estimated 150,000 internally displaced people there, she said.

No reliable estimates of casualties from the clashes were available.

Most of the displaced are ethnic Hunde but include Tutsis and Hutus who have lived in Zaire for decades, Borradori said.

An estimated 600,000 people live in Masisi, some 50 km (30 miles) northwest of Zaire's border with Rwanda.

Another Hunde, who would only identify himself as "Commander Francois," said his men had no modern weapons to protect themselves against the former troops and militiamen from Rwanda.

"We fight with spears and machetes against Hutu Interahamwe and ex-FAR (former Hutu government soldiers) with machineguns, mortars and grenades. If we capture a weapon we shoot back."

Villagers in Minova complained of poor health and a lack of food because of widespread insecurity. Thousands of Tutsi men, women and children of Rwandan ethnic origin who fled to Masisi decades ago have also been driven back into Rwandan in recent weeks.

A small hospital at nearby Kirodje was abandoned a week ago when Hutus attacked and burnt Hunde villages, residents said.

Christophe Moto Mupenda, the governor of north Kivu region which includes Masisi, acknowledged there were security problems between the Rwandan Hutu new arrivals and the Hunde community.

He said: "Very soon fresh Zairean troops will be flown in from Kinshasa to restore order in the Masisi and to oblige fighting groups to hand over their weapons."

21-FEB-1996 Rwanda on offensive to mend links with agencies

KIGALI, Feb 21 (Reuter) - Rwanda has launched a diplomatic offensive to mend relations with the international aid community after expelling nearly 40 aid agencies last December.

Rehabilitation Minister Patrick Mazimhaka apologised in a letter this week to western aid agencies for the inconvenience caused by the expulsions and called for increased cooperation.

"We regret the inconveniences this may have caused anybody.

"The government would like to clear the misunderstanding and continue building a working relationship with aid agencies," said the minister's letter, obtained by Reuters on Wednesday.

"The government would like to reassure all aid agencies operating in Rwanda that we are committed to maintaining a favourable environment for them to operate in."

Rwanda's government gave 38 predominantly French agencies a week to leave, including 19 that had already gone, and froze their bank accounts and cut off telephone lines for two days.

Expelled aid agencies complained of harassment by soldiers of the Tutsi-led army and thefts of vehicles and equipment.

The letter followed increased pressure on Rwanda including veiled threats of cuts in international aid, diplomats said.

In another development, the U.N. refugee agency said on Wednesday some 2,000 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda from Burundi on Tuesday in response to a campaign by local and U.N. officials.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials said daily returns from Burundi began picking up after they and Burundian soldiers began joint visits to camps early last week to encourage the refugees to return to their homeland.

Burundi is home to 90,000 Hutus who fled after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda of up to one million Tutsis and Hutus.

Another one million refugees live in Zaire and 493,000 in Tanzania.

Tuesday's repatriation from Rukuramigabo camp in the north was the biggest since February 15 when 2,000 refugees crossed.

21-FEB-1996 Belgium to stay outside Burundi peace force

BRUSSELS, Feb 21 (Reuter) - A military intervention force to prevent ethnic bloodshed in Burundi could be useful, but it would have to operate without Belgian participation, Belgium's Foreign Minister Erik Derycke said on Wednesday.

"I am not fully opposed (to such a force)," he told BRTN television in an interview recorded in Washington where Derycke is on an official visit.

Another question was the formation of the force. "Belgium will not be part

of it," Derycke said.

Burundi, like Rwanda, is a former Belgian protectorate with a Tutsi minority and a Hutu majority.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a rapid intervention force be assembled in the case that ethnically-divided Burundi erupts into genocide like Rwanda.

Derycke said it was doubtful whether Burundians would accept a United Nations force of up to 25,000 troops. "As far as our information goes, Burundians will not like it."

Ten Belgian United Nations peacekeepers died in Rwanda in the aftermath of ethnic violence in 1994 and public opinion is unlikely to back another troop commitment to a tense central African state.

21-FEB-1996 Military intervention no use in Burundi-activists

By Nieck Ammerlaan

BRUSSELS, Feb 21 (Reuter) - Military intervention would not solve Burundi's ethnic problems, according to a group of Spanish human rights activists who just finished a 1,000 km (600 mile) march for peace from Barcelona to Geneva.

Only dialogue between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups could resolve the tension there, the activists said on Wednesday at a news conference in Brussels, the European Union headquarters.

"We are against military intervention...it is the responsibility of the people of Burundi, together with the international community (to resolve the human rights problems in Burundi)," Jaume Obrador Soler, one of the marchers, said.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called for a rapid intervention force to be assembled in case the ethnically divided country dissolves into genocide in the same way that neighbouring Rwanda did in 1994.

The 24-day, Barcelona-Geneva march by 21 people from the Mediterranean island of Majorca was staged to raise public awareness of the ethnic violence. Along the way, French and Swiss supporters joined them for spells.

The trek, which ended on Tuesday and which the marchers described as "an extreme reaction to an extreme situation," was led by Juan Carrero and organised by the Platform for the Active Prevention of Conflicts, which linked several human rights organisations.

Amnesty International, which campaigns in support of human rights and political prisoners, adopted the idea.

The walkers targeted Geneva where they presented a list of demands to Jose Ayala-Lasso, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as personal representative of Boutros-Ghali.

The Spanish activists also urged the European Union to help reconcile democrats and extremists on both sides of the ethnic divide in Burundi.

EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino said after the Brussels news conference that she supported the Spaniard's initiative. "We must make sure we do not forget the situation."

Saying the EU was the only aid donor still operating in Burundi, she urged the government in Bujumbura to address a security situation which was rapidly becoming intolerable.

She pledged European Union "support, assistance and help" to efforts by the Burundi government to start talks between the factions pitted against each other and bring about peace.

On February 27 the EU is expected to name a special envoy to visit Burundi to assess the situation and aid needs.

AREA SECURITY COORDINATORS FOR RWANDA

NAME	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	RADIO CALL-SIGN
Ms. Doris Kleffner	Nyamata	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Romee Pameyer	Gitarama	HRFOR	Area Security Coordinator	
Ms. Carla Ferstman	Gitarama	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. L. Mgbangson	Butare	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. Marco Hasselaar	Butare	UNHCR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. I. Mitchell	Gikongoro	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Maire Claire	Gikongoro	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. Abel Mbilinyi	Kibuye	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Roxane Garmendia	Kibuye	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. R. Dubini	Cyangugu	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. J.B. Paris	Cyangugu	UNHCR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. A. Bolzoni	Gisenyi	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Rafael Barnabev	Gisenyi	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Avice Agbesi	Gisenyi	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. A. Cabeia	Gisenyi	UNHCR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. N. Dobbie	Kibungo	UNHCR	Area Security Coordinator	
Pauline Overeen	Kibungo	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	
Mr. Greg Scollard	Byumba	WFP	Area Security Coordinator	
Kate Mackintosh	Ruhengeri	HRFOR	Area Security Coordinator	
Lucianna Casanova	Ruhengeri	HRFOR	Deputy Area Security Coordinator	

20-FEB-1996 Rwanda genocide trials may start in April

ARUSHA, Tanzania, Feb 20 (Reuter) - The first trials of Rwandans accused of taking part in the genocide of up to one million people in 1994 may start in April, an official of the U.N.-appointed tribunal said.

"Although it is difficult to know when exactly the first trial will take place as it involves bringing the suspects to Arusha, possibly the trials will start by April," Andronico Adede, the tribunal's registrar, told reporters on Monday.

Adede said building of a prison for genocide suspects in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, which is the tribunal headquarters, would be completed by the end of March.

On Monday the tribunal said it had issued indictments against two Rwandans held in Zambia for their alleged roles in the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

The international tribunal asked Zambian authorities to continue to detain the two until its own prison was ready.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana says 12 genocide suspects are held in Zambia, which detained 19 in October but freed seven of them recently.

In its first indictments in December, the international tribunal charged eight Rwandans for massacres in the western Rwandan town of Kibuye but none have yet been arrested.

Many genocide suspects sought refuge in African and European states and among two million refugees in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania. Human rights officials fear some leaders may never stand trial.

20-FEB-1996 Amnesty urges no forced return of Rwanda refugees

By Robert Evans

GENEVA, Feb 20 (Reuter) - Amnesty International warned on Tuesday that a forced return of hundreds of thousands of refugees to Rwanda and Burundi could be followed by mass arrests and executions without trial.

The London-based organisation, which campaigns on behalf of political prisoners, also called on governments in the Great Lakes region of central Africa and the international community to work to head off "a new catastrophe" in the area.

"A forced return of a large number of refugees could be followed by an upsurge in arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, disappearances and extra-judicial executions," Amnesty said in a report on the problem.

Around 1.7 million Rwandans, nearly all Hutus, are in camps in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi after fleeing their homeland in 1994 following the massacre by Hutu soldiers and extremist militias of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

About 200,000 Burundians are in camps in neighbouring states after fleeing

Tutsi-Hutu conflict in their country.

Authorities in Zaire, where around one million Rwandans live, have announced they plan to close refugee camps gradually and last week they began cordon barring movement in and out of some of the larger ones in a bid to force a return home.

But the Amnesty report, issued by the Swiss branch of the organisation, said no one should be compelled to go home "if their security cannot be guaranteed...."

"The governments of the Great Lakes region and the international community should take concrete measures as soon as possible to solve the refugee crisis. All the advance signs of a new catastrophe are present in the region."

The United Nations refugee organisation UNHCR, which with non-governmental organisations has provided relief to the refugees since the mass exodus from Rwanda in 1994, accepts that regional governments have the right to close the camps.

But it is maintaining operations to feed and shelter more needy refugees among a population which has turned some of the camps in Zaire into small cities with hotels, shops and discos.

A UNHCR spokeswoman said on Tuesday that of the original 200,000 Rwandans who fled to Burundi, all of whom had been civilians and not members of the old government's army, just over 100,000 had gone home by the past weekend.

"It is important to remember that the hard core of Rwandan refugees, with whom we have had problems, is in Zaire. All of the (political) opposition (to the present Rwanda government) is in Zaire," added the spokeswoman, Christiane Berthiaume.

Many Hutus, who fled after the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front took power when the old Hutu government collapsed in the wake of the massacres which its leaders are accused of orchestrating, say they fear retribution if they go home.

The Amnesty report urged Tanzania, where many refugees from Rwanda and Burundi have fled, and Zaire "to keep borders open to all those who are fleeing the violations of their basic rights."

In Burundi, it said, the human rights situation ^{in Rwanda is} was especially alarming. Refugees were caught up in a cycle of violence "in which survival has become a question of luck."

In Rwanda, "66,000 people arrested in connection with the genocide are detained without indictment or trial in crowded prisons." Since 1994, more than 2,300 had died "because of the inhuman conditions of their detention," the report added.



A Hutu mother and injured children near Bujumbura: 'never again'

numbers of militant extremists. While tribal hatred has simmered for decades in the region, ethnic conflict erupted in October, 1993, when a Hutu mob murdered Burundi's first freely elected president, Melchior Ndadaye—a wave of violence that followed. Tutsi Fides Niyizigama witnessed his parents bound and butchered in a public latrine. Hutu rebels killed two of her younger brothers, while she survived by hiding in a pile of rocks. Margarite Nishimirimana, a 13-year-old girl, saw her parents shot, then fled her home just in time to observe the aftermath. She found refuge at a displacement camp. The two girls are among the 40 children in Kibimba, 40 km east of Bujumbura.

Such relief efforts are threatened by the warring parties, who evidently are not cooperating with foreign witnesses. At least 40 groups operating in the region have died since 1992. The Red Cross was forced out of the country when it became a key focus of attacks. It killed one IRC volunteer in November. Volunteers from CARE Canada, as well as others, have vowed to stay for the long haul despite thefts and other harassment. Vision's Betty de Jong, 44, of Toronto, escaped unharmed in November when armed men grabbed her Lander. "No Canadian has been hurt during the conflict and no shots have been fired," De Jong says, "but her frightening experience. The trucks and goods. But as we become more cautious, they will obviously become more cautious."

With international action on the horizon, groups running scared, many believe the stage is set for a catastrophe in Burundi that rivals the 1994 Rwandan genocide, which is still unresolved. Nearly 100,000 Burundians have joined the nearly 1 million Rwandans afraid to return home. Places of refuge in Tanzania and elsewhere, though a 2,000-strong UN presence in Burundi was designed to restore their safety, Canadian troops are now withdrawing months early from the Rwandan protest against the United Nations' presence in Kigali's demand that it withdraw its international force. "It is a sign that the Security Council has not fully absorbed the lessons learned from the recent past," said Ottawa's UN ambassador, Fowler. An attempt to learn from the Rwandan experience moved aid workers to sound the alarm in the wake of last month's resurgence of Rwandan refugees in Burundi. "No responsible figure will be a surprise if genocide erupts in Burundi," says Andrew Natsios, a leading African affairs expert. For Natsios and other concerned observers, "never again" means right now.

NOMI MORRIS with LUKE FISHER and ROB ANDRUS in Bujumbura

WORLD

AFRICA

Burundi on the brink

Ethnic fighting sparks alarm over a new genocide

In the wake of Nazi genocide in the Second World War, most of the world vowed, "never again." But that pledge is sounding distinctly hollow in a decade that has seen Bosnia's "ethnic cleansing" and the massacre of more than 800,000 civilians in Rwanda. Now, as the last 100 Canadian peacekeepers leave Rwanda, a rising chorus of aid workers and international leaders is warning that similar genocide has already begun in the neighboring Central African nation of Burundi. Rwandan-style ethnic tension between the 85-per-cent Hutu majority in Burundi and the Tutsi minority—which runs the army—escalated two years ago to a civil war that has so far killed nearly 100,000 and displaced 300,000. The vicious cycle of massacres and reprisals has forced entire villages to flee in fear. Rice fields and coffee plantations lie abandoned. Thousands of wounded huddle in relief camps near the capital, Bujumbura, and around the country.

Yet last week, the UN Security Council rejected Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's call to station an emergency reaction force in Zaïre or Tanzania to protect civilians, choosing instead more diplomacy, delay, and—according to many critics—fatal dithering. "This situation is well known by all major political powers in the world—there's no excuse this time," says Dave Toyen, executive director of World Vision Canada, which

has 29 relief workers in Burundi. "How many children are going to have to die?"

The United States has responded with diplomacy and a proposal for outside military intervention. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright returned from a recent visit to Burundi saying the country is "on the verge of national suicide." But choosing its lessons more from the failed action in Somalia than the failure to take action in Rwanda, Washington has made it clear it will not send troops to the area, offering mere logistical help to other countries. A frustrated former president Jimmy Carter has accused the West of racism, pointing to the 20,000 Americans currently policing the peace accord in Bosnia. France, unwilling to repeat its go-it-alone decision during the Rwandan crisis, has led the European reluctance to enter an apparent quagmire, where the combatants have shown no inclination to sit down and talk. And Canada, sympathetic to calls for a UN standby force, is waiting for the world body to file a new report on the crisis later this month. Said Foreign Affairs spokesman Rodney Moore in Ottawa: "We support the United Nations, but our paramount objective is political dialogue to prevent another bloodbath. We have made it clear to Hutus and Tutsis they should be looking at ways of power sharing."

Until that unlikely reconciliation occurs, innocents are caught in a war driven by small

19-FEB-1996 Six killed, 100 arrested in Burundi ethnic violence

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, Feb 19 (Reuter) - Six people were killed and 100 others arrested during a wave of weekend ethnic violence that pitted Burundi's Tutsi-dominated military and suspected Hutu rebels, army officers said on Monday.

The fighting in the capital's northeastern suburbs started on Sunday morning after a group of rebels infiltrated down from surrounding hills to steal food, they said.

Meantime, the majority Hutu Frodebu Party welcomed a request by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a rapid intervention force to be assembled in case the ethnically-divided country dissolves into genocide.

"We welcome this request, but we only wish that any force could be based in Burundi rather than outside the country. It would be able to react much quicker if it were here," Frodebu president Jean Minani told Reuters on Sunday night.

U.N. security sources in Bujumbura confirmed Sunday's fighting saying the army deployed two armoured cars and a 45-minute firefight. The rebels threw grenades while the armoured cars replied with cannon fire, the sources said.

Burundian military sources said the rebels were followers of former interior minister Leonard Nyangoma, a Hutu hardliner whose militia have been involved in attacks against the army.

None of the dead were government soldiers although U.N. security sources said one soldier was injured during the clash.

Burundi has the same ethnic mix as neighbouring Rwanda, with minority Tutsis and majority Hutus. In Rwanda, up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs in mid-1994.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in violence in Burundi since the 1993 assassination by Tutsi soldiers of the country's first freely-elected head of state, a Hutu.

Fearing Burundi will descend into genocidal massacres, Boutros-Ghali said the U.N. should begin planning for an international intervention force.

Boutros-Ghali said the operation should be authorised by the Security Council and allowed to use force but be organised by a group of member states. The troops would remain in their home countries but be ready for deployment at short notice.

In a report to the council, Boutros-Ghali said the intervention force might have to be expanded to 25,000 soldiers if it met with resistance.

The United States, which had objected to earlier proposals of a standby force stationed in nearby Zaire, said Washington was considering the new proposal favourably and would help with logistics but not send troops. Both France and Britain have also indicated they would not dispatch soldiers to Burundi.

19-FEB-1996 Zaire pressure slowly squeezing refugees - U.N.

NAIROBI, Feb 19 (Reuter) - A Zairean operation to pressure Rwandan refugees to agree to return home voluntarily from Zaire is slowly increasing the number going back, a U.N. spokesman said on Monday.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the eastern Zairean border town Goma, said a total of 147 refugees had returned to Rwanda on Monday from Kibumba camp, home to an estimated 190,000 refugees.

From all five camps in the Goma region -- including Kibumba -- a total of 261 people had gone home on Monday, he said. The five camps hold a total of 312,000 refugees.

"Those are good figures compared with the average of 100 returnees a day from the five camps in the Goma area before the Zairean operation began," Stromberg told Reuters by telephone.

"The operation seems to continue in the same calm state. It's important to look at it as a long-term operation. But the elements are in place with the people (troops) around the camp and the pressure on economic activities in the camp," he added.

"Staff who visit Kibumba say refugee businesses are continuing to be closed and there are less and less movements in and out of the camp," he added.

Zairean troops took up positions around the perimeter of Kibumba last Tuesday at the start of the Zairean campaign to put pressure on the one million Hutu refugees scattered in some 40 camps in eastern Zaire to go home.

The refugees are from Rwanda's Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refugees say they will be killed for the genocide which they are blamed for if they return.

But U.N. officials expect the Zairean operation, which mainly involves closing down refugee businesses and restricting the Hutus to the camps, to persuade large numbers it is time to leave for Rwanda.

Stromberg said two alleged intimidators of refugees were detained by Zairean troops in Nyangazi camp near the border town of Bukavu on Saturday and would probably be brought to Goma.

In Nyangazi, which last Friday became the second camp ringed by troops, UNHCR staff were visiting each hut asking residents whether they wanted to go to Rwanda and 23 signed up on Monday.

Ten alleged intimidators were arrested at Kibumba last week in a bid to break their hold on the refugees, who are told by Hutu hardliners seeking to maintain a power base that they will be killed if they go back to Rwanda.

Zairean troops last August expelled some 15,000 refugees.

19-FEB-1996 U.N. tribunal indicts two for Rwanda's genocide

(Updates with details, background)

By Elif Kaban

KIGALI, Feb 19 (Reuters) - A U.N. tribunal said on Monday it had issued indictments against two Rwandans held in Zambia for their alleged involvement in the genocide of up to one million people in Rwanda in 1994.

Judge Honore Rakotomanana identified the two men as Georges Rutaganda, a vice-president of the feared Hutu Interahamwe (Those Who Fight Together) militia, and Jean Paul Akayesu, a former mayor of Taba commune in the central town of Gitarama.

Rutaganda, a former businessman, was charged with genocide, crimes against humanity-extinction, three counts of crimes against humanity-murder and three other counts of murder.

Akayesu was charged with genocide, complicity in genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide and six counts of crimes against humanity-extinction, three counts of crimes against humanity-murder, three counts of crimes against humanity -torture and cruel treatment.

Rakotomanana said tribunal Judge William Sekule confirmed the indictments last Friday and signed arrest warrants.

The international tribunal into the genocide requested that Zambia continue to detain the two accused until a prison was ready at its headquarters in the north Tanzanian town of Arusha.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastaza Gasana told Reuters 12 Rwandan genocide suspects were now held in Zambia, which detained 19 in October but freed seven of them recently.

Rakotomanana said the tribunal was also hoping soon to indict four Rwandans held by authorities in Belgium.

In its first indictments in December, the tribunal, which has 30 investigators, charged eight Rwandans for massacres in the western Rwandan town of Kibuye but none have been arrested.

Tribunal Registrar Andronico Adede said in a statement Rutaganda allegedly took part in massacres of members of the Tutsi minority in a school and murders in Kigali and at a gravel pit in Nyanza.

He said Akayesu allegedly incited killings in Taba and supervised the interrogation and beating of local residents.

Many Rwandan genocide suspects have sought refuge in African and European states as well as among two million Rwandan refugees in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania. Human rights officials fear leaders of the slaughter may never stand trial.

Rwanda's government says it backs the international tribunal on the genocide despite the failure of U.N. forces to intervene during the three months of mass slaughter from April 1994.

Rwanda's prisons are crammed with more than 60,000 suspects awaiting trial

but the legal system is virtually paralysed. Those found guilty in Rwanda face a maximum penalty of execution but the tribunal's heaviest punishment is life imprisonment.

The tribunal hopes to start trials later this year in Arusha, where the courtroom and cells are under construction.

18-FEB-1996 Zaire considers options on Rwandan refugees

KINSHASA, Feb 18 (Reuter) - Zaire said on Sunday it was waiting to see whether tougher action would be needed to persuade more than a million Rwandan refugees to return home.

"On that level, it is too early to say what the government will do in the coming days," Foreign Minister Gerard Kamanda Wa Kamanda told Reuters.

"My two colleagues (the defence and interior ministers) who are in the east have the task of dealing with the situation. We will know more when they return to Kinshasa."

The government said on Friday it was determined to arrest any refugee or aid worker trying to dissuade refugees from leaving the camps in eastern Zaire.

Banza Mukulay, deputy leader of President Mobutu Sese Seko's Popular Movement of the Revolution, said that decision would help to encourage the process.

"One has to concede that there are very few candidates to return. But once we have got rid of all the intimidators, things will go better. It's good that the government should arrest these intimidators," he said.

"Everyone wants the refugees to leave. They must not feel at home in the camps."

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refugees fear reprisals at home for their role in the genocide and the number willing to return remains small.

Zairean government spokesman Masegabio Nzanu said after a cabinet meeting on Friday the government deplored what he described as the efforts of certain non-governmental organisations to impede the process.

But government officials in Kinshasa refused to confirm or deny reports from aid workers that Zaire was sending 1,500 more troops to the refugee zone.

There have been about 1,500 Zairean troops in the area since last year to maintain order in and around the camps.

Last August, Zaire expelled 15,000 refugees but its threat to deport all the refugees by the end of 1995 came to nothing.

U.N. officials said troops surrounded Nyangazi camp in the Bukavu region on Friday, three days after a similar operation at Kibumba camp near Goma aimed at forcing refugees out.

"The process of closing these camps is well and truly under way," he said in a statement read on state television.

"The government however deplores the behaviour of certain officials from certain NGOs or certain humanitarian agencies who stall, who even block implementation on the ground of the December 20 (Geneva accords)," he added.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Last August Zaire expelled 15,000 refugees but its threat to deport all one million refugees by the end of 1995 came to nothing.

Masegabio said that Zaire's interior and defence ministers, currently in the refugee zone, had been given the go ahead to sit down with representatives of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and regional authorities to examine the practical modalities of closing the camps.

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18-FEB-1996 Survivors visit grave of Rwanda genocide victims

By Victor Antonie

KIBUYE CHURCH, Rwanda, Feb 18 (Reuter) - Louis Rutaganira stood by a mass grave of genocide victims whose bodies he had hidden under for two days and stared at their bloodstained belongings -- pink rosaries, an artificial limb, a

skulls and recording marks of the massacres to provide evidence for the tribunal.

Forensic anthropologist William Haglund said his team took out more than 450 bodies from the grave — a third of them small children, nearly half under 18 years old and many women.

Most victims died from machete and panga blows.

"This grave is an echo chamber where the living and the dead are telling the same story," Haglund said.

"The living witnesses have been telling their stories for two years, but the dead have a story to tell. We're here to allow the dead to tell that story."

17-FEB-1996 Zaire deploys more soldiers in refugee camps

By Manoah Esipisu

NAIROBI, Feb 17 (Reuter) - Zaire pressed ahead with its programme for closing Rwandan refugee settlements, deploying more troops and extending a ban on businesses to taxis and buses, aid workers in eastern Zaire said on Saturday.

But the number of refugees willing to return home remained small. Some 60 refugees from Goma and 34 from Kibumba accepted the call to return home on Friday while 150 volunteered from Bukavu, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said.

"More soldiers were deployed (in Kibumba camp) yesterday (Friday), but I cannot give a definite number yet," UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg told Reuters by telephone from Goma.

A senior aid agency source said there were reports of a "massive increased presence" by Zairean troops flown in from the capital Kinshasa whose job was "to clean up Goma and Masizi."

Stromberg said Zairean authorities had clearly warned aid workers against facilitating the circulation of refugees outside their camps and had extended a ban on refugee commercial activities to include taxis or mini-buses.

"They have promised to sell such items if they are found to be in use," Stromberg said. "The message is clear."

Stromberg said that refugees in Nyangazi, the second camp after Kibumba ringed by Zairean troops, had begun to register for voluntary repatriation. He had no further details.

Other international relief workers said Zairean authorities were circulating notices in camps urging the Rwandans to return to their home villages to avoid Zairean force.

"If you do not return our plans will continue," one notice said.

In Kinshasa, government spokesman Masegabio Nzanzu said after a cabinet meeting on Friday that the government deplored what he described as the efforts of certain Non-Governmental Organisations to impede the process.

wooden pipe.

"Only five survived," he said, recalling a Saturday in April 1994 when hundreds of Tutsis seeking safety from Hutu militias huddled in a Roman Catholic church and were slaughtered.

"Hundreds of militiamen came to the church. They shot people and threw grenades. Those still alive were finished off with machetes. We hid under the dead for two days. My wife and five kids and four relatives were killed," he said.

On Saturday, Rutaganira and his only living daughter were among the five survivors and 35 other Rwandans seeking remains of relatives and friends who were allowed into the site for the first time to identify the dead for a U.N. genocide tribunal.

The smell of decay hung in the misty air outside the stone walls of the church on a windswept hill overlooking the silvery waters of Lake Kivu.

Music and laughter from a wedding party nearby echoed from the surrounding hills as the living moved slowly among the belongings of the dead, spread on plastic sheeting.

The tribunal in December indicted eight Rwandans on charges of organising the slaughters in Kibuye, where almost all of the town's Tutsis were wiped out in 1994.

Survivor Albertine Mukakamanzi said that Kibuye governor Clement Kayishema, a doctor sought by the tribunal, organised soldiers and militia to massacre people he himself had gathered in Kibuye's football stadium where 8,000 people were killed.

"There was the governor, senior state officials and even an accountant. People from all walks of lives led the killings," she said.

"When they ran out of bullets, they left for a while and I managed to flee," she said, holding a handkerchief to her nose.

Kayishema fled to Zaire with senior members of Rwanda's former Hutu government, its army and two million Hutu refugees after the genocide.

Until last year, he worked for a humanitarian agency as a doctor in the eastern Zairean town of Bukavu and the tribunal has yet to catch him.

Up to a million minority Tutsis and allied Hutus died in the genocide. Investigators say up to 1,000 mass graves are scattered across the Central African country.

The killers did not spare old people, women, children or babies. Around small towns like Kibuye, Hutus and Tutsis lived side by side in similar huts, so people knew each other well and identifying Tutsis was easy.

Hutu leaders now living in crowded refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire deny that genocide took place. They say it was a war, with the majority of victims Hutus.

"If someone asks for forgiveness, I will give it," Mukakamanzi said. "But not without asking first."

The grave in Kibuye is being excavated by an international team of forensic anthropologists and pathologists who are reconstructing shattered bones and

16-FEB-1996 Zairean troops surround second Rwandan refugee camp

By Elif Kaban

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 16 (Reuter) - Zairean troops ringed a second Rwandan refugee camp in eastern Zaire on Friday, stepping up pressure to persuade one million refugees to go home where many fear reprisals for their role in the 1994 genocide.

U.N. officials said an unknown number of troops was deployed at Nyangazi camp in the town of Bukavu at dawn on Friday in the second phase of an operation to send the Rwandan Hutus back.

The deployment came three days after a similar operation at Kibumba camp in the regional city of Goma, which has so far yielded no significant results with less than 50 refugees returning to the tiny central African nation.

Brenda Barton, a Nairobi-based spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme

(WFP), said the troops were deployed at the southern access of Nyangazi camp in the town of Bukavu and then encircled it.

"This morning (Friday) Zairean military were deployed at the southern access of Nyangazi where they encircled the camp. It seems like it's a further continuation of what's been going on in Goma," Barton said.

Paul Stromberg, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency in Goma, also confirmed the deployment and said Nyangazi was home to 27,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees.

"That (deployment) appears to be true. We have the same report. It's similar to what the Zaireans did at Kibumba," Stromberg said.

There were no violent incidents at Nyangazi, mostly occupied by peasant men, women and children.

The Nyangazi operation took aid workers by complete surprise because Zairean authorities had earlier said their second deployment would be at Kashusha camp also in Bukavu -- home to thousands of former Rwandan army troops.

Deploying at Kashusha had raised fears of violence because many of the former soldiers and top government officials remain heavily armed.

The deployment at Nyangazi followed a similar exercise at Goma's sprawling Kibumba camp, home to 190,000 refugees. The Kibumba inhabitants have so far resisted the pressure.

Less than 50 refugees have since returned to their homeland, where they fear reprisals from the country's Tutsi-dominated army for their role in the 1994 genocide of a million people.

On Thursday, the Zaireans closed down businesses in Kibumba and arrested 10 alleged refugee intimidators but both moves appeared not to have shaken the defiant refugees.

They were the first arrests since 250 Zairean reinforcements took up positions on the perimeter on Tuesday at the start of a campaign to put pressure

on the one million Hutu refugees to go home.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

The genocidal killings were sparked off by the assassination of Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994.

Fiercely loyal members of Habyarimana's presidential guard, soldiers, militiamen and mobs took up arms and hunted down Tutsis and Hutus opposed to his military rule.

Many refugees say they will be killed for the genocide they are blamed for if they return so they would stay in Zaire.

Aid workers said they expected Zaire to tighten the noose around refugee camps to impose a full economic embargo on the camps except for vital food, water and health services from aid agencies.

16-FEB-1996 Second Rwandan camp ringed by Zairean troops

(Adds details, background)

By Mark Dodd

NAIROBI, Feb 16 (Reuters) - Zairean troops ringed a second Rwandan refugee camp in eastern Zaire on Friday, stepping up a campaign to pressure a million refugees to go home voluntarily, U.N. officials said.

The deployment at Nyangazi camp in the town of Bukavu, close to the Rwandan frontier, came three days after a similar operation at Kibumba camp in the regional city of Goma and is all part of Zaire's strategy to send the refugees home.

Brenda Barton, a Nairobi-based spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), said an unknown number of troops were deployed at the southern access of Nyangazi camp in the town of Bukavu and then encircled it.

"This morning (Friday) Zairean military were deployed at the southern access of Nyangazi where they encircled the camp. It seems like it's a further continuation of what's been going on in Goma," Barton said.

Paul Stromberg, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency in Goma, also confirmed the deployment and said Nyangazi was home to 27,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees.

"That (deployment) appears to be true. We have the same report. It's similar to what the Zaireans did at Kibumba," Stromberg said by telephone from Goma.

The deployment at Nyangazi was the second phase of an operation started on Tuesday at Goma's sprawling Kibumba camp, home to 190,000 refugees, to send the Rwandans back home.

So far it has yielded no significant results with less than 50 refugees returning to a homeland, where they fear reprisals from the country's Tutsi-dominated army for their role in the 1994 genocide of a million people.

On Thursday, the Zaireans closed down businesses in Kibumba and arrested 10 alleged refugee intimidators but both moves appeared not to have shaken the defiant refugees.

They were the first arrests since 250 Zairean reinforcements took up positions on the perimeter on Tuesday at the start of a campaign to put pressure on the one million Hutu refugees to go home.

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Fiercely loyal members of Habyarimana's presidential guard, soldiers, militiamen and mobs took up arms and hunted down Tutsis and Hutus opposed to his military rule.

Many refugees say they will be killed for the genocide they are blamed for if they return so they will stay in Zaire.

U.N. officials said those seized on Tuesday were the Hutu camp president, the vice president and heads of the three zones in Kibumba. Among those detained on Wednesday was a former mayor in Rwanda.

Aid workers said they expected Zaire to tighten the noose around refugee camps to impose a full economic embargo on the camps except for vital food, water and health services from aid agencies.

15-FEB-1996 Tanzania says no to politics for refugees

DAR ES SALAAM, Feb 15 (Reuter) - Tanzania warned 720,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees on Thursday against political activities but said the long-term solution was peace in Rwanda and Burundi.

"Any refugees entering the country should not engage in political issues and no refugee will ever disturb the harmony of this country," Foreign Minister Jakaya Kikwete told a news conference.

The warning followed a government order this week banning The Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda (RDR), a pressure group, from political activity in Tanzania.

Tanzania ordered the arrest of 160 RDR members it said were active in refugee camps along the country's western border but Kikwete declined to say whether any arrests had been made.

Tanzania has recently stepped up its efforts to persuade the refugees to return to Rwanda and Burundi. Zaire, which has some one million Rwandan and Burundian refugees, this week started a new campaign to pressure them to return home voluntarily.

Last week a delegation led by Rwanda's prime minister toured Tanzania camps telling the Hutu refugees it was safe to go home.

So far only a small fraction of refugees have returned to Rwanda with refugees less eager to go back to Burundi, Kikwete said.

But he stressed Tanzanian policy was to accommodate refugees while seeking a political solution to ethnic conflicts in the Great Lakes region.

"Our long term solution is for peace and stability inside Rwanda and Burundi....They should give dialogue a chance instead of using violence as a means of solving their problems," he said.

Tanzania last March closed its borders to refugees and posted troops along the frontier to prevent a new influx but last month it reopened its border to 20,000 from Burundi.

15-FEB-1996 Zaire troops step up pressure at Rwandan camp

By Elif Kaban

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire, Feb 15 (Reuter) - Zairean soldiers trying to pressure Rwandan refugees home closed down businesses in the largest camp on Thursday after arresting 10 alleged refugee intimidators.

U.N. officials said five alleged intimidators were arrested on Tuesday by troops in Kibumba camp, with 190,000 residents, and five more on Wednesday in a bid to break their hold on the refugees.

Carrol Faubert, special envoy of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said he expected arrests in other camps of more intimidators, who tell tales of terror to anyone thinking of returning.

"There will be more arrests," said Faubert, adding however there was no sign the Zairean operation so far had led to an increase in voluntary repatriation. "It won't happen overnight."

They were the first arrests since 250 Zairean reinforcements took up positions on the perimeter on Tuesday at the start of a campaign to put pressure on the one million Hutu refugees to go home.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refugees say they will be killed for the genocide they are blamed for if they return so they will stay in Zaire.

U.N. officials said those seized on Tuesday were the Hutu camp president, the vice president and heads of the three zones in Kibumba, home to some 190,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees. Among those detained on Wednesday was a former mayor in Rwanda.

Faubert said he expected Zaire to tighten the noose around Kibumba to impose a full economic embargo on the camp except for vital food, water and health services from aid agencies.

He said a contingent of 1,500 Zairean troops formed last year to keep law and order in the camps and reinforcements at Kibumba were behaving well and he did not expect violence.

In the muddy alleways of Kibumba's tarpaulin city, all but a few shops were closed on Thursday and streets were full of anxious men clutching radios rather than the usual shoppers.

Angry Hutu refugees accused Zairean troops of destroying their food and vegetable stalls and confiscating their wares.

But there was no sign of looting and U.N. officials including Faubert denied reports of troops stealing.

"The soldiers told me to stop selling my skewered kebabs. They kicked the meat into the mud and told me not to open my shop," refugee Chadrac Kavatir said.

Servendo Birategetse accused soldiers of entering tents and stealing belongings. "They came with so much force, going into houses and taking things," he said.

The risk of confrontation between troops and refugees was at its highest since soldiers expelled 15,000 refugees in August.

Terrified camp residents scattered at the sight of Zairean camp troops in mustard uniforms approaching in vans.

The camp appeared to have been virtually sealed off despite its seven-km (four miles) perimeter. Commandos stood on the road facing Kibumba in groups of four some 500 metres (yards) apart.

Several refugees reacted with a mixture of defiance and resignation to the news of the arrest of their camp leaders.

"Even if Zaireans come back to take our leaders, there is nothing we can do," said Birategetse. "They've got the arms and we are helpless. We have to watch like sheep."

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Tuesday's arrests followed a meeting in Mugunga camp where refugee leaders told fellow Hutus to hide their arms by burying them and to stay in the refugee camps.

Some 70 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda on Wednesday from Kibumba, up from 30 on Tuesday, UNHCR officials said.

Officials said they expected Zaire's defence and interior ministers, who arrived in the border town of Goma on Saturday to organise the operation, to travel south later on Thursday to Bukavu town to launch a similar crackdown on Kashusha camp.

Kashusha has 47,000 refugees, most from Rwanda's capital Kigali. They include many former troops and Hutu civil servants in contrast to the mainly peasant population of Kibumba.

15-FEB-1996 05:41 Zaire troops said to arrest 10 Rwanda refugees

By Elif Kaban

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 15 (Reuter) - U.N. officials said on Thursday that Zairean

troops had arrested 10 Rwandan refugees alleged to be intimidating fellow refugees to stop them from returning home from the largest refugee camp in Zaire.

Carrol Faubert, U.N. refugee agency special envoy to the Great Lakes region, told reporters in the Zairean border town of Goma that five alleged intimidators were arrested by Zairean troops in Kibumba camp on Tuesday and five more on Wednesday.

They were the first arrests by Zairean troops in the camp since 250 reinforcements took positions on the perimeter on Tuesday at the start of a new campaign to put pressure on refugees to return home.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refugees say they will be killed in revenge for the genocide they are blamed for if they ever return. Since the operation began on Tuesday, they are adamant they will stay on.

Faubert said those seized on Tuesday were the Hutu camp president, the vice president and heads of the three zones in Kibumba, home to some 190,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees. Among those detained on Wednesday was a former mayor in Rwanda.

"There will be more arrests," said Faubert, adding there was no sign the Zairean operation had increased repatriation among the one million Rwandan refugees in Zaire.

Faubert said a contingent of 1,500 Zairean troops formed last year to keep law and order in the camps and reinforcements at Kibumba were behaving well and he did not expect violence.

He said arrests might take place at other camps including Mugunga, a stronghold of former Hutu government troops and militiamen strongly opposed to repatriation to Rwanda.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Tuesday's arrests followed a meeting in Mugunga camp where refugee leaders told fellow Hutus to hide their arms by burying them and to stay in the refugee camps.

Some 70 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda on Wednesday from Kibumba, up from 30 on Tuesday, UNHCR officials said.

The Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda, a refugee lobby group, said on Wednesday the Zairean crackdown was aimed at breaking the nerve of refugees by sealing off camps and putting an end to all their business activities.

U.N. officials said they expected Zaire's defence and interior ministers, who arrived in Goma on Saturday, to travel south later on Thursday to the Zairean border town of Bukavu to launch a similar operation around the Kashusha refugee camp.

Kashusha has 47,000 refugees, most from the Rwandan capital Kigali and

including many former troops and Hutu government employees, in contrast to the mainly peasant population of Kibumba.

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14-FEB-1996 Rwanda refugees shrug off Zaire pressure campaign

By Victor Antonie

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire, Feb 14 (Reuter) - Most Rwandan refugees shrugged off a Zairean campaign on Wednesday to squeeze them back to Rwanda and even the determination of Zairean troops appeared to be waning.

Visibly fewer Zairean troops were on the edges of Kibumba camp, the largest in Zaire, a day after some 250 moved in at the start of the new drive to pressure the one million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire to choose to go home.

On Tuesday, most Zairean guards disappeared from their positions when they were soaked during an afternoon downpour.

"They can surround the camp, they can stop food, they can come and kill us but we'll just stay here and die," said refugee Winifred Unamaria during a food aid distribution in the camp.

The one million refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled Rwanda in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Many refugees say they will be killed in revenge for the genocide they are blamed for if they ever return. Since the operation began on Monday, they are adamant they would stay.

"It's not surprising that the refugees are not moving in big numbers this time," said Alison Campbell, a spokeswoman for CARE International. "It has not been clear from the onset why they should be more willing to leave than they were one year ago."

"As long as food and essentials are maintained...and the Zairean military remain well behaved the situation remains the same," she added. Aid agencies say they will supply Kibumba with essentials.

"On Tuesday, 30 people returned to Rwanda from Kibumba out of a total of 55 from the five camps in the Goma area. But we hope for more today," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the border town.

UNHCR officials however said while the number from Kibumba might increase to some 50 on Wednesday, it probably would still mean that the total number leaving the Goma area was below the average of 100 returnees each day before Tuesday's operation.

"The next few days will determine what Zaire's resolve is," said an aid worker. "If they are serious we may see them moving against intimidators and closing down businesses as promised."

Zairean officials said the arrest of Hutu intimidators stopping those who wanted to go home would start shortly.

Foreign aid officials said a major problem was Zaire had failed to convince leaders of the refugees that people should be allowed to return freely and intimidators should be reined in.

"It seems the leadership has not been convinced and the removal of intimidators has not been done. It seems this has not advanced to a level that would allow refugees to make their own decisions," said Roman Urasa, UNHCR chief in Rwanda's capital.

"Even if 30 or 40 percent of the refugees came back, that would be a big success," Shaharyar Khan, U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, told Reuters. "The remainder won't come back anyway because they would face charges in Rwanda for the genocide."

The Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda (RDR), a Hutu refugee lobby group, said on Wednesday the Zairean crackdown was aimed at breaking the nerve of refugees by sealing off camps and putting an end to all their business activities.

"Rwandan refugees may represent a huge financial burden for the international community but forcing them to return home is applying the wrong medicine in the wrong place," the RDR said.

It added the refugees were the victims of bad leadership from the Rwandan capital compounded by "military adventurism."

13-FEB-1996 Rwandan refugees ignore Zairean pressure campaign

(Updates with no significant return from Kibumba camp)

By Elif Kaban

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire, Feb 13 (Reuter) - Zairean commandos and guards encircled the largest Rwandan refugee camp in eastern Zaire on Tuesday as Hutu refugees snubbed a campaign to put pressure on them to return home.

More than 12 hours after the start of the Zairean operation in Kibumba camp, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it had no real effect on the number going back to Rwanda.

"UNHCR's normal repatriation programme continues in all five camps in the Goma area. Today, 41 people crossed," he said.

"While we haven't seen any appreciable result from the (Zairean) action today, its purpose is to give the refugees something to ponder about as access is gradually closed off and markets close down," spokesman Peter Kessler told Reuters.

"We think that as refugees see the effect of this ring of troops, we will see increasing numbers going back in coming days."

Rwandan state-run radio said large numbers of refugees had begun arriving on Tuesday in the northwestern Rwandan border town of Gisenyi after Zairean authorities closed Kibumba camp.

Asked about the radio report, Kessler said any influx into Gisenyi was probably not Hutus from Kibumba but Tutsi refugees of Rwandan descent leaving the Masisi area of eastern Zaire where thousands of have fled ethnic violence in the last month.

Zairean commandos with rifles over their shoulders moved early on Tuesday to a road on the edge of Kibumba as thousands of refugees stood and climbed to hills in the camp to watch.

Armed border guards also took positions around the sprawling camp. They concentrated in places but in others were hundreds of metres (yards) apart along the seven km (4.5-mile) perimeter.

Refugees vowed to stay put despite the Zairean plan to encourage them to leave and to close down progressively some 40 camps for the one million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire who arrived after the 1994 genocide which many are blamed for.

"The Zaireans have been talking about this operation for weeks now but nothing will happen. Our leaders told us to remain passive. We will stay here and UNHCR will continue to feed us," refugee Aloys Bidineza told Reuters.

No violence was reported in the operation involving a few hundred troops and border guards. Other men from a 1,500-strong Zairean camp unit set up last year held junctions inside Kibumba as usual.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates butchered by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Rwanda's government says it will screen all male returnees to discover whether they killed in the genocide. Some refugees say they fear they will be killed in reprisal if they return.

Zaire handed back to Rwanda rusting artillery pieces, troop carriers, arms and ammunition seized from fleeing former Hutu government troops at the end of the genocide.

Rwandan officials and army officers appeared disappointed by the collection given to them by Zaire's defence minister in no man's land on the Rwandan-Zairean border near Gisenyi town.

"We (Rwanda's government) had at least six helicopters and so many firearms and at least eight cannons but a lot of this is junk," said Rwandan defence ministry spokesman Emmanuel Ndahiro.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg that they have."

Zairean officers at a crossing point into Rwanda five km (three miles) east of Kibumba said no Rwandan refugees arrived by late morning. UNHCR tents for returning refugees were empty.

Shops at the market place in Kibumba were empty and closed.

Western aid agencies have geared up in case of an increase in the small numbers returning to Rwanda voluntarily but say they will not be able to handle a huge, unorganised influx.

Troops plan to stop all movements by refugees into and out of the camps and impose an economic embargo involving preventing all commercial activities in the camp and seizing any goods for sale but excluding essential food, water and medical supplies.

Many Western aid workers forecast the economic embargo by Zairean troops on the camps would not work and instead will prompt enterprising Hutus to make their business clandestine.

Zairean troops last August expelled 15,000 refugees.

13-FEB-1996 No violence had been reported by late morning after the

operation began. Other troops of a 1,500-strong Zairean camp contingent formed last year took key positions and junctions inside Kibumba to keep law and order.

But refugees said they would stay put in Kibumba despite the Zairean plan to encourage them to leave and to close down progressively some 40 camps for Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire.

"The Zaireans have been talking about this operation for weeks now but nothing will happen. Our leaders told us to remain passive. We will stay here and UNHCR (the U.N. refugee agency) will continue to feed us," refugee Aloys Bidineza told Reuters.

Zairean army officers at a crossing point into Rwanda five km (three miles) east of Kibumba said no refugees had arrived by late morning. UNHCR tents for returning refugees were empty.

13-FEB-1996 Troop deployment delayed at Rwanda refugee camp

NAIROBI, Feb 13 (Rwanda) - An operation scheduled for Tuesday to deploy troops around the Rwandan refugee camp at Kibumba in eastern Zaire and begin a phased shut-down has not started yet, an aid worker at the camp said.

Contacted by telephone in Kibumba, the worker said the situation at the sprawling camp -- home to 190,000 Rwandan Hutus who fled the 1994 genocide --

was calm and there were no signs of a Zairean troop deployment.

"So far everything is quite calm -- so I would assume it (troop deployment has not begun," she said.

A senior U.N. refugee agency official had told reporters on Monday that Zaire would deploy troops around Kibumba at dawn on Tuesday, as a start of an operation to close it and send refugees back home.

The official who declined to be identified said the operation had been scheduled to commence at four o'clock in the morning (0200 GMT) on Tuesday.

12-FEB-1996 Zaire's troops to surround Rwandan camp at dawn

By Elif Kaban

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 13 (Reuter) - Zaire is to deploy troops around the Rwandan refugee camp of Kibumba at dawn on Tuesday, the start of an operation to close it and send refugees back home, a senior U.N. refugee agency official said.

He told Reuters: "Zairean troops will be deployed outside the camp at four o'clock in the morning (0100 GMT)."

The sprawling camp, whose perimeter straggles some seven km (4.5 miles), houses 190,000 Rwandans who fled their homeland after last year's genocide for which many among them have been blamed.

The camp, carved out of bush on volcanic rock, is the first of 40, home to around one million Rwandans -- mainly Hutus -- in Zaire, which Kinshasa has said it will close one by one.

The troops are expected to impose an economic embargo, which will involve preventing all commercial activities in the camp and seizing any goods used for it, excluding essential food, water and medical supplies.

Under the plan to put pressure on the refugees to go home, the Zairean troops will not enter the camp.

Peter Chamberlain, emergency programme coordinator for the British aid agency Oxfam, said: "The operation might work but the problem is the discipline of the troops. If it degenerates into a forceful deportation and indiscriminate looting, that could cause chaos."

Some Zairean troops have not been paid for months.

Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said the Zairean operation did not have a time frame. He also said the UNHCR had made it clear to Zaire that it would not take part in a forced repatriation.

Many of the million mainly Hutu refugees living in Zaire fear retribution by the Tutsi army for the three-month 1994 bloodbath in which an estimated one million people, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died.

Rwanda says it will screen all male returnees to discover whether they took part in the genocide.

The Tutsis ousted the Hutu government, its army and hardline militiamen to end the genocide, and the killers fled to live among, and to intimidate, other refugees in the Zairean camps.

Western aid officials fear the operation to close Kibumba may spark violence if refugees resist and Zairean troops cause a panic stampede.

Zairean Defence Minister Admiral Mavua Mudima arrived in Goma on Sunday accompanied by up to 50 fresh troops from the Zairean capital Kinshasa, Zairean officials and witnesses at Goma airport told Reuters.

Rwandan Hutu refugee leaders, many of whom were blamed for thwarting voluntary repatriation because they wanted to keep a power base, have already changed tack, saying they support it.

Refugee leaders now publicly dissociate themselves from intimidators

agitating against the refugees' return.

On Sunday the chief of Rwanda's former government army -- now in exile -- explained the new line in a rare interview in his secret hideout in Eastern Zairean region of Goma.

"We can be killed everywhere -- we have to have security everywhere we go," General Augustin Bizimungu told Reuters, apologising for the secrecy.

As chief-of-staff of the 40,000-strong former army, Bizimungu is wanted in Kigali to answer charges that he was a leader of the genocide.

But to the hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees in Zaire, he is a folk hero.

Bizimungu said he was not worried about Zaire's declaration that it would send all Rwandan refugees home by closing their camps one by one without resorting to force.

"We are ready to support a voluntary mass repatriation. We thank the government of Zaire for its hospitality," he said.

"Write that we are nice people. Write that we are not killers," Bizimungu added with a chuckle.

12-FEB-1996 Zaire troops to ring refugee camp at dawn Tuesday

(Adds quote, background)

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 12 (Reuter) - Zaire is to deploy troops around the Rwandan refugee camp of Kibumba at dawn on Tuesday, the start of an operation to close it and send refugees back home, a senior U.N. refugee agency official said.

He told Reuters: "Zairean troops will be deployed outside the camp at four o'clock in the morning (0100 GMT)."

The sprawling camp, whose perimeter straggles some seven km (4.5 miles) is home to 190,000 Rwandans who fled their homeland after last year's genocide for which many among them have been blamed.

The troops are expected to impose an economic embargo, which will involve halting all commercial activities in the camp and seizing any goods used for it, excluding essential food, water and medical supplies. Under the plan to put pressure on the refugees to go home, the Zairean troops will not enter the camp.

Peter Chamberlain, emergency programme coordinator for the British aid agency Oxfam, said: "The operation might work but the problem is the discipline of the troops. If it degenerates into a forceful deportation and indiscriminate looting, that could cause chaos."

Kibumba is the first of 40 Rwandan Hutu refugee camps which Zaire has said it will close one by one, sending home one million refugees, many of whom fear **retribution for the genocide in which an estimated one million people, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died.**

11-FEB-1996 Rwandan refugees vow to defy new Zairean campaign

By Elif Kaban

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire, Feb 11 (Reuter) - Rwandan refugees vowed on Sunday to remain in camps in eastern Zaire and to defy a Zairean operation to pressure them to return home voluntarily.

"Protect us God," sang thousands of Hutu refugees, bible in hand, facing priests in white robes at a mass in Kibumba, named by authorities as the first of 40 camps for one million refugees to be closed.

The mood in Kibumba, a small city of 190,000 people carved out of bush and planted on volcanic rock in 1994, was defiant.

"We fear nothing. We will stay in our camps. We will move nowhere," said Jean-Baptiste Harerimana, a refugee who works for a Western aid agency in Kibumba. The crowd around him agreed.

The refugees are from Rwanda's Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates killed by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Rwanda's government says it will screen all male returnees to discover whether they killed in the genocide. Some refugees say they fear they will be killed in reprisal if they return.

A private radio station in the Zairean border town of Goma quoted Zairean Foreign Minister Gerard Kamanda Wa Kamanda as saying that the closure of camps was frozen as the U.N. refugee agency violated an agreement by announcing plans in advance.

Officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Goma were unavailable to comment on the Sunday radio report.

Interior Minister Gustave Malumba Mbangula gave details on Saturday of the operation to speed up voluntary repatriation but did not say when it would start.

Views of extremist Hutu leaders appeared to have toughened the resolve of most refugees since the campaign was made public.

When Zaire expelled 15,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees last August many said they would escape to the mountains. Tens of thousands only returned when forced repatriations stopped.

But dozens of refugees interviewed on Sunday said they would remain in Kibumba even when troops arrive and would not panic.

Beatrice Miseneza, a woman with a baby born in the camp strapped to her back, said: "We will all stay calm. We will wait until the Zairean soldiers come. UNHCR will look after us."

Under the plan, troops will ring Kibumba to stop all refugee movements in and out of the camp and halt all private commercial ventures by refugees which depend on supplies from the outside.

Zairean officials will launch a mass education campaign in the camps to encourage refugees to leave. Aid agencies will only be allowed to continue their

essential operations in the camps such as supplying water, food, sanitation and health services.

Some aid workers fear the campaign may turn violent as most troops are poorly-disciplined and have not been paid for months.

As well as encircling the camps, Zairean troops are charged with neutralising intimidators loyal to Rwanda's former Hutu leaders who discourage refugees from returning. At the least, they forecast they will all be slaughtered when they go home.

Aloys Ngendahimana, a vice-president of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda, a Hutu refugee lobby group, said it was too early for leaders to react to the plan.

But Ngendahimana, who was among refugee leaders from Kibumba asked by UNHCR officials in Goma on Saturday to cooperate, made it clear that they opposed the central aim of the operation.

"We never prevent our people going home. But we don't see a security situation in Rwanda sufficient for a mass return," he said.

"For me, an intimidator is someone who physically stops refugees going home.

We have no intimidators here. All the intimidators are in the (Tutsi-dominated government) in Kigali."

Refugee Christus Sengeyungura was adamant that he could not return although he said he killed no one in the 1994 genocide.

"I killed no one but I saw others killing. To the government in Kigali, I'm a killer. If we didn't kill we watched, so to the government we're all Interahamwe. We cannot go back," he said.

Interahamwe militiamen had a leading role in the bloodbath.

10-FEB-1996 Zaire says Rwandan equipment handover conditional

KINSHASA, Feb 10 (Reuters) - Zaire's foreign minister said on Saturday that the return to Rwanda of military equipment taken by fleeing members of the former Hutu armed forces in 1994 was linked to other unresolved issues.

Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda told Reuters that no date had been set for any handover and that discussions were continuing.

Rwandan state radio has said that Zairean officials are to hand over property taken to Zaire by fleeing Hutu soldiers at a ceremony in Gisenyi on Monday.

"It's not just a question of returning Rwandan military material. It's also a question of property that Zairean individuals and that the state have lost during Rwanda's civil war," Kamanda told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"The third question is linked to border security," he said.

Kamanda said that no date had been fixed for the return of the military equipment.

"All these questions must be discussed globally. The return of Rwandan

military material must not be addressed in isolation. This is what the agreements we made with the Rwandan authorities envisage," he added.

Over a million members of Rwanda's Hutu majority fled to Zaire in 1994 during civil war and after the killing of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops and mobs.

Zaire has announced plans to close refugee camps to encourage the refugees to return home.

10-FEB-1996 Zaire to close refugee camps; some Rwandans leave

(Updates with some refugees leave camp, refugee reaction)

By Elif Kaban

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 10 (Reuters) - Zaire said on Saturday it would close 40 camps for a million Rwandan refugees one by one, prompting some refugees to leave the first camp expected to be ringed by troops.

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates butchered by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Rwanda's government says it will screen all male returnees to discover whether they killed in the genocide. Some refugees say they fear they will be killed in reprisal if they return.

"We will close the camp (at Kibumba). When the camp is closed we will proceed to close another camp," said Interior Minister Gustave Malumba Mbangula, also a deputy prime minister.

"The operation will continue until all camps are closed and all refugees go home," he told a news conference in Goma.

He did not say when closing the total of 40 Rwandan camps in Zaire would start, but U.N. officials expect 250 Zairean troops to ring Kibumba, filled with 190,000 refugees, within days.

"Zairean authorities have decided to implement a programme of targeted repatriation. This aims at the progressive closure of refugee camps...and their repatriation to Rwanda," Malumba said.

"The targeted repatriation implies the concentration on the camps to be closed of all information and persuasion efforts as well as the control and removal of intimidators," he added.

Malumba said the move to speed up a U.N. voluntary repatriation plan would be carried out by a 1,500-strong Zairean force formed last year to keep law and order in the camps, and another Zairean army force to protect refugees on the way home.

Hours after Malumba outlined the operation, aid workers said groups of Hutu refugees were seen leaving Kibumba camp and moving to the nearby camp of Kahindo.

"There have been small numbers of people leaving," said a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Some aid officials said the movement from Kibumba might make Zaire bring forward the operation, which they feared might turn violent because troops were poorly disciplined and had not been paid for three months.

UNHCR officials met leaders of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda (RDR), a Hutu refugee lobby group, later on Saturday in Goma and asked them to cooperate.

Aloys Ngendahimana, an RDR vice-president, told Reuters it was too early to say whether refugees would cooperate, but the situation in Rwanda was worsening and it was not safe for them to return.

Last August Zaire expelled 15,000 refugees but its threat to deport all the refugees by the end of last year came to nothing.

After talks with UNHCR and other aid agencies, Malumba said refugees would walk back in an orderly way protected by troops.

He said "administrative closure" would stop refugees moving outside camps and end all commercial business in the camps, but "necessary assistance" would continue. No new refugees would be registered, he added.

He said the Zairean army was essential to control refugee movements, to assure the security of refugees walking home and to neutralise and take away intimidators stopping them leaving.

Malumba said the operation was financed by the government and UNHCR. Asked how long it would take authorities to clear the one million refugees, he said: "We're not in a hurry."

He added that security in Rwanda had improved enough to allow mass repatriation and the government was delighted Rwandan Vice President Paul Kagame had said on Friday he welcomed returnees.

Malumba appealed to agencies to contribute to the operation so Zaire would not be forced again to expel refugees and clashes between hostile local residents and refugees would be avoided.

10-FEB-1996 Malumba said the operation to close camps to speed up a

flagging voluntary repatriation programme would start as soon as talks were completed with Western aid agencies and Rwandan refugee leaders.

He said a 1,500-strong Zairean force formed last year would maintain law and order inside the camps while outside another Zairean force would protect refugees entering Rwanda by foot.

In a statement, Malumba said the operation would restrict the movement of refugees to and from the camps and end commercial business in the camps but "necessary assistance" would continue.

He did not say when the operation would start with Kibumba camp, which has 190,000 residents and is near the town of Goma.

12-FEB-1996 UN, Burundi army to step up refugee repatriation

BUJUMBURA, Feb 12 (Reuter) - The U.N. and the Burundian army will step up efforts to encourage the return home of 110,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees living in camps in the country's northern border, a senior U.N. refugee agency official said on Monday.

Burundi's head delegate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Hitoshi Mise, said the education campaign was not a cover for forced repatriation.

Mise told Reuters the programme would start on Tuesday and aimed to prevent a repeat of last month's chaotic evacuation of Ntamba and Mugamba camps when thousands of refugees fled to neighbouring Tanzania, fearing a crackdown by Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army.

Four teams would enter Magara, Kibezi, Ruvumu and Rukurumigabo camps to encourage voluntary repatriation in a campaign expected to last six months, Mise said.

The teams would comprise one UNHCR official, a local government official and army personnel under the command of a senior officer.

Mise denied that the presence of soldiers in the camps would raise tension levels among the refugees.

"It will be good to have military officers to supervise soldiers in the camps -- but the military cannot impose their ideas on UNHCR, and must not," he said.

Last week about 1,400 Rwandan Hutus were repatriated by truck from a northern Burundi camp to their homeland.

The Rwandan refugees are among two million who fled into neighbouring countries in 1994 fearing retribution from an advancing Tutsi rebel army following the genocide of up to one million Rwandan Tutsis and allied Hutus by Hutu extremists.

The Tutsi rebels overthrew the Hutu government and took power in Kigali.

Burundi has an ethnic make-up similar to Rwanda's and more than 100,000 people have died in ethnic violence following the 1993 assassination by renegade Tutsi soldiers of the central African country's first freely elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye.

9-FEB-1996 Zaire says troops will surround refugee camp

(Updates with details of operation, pvs KIBUMBA CAMP)

By Elif Kaban

GOMA, Zaire, Feb 9 (Reuter) - Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire stocked up on food and water on Friday and a Zairean official said troops would surround their camp to urge them to return home.

Preparing for an operation U.N. officials expect to start in a few days, Zairean Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Gustave Malumba Mbangula arrived in the border town of Goma.

Malumba said his trip was concerned with the problem of Rwandan refugees in Kibumba camp near Goma and worsening ethnic violence between Zaireans in the neighbouring Masisi region of Zaire.

"We are working on a solution that will allow repatriation without the use of force and respecting the principle of dignity. The international community is tired of these refugees," Goma city Mayor Mashako Mamba Sebi told Reuters.

He said according to the plan soldiers would ring Kibumba, with 190,000 refugees, "to urge them to go home" and Zairean officials would start a mass education drive in the camp.

"Not everyone has to go home. There are lots of peasants in the camp who may want to go home," said Mashako, adding that not everyone in Kibumba was a former Hutu "killer, politician or militiaman."

The refugees are from the Hutu majority and fled in 1994 during civil war and the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates butchered by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

Rwanda's government says it will screen all male returnees to investigate whether they were involved in the genocide.

The mayor estimated the Zairean operation could send home as many as 150,000 people but did not say when it would start.

He said Zaire would study the cases of those refugees who could not return to Rwanda and if they wanted to leave for another country of asylum they would be encouraged to do so.

"We'll take food and water and sit in our tents," said refugee Izai Bariyanga next to a stall piled high with passion fruit and bananas in Kibumba camp five km (three miles) from the Rwandan border.

This tent city was tense with residents waiting to hear by radio of the start of the Zairean operation to pressure the one million Rwandan refugees in east Zaire to go home voluntarily.

Some refugees said they were hoarding what food and water as they feared that Zairean soldiers would besiege the camp.

Zairean troops last August expelled 15,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees, forcing them across Zaire's eastern borders.

"We do not know what will happen to us. The situation is not good," said primary school teacher Celestin Ntakiyimana.

"There is no security in Rwanda. What I have fled is still there," he added. Refugee leaders say they will be slaughtered if they return to Rwanda now controlled by former Tutsi rebels.

The Zairean operation has triggered fears among some aid officials that it may turn violent and trigger a massive exodus or forced expulsions will resume if large numbers do not leave.

Zaire told the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) last week it planned to start by "administratively" closing Kibumba and Kashusha camp to the south to speed up repatriation.

Asked what he understood "administratively close" to mean, UNHCR spokesman Fernando del Mundo in Geneva told Reuters:

"The idea is to deploy soldiers around the camps to prevent movements in and out of the camps and to close down commercial activity inside the camps and to maintain law and order."

He added however that refugees would not run out of food and water because UNHCR and other aid agencies would continue their services and programmes for Rwandan refugees in camps in Zaire.

9-FEB-1996 11:45 Zairean ministers head for Rwandan refugee zone

By Arthur Malu Malu

KINSHASA, Feb 9 (Reuter) - Zaire's defence and interior ministers left for the Rwandan refugee zone in the east of the country on Friday amid suggestions that the Zairean government is poised to resume repatriation efforts.

Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo's cabinet, which suspended a brief forced repatriation exercise in August last year, meanwhile, met in the capital Kinshasa. No details were immediately available.

Officials said Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Admiral Mavua Mudima and Interior Minister Gustave Malumba Mbangula had left for Goma and the border zone housing over a million Rwandan refugees since an exodus in mid-1994.

Earlier, Kengo's special adviser for refugees, Mutiri wa Bashara, and the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zaire, Hubert Edongo, left for the Goma region, they added.

The refugees, who have overstayed their welcome among local Zaireans, are from Rwanda's Hutu majority who fled in 1994 during civil war and after the killing of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops, militiamen and mobs.

In camps near the border with Rwanda on Friday refugees stocked up with food and water in the expectation that Zaire would begin efforts to prompt them to go home.

Zaire has told the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees it plans to

"administratively close" two camps -- Kibumba and Kashusha -- to revive flagging voluntary repatriation.

Asked what he understood "administratively close" to mean, UNHCR spokesman Fernando dei Mundo in Geneva told Reuters the idea was to deploy soldiers around the camps to prevent movements in and out.

"This has to be taken in context of voluntary repatriation agreements... Troops are not going to enter the camps to drive out the people... but we don't want the refugees to work in Goma and have false hopes that they will stay there forever."

Last August Zaire kicked out 15,000 Rwandans but a threat to deport all the refugees by the end of 1995 came to nothing.

Rwanda's post-civil war government says it will screen all male returnees to investigate whether they were involved in the genocide.

Some aid officials have expressed fears that the latest operation may turn violent and trigger a massive exodus.

9-FEB-1996 Burundi president to talks in Zaire on refugees

By Christian Jennings

BUJUMBURA, Feb 9 (Reuter) - Burundi's president left on Friday for talks with Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko on their problems with Rwandan refugees reluctant to return home voluntarily.

Officials said President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya flew to Gbadolite, Zaire, to meet Mobutu to follow up on a conference in Cairo in December on the crisis in the Great Lakes region of central Africa.

They said the two heads of state would discuss the Rwandan refugee issue and security problems. Burundian Hutu rebels have bases in eastern Zaire from where they infiltrate into Burundi.

In a statement, Ntibantunganya's office said the presidents would examine the position of the international community and the United Nations in particular towards Burundi and the region.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proposed last month that a U.N. rapid deployment force should be sent to Zaire ready to intervene in Burundi in case of a sudden increase in killings.

But the security council has not acted on the call.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Burundi in ethnic violence since the assassination of its first freely-elected Hutu president in October 1993 by Tutsi troops.

The Burundian statement said Ntibantunganya was accompanied by Foreign Minister Venerand Bakevyumusaya, Defence Minister Firmin Sinzoyiheba and Interior Minister Sylvestre Banzubaye.

Zaire is expected within days to start an operation to help pressure its estimated one million Rwandan Hutu refugees to return home voluntarily involving Zairean troops cordoning off their camps.

The Rwandans in Burundi and Zaire are among two million members of the Hutu majority who fled Rwanda in 1994 before a Tutsi rebel victory halted the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu, troops, militiamen and mobs.

In Bujumbura, the head of the U.N. refugee agency in Burundi said he did not expect large refugee movements from the Goma region of eastern Zaire to have a knock-on effect in northern Burundi.

Hitoshi Mise said he only expected large numbers of refugees to move from their camps in northern Burundi if camps in Uvira, Zaire, just over the Burundian border were closed or emptied.

The Burundian military said on Friday it was working closely with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to repatriate the 100,000 Rwandan refugees in northern Burundi.

"We're doing everything we can with UNHCR to reduce the security risk posed by the refugee camps," a military commander in the northern town of Ngozi told Reuters by telephone.

"We're cooperating with them (UNHCR) in their operations to voluntarily repatriate refugees although the continued presence of the camps means Hutu assailants have somewhere to hide and for this reason we would like them emptied or closed," he said.

U.N. officials said some 205 Rwandan refugees decided to return home on Thursday from Magara camp near Ngozi. There was a very limited army presence and refugees boarded vehicles voluntarily.

Some 15,000 Rwandan refugees fled a camp in the northeast last month into Tanzania after clashes between Burundian Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army nearby.

9-FEB-1996 EU concerned for safety of Rwandan refugees

BRUSSELS, Feb 9 - The European Commission said on Friday it was concerned about the possible closure of two camps in Zaire and forced repatriation of some 250,000 Rwandan refugees.

A senior Zairean government official said on Wednesday that Zaire has decided to resume repatriation of refugees according to the spirit of a 1995 agreement it signed with Rwanda and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"I appeal to all the parties concerned, and especially the governments of Zaire and Rwanda, to do their utmost to ensure that protection of human rights...be fully adhered to," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Emma Bonino said in a statement.

Bonino also called for the respect of international conventions applying to repatriation of refugees.

Last August Zaire expelled 15,000 refugees but its threat to deport all the

refugees by the end of 1995 came to nothing.

U.N. officials forecast on Wednesday that Zairean troops were likely soon to close down Kibumba refugee camp as part of a so far failed campaign to send home over a million Hutu refugees, many of whom took part in the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and allied Hutus.