

U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)

Burundi

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BURUNDI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

Period covered: 3-9 February No. 04

The information contained in this report was provided by the Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Operational Activities in Burundi, UN Agencies, International Organisations and NGOs

GENERAL

Third tripartite meeting convened On February 4, the third meeting between the Burundian Government, UN Agencies, donors, NGOs and diplomatic representatives took place at which the Ministry of Reinstallation, Reintegration and Resettlement presented the 1998 Plan of Action to reinstall the majority of the country's internally displaced population. It was generally agreed that more focus needed to be placed on the establishment/strengthening of provincial technical committees. It was pointed out that results from the first tripartite meeting held on 3 September in regard to the return of regrouped populations in Muramvya, Kayanza and Karuzi provinces had been very positive as the return process had to date been by and large completed in those areas.

RSCC meeting postponed A meeting to be convened by the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) on February 8 in Kampala to review the economic embargo imposed on Burundi since July 1996 was postponed until February 12. A key subject of discussion is expected to include the resumption of humanitarian flights to and from Nairobi which have been suspended since July last year. Provided that Tanzanian over-flight clearance can be obtained, Kenya Airways may start offering a weekly humanitarian flight to Bujumbura as of February 17. On February 3, a senior diplomatic advisor to Rwandan Vice President Kagame indicated that Rwanda was prepared to consider lifting the sanctions.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees to visit Burundi Ms. Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be visiting Burundi from February 12 to 14 as part of a 20-day African tour. Her visit to Burundi will include a visit to Cibitoke province. In total, she will be visiting nine countries from February 5 to 25, including Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Congo-Brazzaville and Ethiopia.

President Buyoya travels to Gabon President Pierre Buyoya travelled to Libreville, Gabon from February 6 to 7 to attend a summit held by the Economic Community of Central Africa. Other participants included Congo Brazzaville, CAR, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Cameroon, Sao Tome and Principe and Rwanda. =20 Burundi has been holding the presidency of this community since 1992.

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Update on nutritional situation Displaced persons from Cibitoke in need of supplementary and therapeutic feeding continue to arrive at Rwegura in Kayanza province. To better serve the beneficiaries, ACF is opening a new centre with a 450-patient capacity next week. It would be preferable to set up a programme in Cibitoke's neighbouring commune of Bukinyanyana but insecurity has so far not permitted access. ACF has now obtained authorisation to open a therapeutic feeding centre in Bubanza that will cater to the needs of 1,000 beneficiaries but problems with the land allocated on which the centre is to be constructed will delay the opening by another 6 weeks. Due to the large numbers of beneficiaries it will also be necessary to provide additional medical care; however, the opening of a temporary health post by Children's Aid Direct has had to be postponed due to lack of funding. The ACF-run feeding centre at Maramvya continues to treat 600 beneficiaries in the therapeutic feeding centre while the supplementary feeding programme remains suspended. Meanwhile, MSF Belgium reports that the situation in Karuzi and Ruyigi feeding centres is stabilising while 40 new people were admitted to the therapeutic feeding centre in Bujumbura. The latter centre, located at the Johnson and Le Gentil sites is being enlarged to better cope with the rising number of beneficiaries. The centre registered 120, 180 and 220 patients in November, December and January, respectively.

Meanwhile, a joint WFP/SCF assessment carried out in Gitega last month revealed that the global malnutrition rate in the province is 20 percent of which 5 percent is rated severe. The situation is slightly worse in the northern part of the province. It was found that people with access to only half a hectare of land or less could not cultivate enough to cover their needs to obtain a minimum requirement of 1,900 kcal per day. In addition, insecurity and heavy rains have contributed to a poor harvest. Solidarité-E9s reports an increase in admissions to feeding centres in Muramvya province from 1,700 in December to 2,000 at the end of January with the therapeutic feeding centre filled to capacity (100 patients). AHP (Austrian Help Programme) is in the process of launching its programme in Bururi where the NGO plans to implement feeding programmes in nine health centres to assist up to 2,000 beneficiaries. AHP will start their programme in three centres from February 16. AHP also plans to open a therapeutic feeding centre with a 200-bed capacity in the provincial capital.

Kamenge reinstallation UNHCR convened a follow-up meeting to discuss the reinstallation of displaced persons from the Johnson and Le Gentil sites in Bujumbura back to Kamenge. The meeting was attended by the 'chef de zone' and a representative from the mayor's office who had approached UNHCR and requested that they assist with the transfer of the displaced population to a temporary, more secure site closer to their former 'quartiers' while the inhabitants rebuild their homes. Although most humanitarian organisations currently intervening at the two sites would be prepared to transfer their relief activities to the new site, it is not yet clear who will be involved in assisting with the reconstruction of up to 2,000 houses. The meeting was attended by WFP, GVC, CRS, MSF Belgium and OCHA.

CAD reports on situation in Bubanza The NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD) reports that the harvest in Bubanza has been poor as a result of excessive rain which, in addition to insecurity and limited access to land, further threatens the already precarious food security situation. To improve results in feeding centres, CAD provided double dry rations in its supplementary feeding centres during December and January and is now evaluating the results. CAD reports that large numbers continue to arrive from Musigati and other inaccessible areas situated north of the town of Bubanza (CAD plans to open a feeding programme in Musigati commune once security permits). CAD is planning to launch an integrated agricultural/nutrition pilot project in which mothers whose children are enrolled in the supplementary feeding programmes will form women's groups and be allocated nearby plots of land to improve their agricultural skills while receiving Food For Work for their efforts. These "demonstration gardens" will be supported by FAO which will donate seeds, tools, and fertiliser. The main objective is to show the population how to increase the variety of their diet and provide more balanced meals by simple means. CAD will also launch a second anthropometric survey in mid-February in the same accessible areas in which the first base-line survey was conducted last August. The number of beneficiaries in supplementary feeding programmes run by CAD in 6 centres has risen from 3,684 to 4,901 from December to January with 3,200 registered in the provincial

capital alone. CAD cannot accept any new admissions as the centre is at present filled to capacity. At the same time, 3,100 pregnant and lactating mothers in the province also receive supplementary feeding.

WFP/FAO food and crop supply assessment mission A joint FAO/WFP food and crop supply assessment mission arrived in country on February 2. Three teams composed of representatives from FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture are visiting each province to assess the results from the latest harvest. The last such assessment mission took place in June last year. At the same time, a UNICEF team is evaluating the nutritional situation in several provinces.

Cibitoke coordination meeting On 3 February, UNHCR, in its capacity as lead agency for Cibitoke, held a coordination meeting attended by all implementing agencies in the province. UNHCR reports that the security situation in Cibitoke has generally improved over the last year with fewer and smaller attacks taking place. HCR staff no longer need to travel in an armoured vehicle although a military escort is still required. A UN security cell mission travelled to the off-limits communes of Bukinyanyana, Murwi and Mabayi that day to evaluate the possibility of humanitarian missions in the near future. Mugina and Rugombo communes, by contrast, remain calm and most site populations have been able to return to their homes. The Governor of Cibitoke has announced that all displaced will be able to return to their collines by the end of July. A return calendar has, however, not yet been provided. He indicated that new military posts would be created nearer to people's original homes in order to facilitate a safe return. A special meeting convened by the governor will take place on February 11 with all humanitarian organisations who intervene in Cibitoke at which this issue will be further discussed.

As a result of the withdrawal of IHA (Initiative Humanitaire Africaine), the Irish NGO Concern is poised to take over nutritional feeding activities at Ndava and Gasenyi as soon as authorisation has been received by the central authorities. Concern will also carry out a nutrition survey in other communes and may open a therapeutic feeding centre in the town of Cibitoke. MSF France/Holland may take over IHA's health activities at these two sites and open a surgical unit at Cibitoke hospital. After having constructed 600 houses (300 in Rugombo, 100 in Mugina and 200 in Buganda), ADRA is now planning to build 1,000 more over the course of 1998, security conditions permitting in Murwi. The FAO coordinated seed distribution to 10,000 households is set to begin around February 20th and will be carried out by ARP and Christian Aid; WFP will be despatching seven day seed protection rations at the same time.

UNICEF assistance to education sector continues UNICEF's programme to provide training to teachers continued with workshops being offered in Kayanza and Muramvya provinces from January 12 to 24. The courses focus on basic peace education and children's rights. So far, over 1,000 teachers in 14 of Burundi's 15 provinces have benefited from this project. In addition, UNICEF continues to construct temporary schools in Karuzi and Cibitoke. In the former province, 16 schools and 2 sanitary blocks have been completed while an additional 8 classrooms and 2 sanitary blocks will be finalised by mid February. In Cibitoke, 20 classrooms have been constructed so far.

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Burundi - Daily Summary of Main Events 26 July 1996

Bujumbura was reportedly calm today, Friday 26 July, after yesterday's bloodless coup during which Pierre Buyoya was installed as President. Buyoya, who was President of Burundi from 1987 to 1993, said in an interview today that he seized power to save his people. Burundi's President Ntibantunganya has refused to resign and says he is still President. The main Burundian opposition party, the CNDD, has said that it will starve out the capital Bujumbura and Gitega to bring the new leaders to the negotiating table. Fighting is reported around Gitega, while Ngozi is reported calm. Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, head of PARENA, has said that his party would resist the coup "with peaceful means."

The Burundian Minister of Defence, Colonel Firmin Sinzoyiheba, announced on state radio yesterday afternoon that the national assembly and all political parties would be suspended and that the borders and Bujumbura airport would be closed until further notice. A private flight was reported to have landed this afternoon, however, and a UN flight from Nairobi has been scheduled for tomorrow, 27 July.

The international community has mostly denounced the effort to oust President Ntibantunganya; the French Government being the only major western government which has not condemned the coup outright. The UN and most western governments have pledged that the change in government will not be recognized. The Secretary-General of the OAU warned yesterday that any coup in Burundi would be met by force. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali said that the international community would "on no account" accept the Army-backed coup d'etat. The US, which first described the take-over as a "profound government crisis", and later condemned it as a "coup," is reported to be softening its opinion of Buyoya, claiming he has shown a "preference" for democracy in the past.

The European Union has announced that it will withdraw its development aid programmes to Burundi. South Africa has pledged that it will not recognize any government brought about

through force of arms. The Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said that the Burundi crisis demanded the full attention of the United Nations and should not be left to Africans alone. On Thursday, France reacted to the coup by saying that the search for national reconciliation must prevail in Burundi and that Buyoya appeared to have been appointed "in order to breathe new life into national debate and democracy".

Oxfam said yesterday that Burundi faces a bloodbath unless the international community backs the peace plan. ACTIONAID has called on the UN to take immediate responsibility for helping the hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the country. The British NGO further alleged that there is an "alarming gap" in the UN system, with no UN agency having overall responsibility for internally displaced persons.

Today, there were only minor reports of violence in Bujumbura although there was some shooting and grenade throwing in the capital yesterday. Army roadblocks established yesterday at major intersections in Bujumbura were reported to have been removed today although patrols were reported to be out in force at the university, a stronghold of support for former President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Tutsi youth are believed to be supportive of the more extreme Bagaza instead of Buyoya who is known as the person who brought democratic elections to Burundi, effectively removing the Tutsi-dominated parties from power.

Tanzania called today for an emergency summit meeting of east and central African heads of state in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, early next week to consider the appropriate response to the crisis in Burundi. States who attended the June 25 Arusha Summit are invited, as is Cameroon, who occupies the chair of the OAU. It is reported that Tanzania has also asked South African President Nelson Mandela to attend.

The UN is continuing to discuss possibilities of deploying a multi-national military force in Burundi, but so far only three countries have agreed to make troops available and no government has agreed to assume the leadership role for such an intervention.

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CANADA SUPPORTS ARUSHA DECLARATION ON BURUNDI

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for La Francophonie Pierre S. Pettigrew today expressed support for the Arusha Declaration. The Declaration was made by the Heads of State and of Government of Central Africa's Great Lakes region at the end of the second subregional summit on Burundi, held July 31 in Arusha, Tanzania. The Ministers also gave their support to the resolutions and undertakings made during the course of the summit, with the aim of restoring peace and security in Burundi.

"The firm, courageous stand taken by the region's Heads of State and of Government in favour of an immediate return to constitutional order and democratic process in Burundi has earned our admiration and our full support," said Mr. Axworthy.

The July 31 Declaration calls on Burundi's current regime to restore the National Assembly and political parties. The countries taking part in the Summit also agreed to impose economic sanctions on Burundi in order to encourage all the warring elements, including the armed parties and factions within and outside the country, to meet at the negotiating table.

"Canada stands ready, with other donors, to support reconstruction in Burundi, but there must be stability and peace for this effort to succeed," said Mr. Pettigrew. "The first step is negotiations, and we join the region's leaders in urging that peace talks take place immediately."

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 14 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

Two international commercial flights departed from Bujumbura yesterday (Tuesday) transporting some 400 people out of the country. Among them was the wife of the former president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, who fled to the US embassy two days before the military-backed 25 July coup d'etat. The Belgian airline, Sabena said that the flights would be the last for several weeks. Although the new regime is reported to have authorised the departure of former Finance Minister, Salvator Toyi who had taken refuge at the European Community Mission in Bujumbura, US officials in Washington said that Ntibantunganya was still at the US Ambassador's residence in Bujumbura.

The US State Department said Tuesday that it intended to keep its embassy open, and none of the 23 US officials are leaving Burundi. Many embassies in Bujumbura have urged non-essential personnel to leave. Howard Wolpe, the US Special Envoy for Burundi, arrived in Bujumbura yesterday on one of the Sabena flights.

Petrol coupons have been introduced in Burundi, limiting the quantity of petrol to 20 litres a month for private cars, 40 litres for taxis, 80 for vans used as public transport, 400 litres for trucks and buses, 200 litres for tractors and 6 litres for motorbikes.

The new Burundi regime has sent Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama to Europe in a bid to convince European governments that sanctions are "counter-productive". Rukingama, who was not officially invited to any European country, said in Brussels on Monday that economic sanctions "will serve the cause of the extremists" and create hardship for ordinary Burundians.

Consultations continue between the UN and other aid agencies on the one hand, and regional governments and the OAU on the other, to try to devise guidelines for the types and extent of possible exemptions to the sanctions. Both humanitarian agencies and the Burundian government report a shortage of drugs and medicine in the country.

The Tanzanian government has announced that it will set up a panel of experts to monitor the sanctions and address the question of merchandise that is currently blocked in Tanzania. Following appeals from UN and other agencies, Tanzania on Monday also agreed to allow humanitarian aid cargo into Burundi. A WFP convoy of 210 tonnes of beans is presently in Ngara, Tanzania ready to cross the border. However, tomorrow is a public holiday in Burundi and it not sure whether the crossing will be possible.

The Government of Rwanda on 10 August reinforced its announcement that its borders with Burundi were closed, but said that all Rwandese refugees in Burundi should contact UNHCR which will assist them to return to Rwanda. UN and other aid organisations are asked by the Rwandan Government to channel aid destined for the Rwandese camps in Burundi to Rwanda to assist in the repatriation and reintegration of returnees.

A new UN attempt to attract troops for a rapid force for Burundi has again failed to gather support from the international community, UN sources reportedly said on Tuesday. Thirty-one states were asked for troop contributions and only one, which was understood to be Ethiopia, has replied positively, the reports say.

[ENDS]

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 15 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's leader since President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya was ousted last month by a military coup, says that his newly-formed transitional government will hold power for three years in spite of sanctions. In an address broadcast on Wednesday, Buyoya set out a shape of the transitional government and called for a national debate on Burundi's future. He said that the debate would begin by November and that the national assembly would be reconstituted - in a modified form - by September. Buyoya's four point plan also included political and social reconstruction. In imposing sanctions after the coup, the region's leaders, backed by other African states, have called for an end to the ban on political parties, the start of all party negotiations and the restoration of constitutional government.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim, who arrived in Nairobi on Wednesday for talks with President Daniel arap Moi, said that he did not recognise Buyoya but would talk to him as "one of the important factors in the Burundi situation". Salim said that his Nairobi talks would include the mechanisms for monitoring the sanctions and the requests from aid agencies for waivers to allow humanitarian cargo into Burundi. A WFP convoy, transporting 210 tonnes of beans, crossed into Burundi on Wednesday night from Tanzania and arrived in Ngozi this afternoon. WFP is now negotiating with the Tanzanian authorities to allow a further 2,800 tonnes of food aid into Burundi from the Lake Tanganyika port of Kigoma. The Foreign Minister of Kenya, Kalonzo Musyoka, has said that his country will allow only exemptions in extreme circumstances and only for medicines and humanitarian aid.

Although sanctions are now in their third week, ordinary consumers in Burundi are said to have not yet felt wide-scale shortages. Petrol is rationed, but the government says there is enough petrol in the country for two months. It has also threatened action against profiteers.

The voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Burundi continues, with up to five hundred returning today (Thursday).

The wife of President Ntibantunganya, who left Burundi Tuesday by the last commercial flight out of the country, said yesterday that her husband has been prevented from leaving Burundi. He is still in refuge at the US embassy. Burundi's new foreign minister, who has been visiting Brussels and Paris, denied that Ntibantunganya is being kept in Burundi against his will and told a press conference in Paris that Buyoya and Ntibantunganya had discussed arrangements for Ntibantunganya's departure. Sources in Bujumbura say that the ousted president was told he could leave on Tuesday night with his wife but on condition that he left from his own residence and not directly from the US Ambassador's home.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday agreed to release a report on the assassination in 1993 of Burundi's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye. The report had been delayed because of fears that it could create further ethnic unrest in Burundi. The 72-page report, which accuses both Hutu and Tutsi leaders of organising "acts of genocide", concludes that the assassination of Ndadaye was planned in advance as part of the coup in 1993 and mentions contradictory evidence about the role of Colonel Jean Bikomagu, then and now the Chief of Staff of the Burundian Army. However, the commission which wrote the report says that there is a lack of sufficient evidence concerning both the assassination and massacres following the coup and makes no recommendation how to bring those suspected to justice.

[ENDS]

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Burundi: Statement by the US Catholic Conference and CRS 96.8.14

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A Statement by

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly
Chairman, Committee on International Policy
UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Bishop John H. Ricard
President, Catholic Relief Services
UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

14 August 1996

Statement in Response to the Crisis in Burundi

Burundi is a country on a deadly spiral of chaos and destruction, but a poignant reality remains unchanged: the vast majority of the country's population expresses hope for peace and reconciliation. That hundreds are killed week after week is ample proof that a new path for peace and justice must be found. The people of Burundi deserve a respite from terror.

During a recent trip to Burundi, Bishop John H. Ricard, and CRS Executive Director Kenneth F. Hackett were able to witness first hand the poignant reality of life in Burundi. Few Burundians have been untouched by the violence and intimidation or the anxiety and grief that have destroyed countless families and communities. Life has become a nightmare for many thousands. Our heartfelt prayers go out to the families of the slain and to the victims of these egregious acts of terror. All wanton acts of violence against innocent lives must cease. Under standards of international law, civilians must never be the objects of direct attack and military personnel must avoid and minimize indirect harm to noncombatants.

The United States Catholic bishops applaud the efforts of international relief organizations that have provided invaluable and impartial assistance to hundreds of thousands since the war began in 1993. The efforts of former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere along with other regional heads of state deserve the strong support of the international community and Burundian political leaders.

The U.S. bishops believe that there is no military solution to the problems of Burundi. Military intervention in the absence of a political strategy for Burundi and the region will almost certainly fail to provide a lasting solution to the conflict. We, however, cannot support actions which prevent humanitarian relief from entering the country, thereby threatening the wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of people. We do support preparations in the United Nations for a stand-by force, to be used in the event of extreme emergency.

We support the Burundian bishops who are committed, as they have been throughout the conflict, to fostering peace at the village level through initiatives in local dioceses as well as at

the national level. In a powerful gesture of hope, local counterpart organizations in the countryside continue to request the assistance of Catholic Relief Services for long-term development initiatives. The United States Catholic Conference, through Catholic Relief Services, has pledged to sustain such efforts, with particular attention to efforts of community organizations to build peace and support its advocates. By providing assistance to such organizations, the agency seeks to build the capacity of local actors to establish peace with justice among neighbors.

We join with the Burundian Episcopal Conference in urging the new leadership in Burundi to seek peace. The human values of solidarity and compassion oblige influential Burundians at all levels--leaders in communities, parishes and villages as well as nationally--to address the underlying causes of the conflict through peaceful means.

We believe that true peace and reconciliation will occur in Burundi only when the political process is genuinely participatory, when there are educational opportunities for all youth, when service in the army is open to all citizens, when the culture of impunity is broken, and when there is a lively concern for human rights and a vigorous rejection of their violation so that all Burundians may become fully aware of their own dignity as well as the dignity of every human being.

[ENDS]

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Burundi: Regional Foreign Ministers Meeting Press Release 96.8.16

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PRESS RELEASE

1. The Foreign Ministers of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zaire and Uganda met in Kampala on 16 August 1996 to examine the implementation of sanctions on Burundi as decided by the Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi held on 31 July 1996. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Zambia, representatives of Ethiopia and the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAU.
2. The Ministers took stock of each country's implementation of the sanctions on Burundi and assessed their impact. They expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the sanctions so far and urged their strict observance.
3. The Ministers agreed to set up a Regional Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of H.E. General Mirisho S Sarakikya, Tanzania High Commissioner to Kenya, based in Nairobi to harmonise, monitor and coordinate the activities of the national sanctions committees. Furthermore, the committee will advise the Ministerial Technical Committee on further action including reporting on violations.
4. The Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee will be composed of Ambassadors/High Commissioners of participating countries based in Nairobi, representatives of Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia and representatives from National Focal Points; the OAU Chairman and the OAU Secretariat.
5. The Ministers reviewed the issue of humanitarian supplies to Burundi and decided that the sanctions will be comprehensive. Only human medicines will be exempted and emergency basic food aid to Rwandese refugees in Burundi.
6. The Ministers agreed to impose a travel ban on all members of the Buyoya regime within the region.
7. The Ministers reiterated that the purpose of the sanctions is to put pressure on the Bujumbura regime to undertake measures aimed at returning Burundi to legitimacy and consitutional order as well as commencing immediate and unconditional negotiations in accordance with the decisions of the Arusha Regional Summit of 31 July 1996.
8. The Ministers renewed their appeal to the international community to support the regional efforts on sanctions on Burundi.
9. The Regional Coordination Committee will meet on 31st August 1996 to review the implementation of sanctions and thereafter meet monthly. It will advise the Ministerial Technical Committee on when to meet.
10. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Uganda for playing host to the meeting and for the hospitality accorded to them and their delegations.

Kampala: 16th August 1996.

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 16 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

The foreign ministers of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Zaire, along with representatives of the governments of Ethiopia and Cameroon, met in Kampala today (Friday) to review sanctions against Burundi. A press release issued at the close of the meeting said that the sanctions "will be comprehensive". Ministers have banned travel to their countries by members of the regime. As far as humanitarian aid is concerned, "only human medicines and "emergency basic food aid to Rwandese refugees" would be exempted from the embargo, the statement said. A regional coordination committee is to be set up in Nairobi to monitor sanctions and will hold its first meeting on August 31st.

Regional countries, supported by other African states, are blocking Burundi's trade and transport following the 25 July military-backed coup d'etat. Zambia also announced today that it was joining the sanctions with immediate effect. Zambia exports cement and sugar to Burundi. Humanitarian exemptions for UN cargo travelling by road from Tanzania had already been agreed, but other issues remain unresolved. Among them were the status of international NGO cargo and personnel, fuel and other items.

Citing a foreign source close to the Burundian army, The Guardian newspaper today alleged that the Burundian army has killed "several thousand" civilians in a wide-ranging offensive since the coup.

On Thursday 15 August, a spokesman for FRODEBU, the Burundian party which won the 1993 elections, and to which President Ntibantunganya belongs, threatened expulsion for any member who joins the new transitional assembly. According to news reports, the rebel CNDD's leader, Leonard Nyangoma, today rejected overtures from Buyoya to participate in a "national debate", saying "we have decided to continue battling all the putschists".

The Burundian Army is reported to have had an indifferent reaction to the UN report questioning the role of the Army in the 1993 assassination of Melchior Ndadaye, Burundi's first Hutu president. The report pointed the finger at Colonel Jean Bikomagu the military chief

of staff at the time of the 1993 and still in office, but failed to produce enough evidence to proceed with prosecution. A spokesman for the Army is reported to have said, "if some soldiers are punished, no problem".

The Burundian Army reported yesterday (Thursday) that rebel groups had blocked the principal route north from the capital to Rwanda in two places. Reporters travelling on the route said that all settlements for a distance of 30 miles north of Bujumbura had been abandoned and that military roadblocks had been erected in some places.

Earlier in the week, Radio Burundi announced the appointment of four new governors, including replacements in the troubled provinces of Cibitoke and Gitega.

UNHCR reports that 1,200 Rwandans voluntarily repatriated from Burundi during the week ending 15 August 1996.

[ENDS]

17:05 GMT Nairobi

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 20 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

Burundi's new leader, Pierre Buyoya, is reported today to have sacked three of the country's most powerful security officials. Most prominent is the Army Chief of Staff, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, named in a recent UN report into the October 1993 assassination of president Melchior Ndadaye. The other two officials are the head of the gendarmerie, Colonel Pascal Simbanduku (also named in the UN report), and Presidential security chief, Gedeon Fyiroko.

As many as 7,000 Rwandan refugees are reported to have left Magara camp in northern Burundi yesterday and a further 4,500 were expected today. The increased rate of return comes after the killing of three refugees just outside the camp at the weekend. The killings followed disturbances in the camp on Saturday when stones were thrown at the Burundian soldiers and aid workers during a camp reorganization. Refugees arriving in Rwanda said that the army had launched a campaign of intimidation to force them back to Rwanda. Some 58,000 refugees have returned to Rwanda since July 18 1996. The refugees remaining in Burundi are in Magara (14,000) and Rukuramigabo (13,000) camps. Burundi's new leader, Pierre Buyoya, says that he is opposed to the expulsion of refugees and has sent a team to investigate the reasons for their movement out of the camp. Burundian refugees are arriving in Zaire at a rate of about 200 per day, and in Ngara, Tanzania at about 60 a day.

Six people, including a nurse, were killed in an attack on a medical centre in Ngozi province and a hospital within Magara refugee camp was looted overnight on Sunday. Medicine and other materials were stolen. There are also growing concerns for the safety of aid convoys following Friday's announcement by regional leaders that only medicines and food for refugees would be exempt from sanctions. Medical NGOs have also warned that the health situation in Burundi is very precarious and disease could break out unless the flow and distribution of medicines can be assured.

Rebels from Burundi's National Council for the Defence of Democracy/Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD/FDD) were today (Tuesday) reported to be battling military forces for control of the two Burundi national highways which link the country with Rwanda.

A spokesman for the CNDD said that they wanted to control movement on the highways to prevent a violation of the regional economic embargo against Burundi. Rwanda earlier this month joined other African neighbours in placing sanctions on Burundi following the 25 July military-backed coup d'etat, but the CNDD says it fears that there may be attempts by Rwanda to break the embargo. Independent sources have reported clashes between the Army and the rebel group in the provinces of Muramvya and Gitega.

Earlier this week, the CNDD and Frodebu accused the Burundi regime of continued massacres, claiming that more than 5,000 people have been killed in Burundi since 25 July 1996. Five people were reported by humanitarian workers to have been killed early today in Kamenge, an abandoned Hutu district north of Bujumbura. The circumstances of the deaths are not yet known. "Ethnic cleansing" in Kamenge last year displaced its mainly Hutu population into the hills and to displaced persons camps in Bujumbura.

In a statement released in Brussels yesterday, the European Union called for a cessation of violence in Burundi and for talks between the political parties to negotiate an end to the crisis. The statement, issued on behalf of the EU by Ireland, said that it would support recovery efforts in Burundi if resolve was shown.

South Africa has announced a special envoy to contribute to African diplomatic efforts to end the crisis in Burundi. The envoy is Welile Nhlapo, the current ambassador both to Ethiopia and to the OAU. Nhlapo's main function is to assist the Nyerere initiative which seeks to bring Burundi's political parties into negotiations.

[ENDS]

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 21 August 1996

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Burundi's regime has reiterated its opposition to UN proposals for a multinational force in Burundi, following a statement in support of the proposal by Dr Boutros-Ghali yesterday. Jean-Luc Ndizeye, spokesman for Pierre Buyoya said, "we are against the sending of foreign troops. We are not surprised by Boutros-Ghali's declaration but we are opposed to it." He added, "This approach does not take into account the reality in Burundi. It is up to we Burundians to take our destiny in hand."

The comments come in the wake of the UN Secretary-General's latest report to the Security Council, in which Dr Boutros-Ghali stated that "the international community must allow for the possibility that the worst may happen and that genocide may occur in Burundi. In that case, whatever Governments may think now, military intervention to save lives might become an inescapable imperative."

The report acknowledged, however, that previous efforts to find countries willing to take the lead in mobilizing and organizing such a force had met with little response. Two proposals had been considered by UN Member States, a peace-keeping operation and a force for humanitarian intervention deployed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Some 86 Member States had been approached regarding a contribution to the peacekeeping proposal, of which 20 had replied, 14 positively and 6 negatively. On the humanitarian intervention force proposal, nearly 50 countries were approached, of whom 21 replied, and 11 declined to participate. Of the 10 positive replies, only three member states offered troops.

Dr Boutros-Ghali was critical of the coup d'etat of July 25, stating that "the forceful overthrow of the legal Government will not solve the problems of Burundi. It will reinforce the fears of one side and strengthen extremists on both sides. It will increase violence and add to the suffering of the Burundian people. It thus makes political dialogue all the more imperative."

On sanctions, the report suggests that they "should not be seen as an instrument of punishment, nor should they be allowed to add to the hardship of the suffering people of Burundi. They are,

as always, a means to an end. The end in this case is the opening of serious negotiations for a political settlement." Consultations on establishing humanitarian exemptions continue.

Burundi's Prime Minister, Pascal-Firmin Ndimira, has claimed that sanctions imposed upon the country threaten to create 'a humanitarian catastrophe'. He is reported to have written to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation stating that there will be a famine if food supplies do not reach the country by the middle of next month. "If by mid-September, this food is not in Bujumbura and if no other provisions are put in place rapidly, Burundi risks an unprecedented famine and a very serious humanitarian catastrophe", he said.

[ENDS]

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[IRIN Note: These are informal notes taken by a participant at the meeting of the Burundi Policy Forum yesterday.]

The seventeenth monthly meeting of the Burundi Policy Forum, a coalition of government and nongovernment agencies and international organizations whose goal is to coordinate activities to help prevent ethnic warfare in Burundi, met in Washington, DC on Thursday, August 22, 1996.

Five distinguished speakers presented their views on the current situation in Burundi, suggested steps that might be taken to resolve the crisis, and proposed ways the international community might help.

The speakers are listed alphabetically and their remarks have been synthesized to comply with the request that no remarks be attributed.

A. Speakers

Anatole Kanyenkiko
Former Mayor of Bujumbura and Prime Minister of Burundi

Jean Minani
Former Minister of Public Health and President of FRODEBU

Emmanuel Mpfayokurera
Former Prime Minister and MP

Jean-Marie Ngendahayo
Former Minister of Commerce and Minister of State and Foreign Affairs

Adrien Sibomana
Former Governor of Muramvya province, Prime Minister of Burundi, and MP

B. Analysis of the present situation

All of the speakers agreed that the current dire situation in Burundi is related directly to the past thirty years of ethnic and political conflict, particularly the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye in October 1993 and the coup d'etat led by former president Pierre Buyoya in July 1996. The speakers further generally agreed that armed Hutu rebels, Tutsi militias, and the Burundian military and gendarmerie are stealing cattle, destroying homes, assassinating political leaders, and "creating victims," mostly civilian.

One speaker said that the actions of rebel groups, e.g., FDD, CNDD, FROLINA, and Palepahutu, are justified because of the actions of the Burundian security forces, specifically the 1972 genocide. Their actions continue to be justified, the speaker said, because of the army's actions in 1993, which led to Ndadaye's assassination. The speaker noted that the Tutsi militias use the existence of Hutu rebel groups to justify their own actions.

Another speaker said that the majority of Burundians--including many Tutsis-- do not trust Buyoya, who said he was democratizing Burundi, designed an election that he expected to win, but who lost. The speaker added that FRODEBU will not cooperate in a national debate or with a national assembly created and/or led by Buyoya. "You can't," as another speaker said, "participate and be a judge at the same time."

Speakers commented on the irony of Buyoya's image outside of the country as a reasoned moderate and a "nice guy," and admonished the audience not to be fooled. One noted Buyoya's claim to have been "appointed" by the army, though he recently fired two chiefs of staff, thus demonstrating his control of the army.

On the topic of the Burundi security forces, various speakers made the following observations:

- * The leadership is not only mono-ethnically Tutsi, but Tutsis of a certain Bururi-based sub-clan.
- * The army, instead of fighting rebels, kills civilians in retaliation for losses to rebels, or to punish the population for supporting the rebels. * The army has restored "quiet" to an "ethnically-cleansed" Bujumbura, but killings continue unabated in the countryside. Some speakers claim that ninety percent or more of the killings in Burundi are attributable to the security forces.
- * There is poor separation between the army and the gendarmerie, both of which function in clearly political ways. Neither have precise missions or are under civilian rule.
- * The recent UN report on the inquiry into the 1993 coup perpetuates the current climate of impunity by not clearly implicating individuals in the security forces or recommending prosecutions.

C. Recommendations

- * Buyoya and his colleagues should return power to the legally constituted government.
- * A cease-fire should be declared and enforced so that a national debate can take place. (Some called for Buyoya to remove himself from power before such a debate could take place. Some said the debate should include all groups--even rebels.) The debate will determine how to: reconstitute the justice system and end the climate of impunity; clarify the missions of the security forces and bring them under civilian rule; and raise the level of political debate and the capacity for self-development among the general population.
- * The climate of impunity should be brought to an end, and an international tribunal should prosecute and punish wrongdoers. * The embargo undertaken by the five neighboring countries should be supported.
- * Those with political ambitions should promote unity, have an economic agenda for Burundi, and be able to demonstrate what they did, or are doing, to improve life for average Burundians.
- * The army and the rebel groups should be neutralized by an international peacekeeping force.
- * The army should be reconstituted as a more truly "national" army. * Burundi should begin looking toward regional integration to address its fundamental problem of poverty.

D. How the international community can help

* Remain firm in its condemnation of violence as a means of gaining power. * Apply pressure to free the refugees hiding under the protection of various embassies: the president, the speaker, MPs, and ministers. * Support and help enforce the regional embargo. * Help train and educate disadvantaged Hutus. * Support an international tribunal.

* Support the national debate.

* Support negotiations between all parties involved in the conflict. * Support Nyerere's initiatives in the region. * Support an international peacekeeping force. (There was significant debate

on this suggestion: Would an "occupation" force be welcome in Burundi? Would such a force be for the convenience of the international community, which is tired of the conflict and resorting to an "easy" solution? Could such a force successfully neutralize the army and the rebel groups?) * Support the placement of human rights observers. * Provide economic support.

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 23 Aug 1996 18:20:48 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: IRIN Summary of Main Events for 23 August 1996 96.08.23

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Integrated Regional Information Network

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 23 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources. IRIN does not guarantee a report every day - only when deemed necessary.

Some 6,000 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda from Burundi yesterday, leaving Magara camp and crossing the border during the night. This leaves only 220 refugees remaining in the camp. UNHCR planned to distribute a five day food ration to these people today and currently has no plans to transfer these people to Rukuramigabo camp. This brings to over 50,000 the number of Rwandan refugees who have returned to Rwanda from Burundi since the beginning of August.

There are currently only 11,220 Rwandan refugees remaining in Burundi, 11,000 of which are in Rukamarigabo camp. On Wednesday 400 went back to Rwanda, followed by a further 600 yesterday. A UNHCR spokesman estimated that up to 1,000 could leave the camp today. UNHCR, he said, was keen not to register more than 1,000 refugees today in order not to increase pressure on the Musange transit camp in Rwanda. There are currently 17,000 people living in the Butare transit camp. They are being transferred to their home communes on a daily basis; 3,262 yesterday and an anticipated 6,000 today.

A cargo plane carrying 24 tonnes of drugs and medical materials from MSF France arrived in Bujumbura from Nairobi yesterday afternoon. The French relief agency plans to use the drugs to supply dispensaries in several locations around the country and says that these will assist more than one million people over the next three months. The MSF-chartered flight represents the first relief supplies to reach Burundi by air since the embargo imposed by Regional Governments was put in place. Rebel groups, meanwhile, were reported to be trying to impose a blockade in Bujumbura by dissuading peasant farmers from providing food. Aid workers said yesterday that they had been told of death threats against farmers. The central market as of yesterday however was said to be working normally. No major shortages were reported and food prices were stable.

UNICEF will suspend its operations in Burundi at the end of next week unless Regional Governments relax sanctions, according to a Reuters news report. The news agency quoted

Michel Sidibe, UNICEF's Representative in Burundi, as saying that "at the end of next week... UNICEF will stop working for lack of fuel and as a result our entire immunisation programme for the year will be wiped out".

More than 6,000 people have been killed in Burundi since the July 25 coup, according to Amnesty International. Amnesty said that it had learnt that at least 4,050 civilians were extrajudicially executed between July 27 and August 10 by Burundi Government forces in Giheta district of Gitega province. "We are disturbed that as many people have been massacred since the coup as were reported killed in the previous three months", Amnesty said. The Amnesty figures are similar to claims by FRODEBU, made on August 16, that the Army had massacred 5,000 Hutu civilians since the coup.

A spokesman for Burundi's leader Pierre Buyoya yesterday denied the findings in the Amnesty report. According to Reuters, Jean-Luc Ndizeye said, "Amnesty International is either completely misguided or is falling into a propaganda trap. I am positive that they are misinformed and that these numbers are outrageous".

Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, a former foreign minister in Burundi, on Wednesday appealed directly to UN Security Council Members to support sanctions against the country. He was speaking on behalf of former President Ntibantunganya, overthrown on 25 July. Ngendahayo also said the president was appealing to the international community to "help him and others leave the country".

[ENDS]
15:20 GMT

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Date: Fri, 23 Aug 1996 23:38:27 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: Amnesty International News Service 96.8.23

Sender: irinwire-owner@sasa.unon.org
To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org (Multiple recipients of UN DHA IRIN Wire Service) Reply-to:
irinwire@sasa.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: bulk
X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org

Date: Fri, 23 Aug 1996 09:21:55 -0400 (EDT)

This News Service is posted by the
International Secretariat of Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ
(Tel +44-71-413-5500, Fax +44-71-956-1157)

BURUNDI: MORE THAN 6,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE THE COUP D-ETAT

The human rights situation in Burundi continues to deteriorate, despite promises by Major Pierre Buyoya who came to power on 25 July 1996 to end killings and prevent forcible repatriation of Rwandese refugees. More than 6,000 people are reported to have been killed in various parts of Burundi in a space of three weeks since 25 July 1996.

~Detailed reports of serious human rights abuses in Burundi show that promises of an end to violence which the new leaders of Burundi are not been kept. We are disturbed that as many people have been massacred since the coup as were reported killed in the preceding three months,~Amnesty International said.

The worldwide human rights organization learned that at least 4,050 unarmed civilians have been buried after being extrajudicially executed between 27 July and 10 August 1996 by Burundi government forces in Giheta district (commune) of Gitega province. Most of these victims were killed after the army came to their villages, ostensibly to obtain information about movements of rebels. Soldiers then assembled the victims and shot them, apparently after they denied knowledge of the whereabouts of rebels. The 4,050 victims do not include people who may have died from gunshot and other wounds in the bush or drowned in rivers while fleeing.

~As the army reportedly prevented access by independent observers to Nyabitanga, Mugera and Giheta areas, it becomes very difficult to obtain more details on such killings,~ Amnesty International added. ~This pattern is being repeated in other parts of the country.~

More massacres by government forces have been reported in rural Bujumbura, Muramvya, Kayanza and Cibitoke provinces. The wife and four children, one three years old, of Honorata Murishi in Rural Bujumbura's Muhuta district were extrajudicially executed on 29 July. In Mutimbuzi district, 39 people, 25 of them rice growers (riziculteurs) at Carama and Tenga, were extrajudicially executed on 9 August. On 7 August soldiers from Kiganda, Kanerwa and Bweza, with students from Kiganda, killed more than 200 people in Muramvya's Rutegama district.

At least six prisoners on death row in Mpimba prison, in Bujumbura, have been transferred to a secluded cell since 9 August. They risk being subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or being executed in the next few days. The transfer took place

a day after senior civil servants in Bujumbura demanded the public hanging of Hutu prisoners sentenced to death between February and June 1996 after grossly unfair trials.

~The death sentence as an ultimate cruel punishment would also further exacerbate the already intolerable violence in Burundi,~ Amnesty International said.

The organization is also concerned about reports that all sides to the armed conflict are executing virtually all captured combatants.

Moreover, on 8 August government soldiers extrajudicially executed an affluent Hutu businessman known as Nkeshimana and six members of his family. On 10 August, about 30 peasants who were working in their fields ~disappeared~ after an army raid in Gasenyi, near Bujumbura. On 19 August 1996 government soldiers and Tutsi civilians from Ruhororo camp for the displaced reportedly attacked Mubuga health centre in Ngozi province, killing seven Hutu and looting the health centre. The same day, at least 200 troops entered and looted property in Nyambuye village (colline) near Bujumbura. On 20 August 1996 soldiers at Gasenyi, near Bujumbura, extrajudicially executed five unarmed civilians, including two teachers at the Bujumbura Higher Technical School (Ecole technique superieure) and a secretary of Kamenge Roman Catholic parish.

Despite promises made by Major Buyoya that he would respect international law and stop refoulement of refugees, forcible repatriation has resumed. Burundi government forces are using torture and extrajudicial executions to frighten Rwandese refugees who live in the camps into returning to Rwanda.

~The army was making it clear that a similar fate awaits Rwandese refugees who remain in the camps. It appears that Major Buyoya has either gone back on his word or is not in control of the forces which brought him to power,~ Amnesty International said.

Refugees coming from Magara camp reported that government soldiers had intimidated them on 14 August by shooting in the air. Soldiers and Tutsi civilians reportedly entered Magara camp on the night of 18 August and burnt some huts. Smoke was reported to be still visible in the camp on 19 August. In addition, the governor of the province of Kirundo has reportedly stated that the Rukuramigabo refugee camp, with a population of 12,000 refugees, will be ~emptied~ by the military by 22 or 23 August.

About 30 refugees, including two unaccompanied minors aged eight and 15 and three women, arrested on 19 July 1996 and detained at Ngozi Gendarmerie detention centre (brigade) were severely tortured. At least four of them died in custody. The refugees had been deprived of food and medical care, although they had sustained severe injuries and lacerations. One of them, Alphonse Irisomotse, had what was described as a ~dangerously infected wound~, while another, Joseph Ndagijimana, lost movement in one arm.

~The Burundi authorities should order the immediate and unconditional release of any Rwandese nationals still held solely because they are refugees,~ Amnesty International said.

~The authorities should also investigate reports that many of those arrested in July 1996 were severely tortured with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.~ ENDS\

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 27 Aug 1996 16:48:17 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: UNICEF Press Release 22 August 1996 96.8.22

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To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org (Multiple recipients of UN DHA IRIN Wire Service) Reply-to:
irinwire@sasa.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: bulk
>Received: (from Usasa@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) with UUCP id
RAA04475; Tue, 27 Aug 1996 17:44:46 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org
X-Authentication-warning: ungigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!irinwire-owner using -f

[IRIN Note: The "media report" referred to in this Press Release was a newswire story
mentioned in IRIN's Daily Summary of 23 August and Weekly Round Up of 25 August 1996.]

UNICEF
United Nations Children's Fund

CF/DOC/PR 1996-22
22 August 1996

PRESS RELEASE

Contrary to media reports today (22 August), UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, has no plans to suspend its operations in Burundi. UNICEF has eight international and 74 national staff members in Burundi and UNICEF programmes are continuing in health, water and sanitation, education, nutrition, psycho-social recovery and family tracing.

UNICEF is concerned that children are already being affected by the sanctions recently imposed on the country, and that the situation will deteriorate unless steps are taken to ensure their special protection. There is particular concern at fuel shortages which are hampering cross-border reunification programmes for 20,000 unaccompanied children and may paralyze immunization activities. Burundi was on the verge of reaching 75% immunization of under one year-olds, or 190,000 children, but there are now no supplies of Polio or BCG vaccines in the country. Fuel shortages will also jeopardize the supplementary feeding programme which is currently reaching 30,000 malnourished children who have been uprooted from their homes. UNICEF currently has only three to five days' supply of fuel.

UNICEF, together with other UN-agencies and non-governmental organizations, is advocating for protected supply routes, or so-called 'humanitarian corridors', to allow the continued flow of food, fuel, vaccines, medical supplies and other items essential for the well-being of children.

For further information contact
Emily Booker
Chief Media Section
Division of Communication
UNICEF
(212) 326 7259

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN.]

[Received 27 August 1996.]

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Date: Wed, 28 Aug 1996 19:30:58 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: IRIN Summary of Main Events for 28 August 1996 96.08.28

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IRIN Daily Summary of Main Events in Burundi 28 August 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources. IRIN does not guarantee a report every day - only when deemed necessary.

The first meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee on Sanctions, due to take place on Saturday in Nairobi, has been postponed to next week and will take place in Arusha, according to Reuters. The same news report claims that the committee will not have the authority to exempt categories of relief items from the sanctions, but will focus instead on monitoring and ensuring compliance with them. The issue of exemptions will be dealt with by the Foreign Ministers of the sanctions-imposing countries, who have not met to discuss this issue since the Kampala declaration of 16 August. The news may come as a surprise to many observers of the region, who believed the committee would be the focal point for major policy decisions relating to the sanctions.

The CNDD has stated that organisations wishing to fly planes across Burundian airspace must gain permission from the CNDD. A CNDD spokesman, speaking to the BBC from Brussels, claimed that a number of small planes were landing in Burundi and suggested that regional countries were not enforcing the sanctions strictly enough. He also alleged that the local authorities in the Rwandan province of Butare are involved in violating the sanctions.

Nearly all of the Rwandan refugees in Burundi were reported to have returned to Rwanda by yesterday afternoon. The UNHCR declared its last camp for Rwandan refugees in Burundi closed after some 10,000 refugees left Rukuramigabo on Monday and Tuesday. They are now living in transit centres in Rwanda, where they are being given food, plastic sheeting, blankets and agricultural seeds and being transported to their home communes. Only 223 Rwandan refugees chose not to return; they are living in Magara while UNHCR seeks to find 'an appropriate solution' for them.

Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi, remained without electricity today after a number of pylons in Bubanza province were damaged by Hutu rebels on Saturday and today. UN officials in Bujumbura have also expressed concern about the shortage of fuel in the capital, which they

say is hampering relief efforts and may force a number of NGOs to halt operations altogether over the coming days and weeks. "The situation is critical", one UN official said.

Journalists visiting the Giheta commune in Gitega province of Burundi heard accounts from local people of a massacre by the Burundian Army on July 27, in which over 70 civilians, nearly all Hutus, were killed. The accounts, from both Hutus and Tutsis, add to the weight of evidence that large-scale human rights abuses by the army took place in the province following the coup on July 25. Amnesty International has stated that 4,050 people were killed by the army at Giheta in Gitega province between July 27 and August 10, claims vehemently denied by Pierre Buyoya's spokesman.

Members of the UN Security Council have been discussing a draft resolution on Burundi which proposes to impose an arms embargo on the country. The resolution, to be debated today (Wednesday), also calls for unconditional negotiations on a political settlement to be held within 60 days of the text's adoption. Failing this the resolution proposes "targeted measures" in the "political, military and diplomatic fields" aimed at political leaders who encourage violence. Mr Nsanze Terence, Burundi's Ambassador to the UN, called for the arms embargo proposal to be dropped, saying that the "unbelievably harsh measures" in the draft resolution would not be complied with by the armed bands and militias, which he claimed can purchase the weapons secretly and unlawfully.

Pierre Buyoya, leader of Burundi, has claimed that the sanctions imposed on his country could create a humanitarian disaster. In an interview with the Belgian newspaper Le Soir, he also reiterated his willingness to undertake negotiations with Hutu rebels if they first lay down their arms. "The Hutus, quite legitimately, want power, but the Tutsis are afraid of it because there has been genocide here as in Rwanda", he was quoted as saying. On Monday, the rebel group PALIPEHUTU expressed its opposition to talks with Buyoya, calling him a "putschist". Major Buyoya also pledged to bring to justice those responsible for the assassination of former President Melchior Ndadaye, saying that "the dossiers on the putschists are there" and "we have to advance them to the stage of trials".

Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania, and Howard Wolpe, US Special Envoy to Burundi, met today in Rome and discussed the Burundi crisis. No details have emerged from the talks but a source close to the meeting is reported to have said that an "exceptional diplomatic effort" is required to "bring forward acceptable proposals to defuse the ... conflict". The meeting follows talks between Nyerere and Pierre Buyoya last Sunday, in which Major Buyoya said he called for an African regional summit between Burundi and its neighbours.

Mr Marc Faguy, UN Special Representative in Burundi, has called for the urgent holding of talks between all the parties to the conflict in Burundi. Speaking on Radio Burundi he said, "We believe that it is ... important and urgent that... a serious political dialogue be set in train by all the parties involved in Burundi, even those beyond its borders". The reference to parties beyond its borders was interpreted to include the Conseil National de la Defense de la Democratie (CNDD), the party lead by former Interior Minister Leonard Nyangoma whose armed wing is fighting within Burundi.

[ENDS]

16:30 GMT, Nairobi

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Date: Thu, 29 Aug 1996 21:38:23 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: HRW Urges Neighbors to Keep Humanitarian Aid 96.8.28

Sender: irinwire-owner@sasa.unon.org
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(New York, August 28, 1996)--Human Rights Watch, today, sent a letter to the Presidents of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, and Zambia, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, urging for the exemption of humanitarian aid and assistance from the imposed economic sanctions. HRW also demands Burundi's new government to bring to trial those who have presided over the last three years of bloodshed. Attached is a copy of the letter. ***

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization established in 1978 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and among the signatories of the Helsinki accords. It is supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly. The staff includes Kenneth Roth, executive director; Cynthia Brown, program director; Holly J. Burkhalter, advocacy director; Barbara Guglielmo, finance and administration director; Robert Kimzey, publications director; Jeri Laber, special advisor; Lotte Leicht, Brussels office director; Juan Mndez, general counsel; Susan Osnos, communications director; Jemera Rone, counsel; and Joanna Weschler, United Nations representative. Robert L. Bernstein is the chair of the board and Adrian W. DeWind is vice chair.

August 28, 1996

To: The Presidents of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda,
Zaire, and Zambia
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity cc Yasushi Akashi, UN Department
of Humanitarian Affairs cc Marrack Goulding, UN Department of Political Affairs

On July 31, 1996, in response to the coup d'etat that led to the installation of Major Pierre Buyoya as head of state, members of the Arusha "Emergency African Summit" imposed full economic sanctions upon Burundi including the cutting off of air links. Between August 2 and 10, 1996 all its neighbors implemented an economic embargo against Burundi. On August 16, 1996, regional foreign ministers decreed that only medicines and "emergency basic food aid for Rwandan refugees in Burundi" would be exempt from sanctions imposed at Arusha.

Although Human Rights Watch has serious concerns about the nature of the embargo imposed on Burundi, as outlined below, we share the sentiments that led Burundi's neighbors to act firmly in opposition to the coup. While we welcome the new government's pledge to stop the killing, we cannot help but note that the same military officers who launched the coup have been responsible for the terrible bloodshed at the hands of the Burundi army and allied militia for the past three years. A vow, in such circumstances, to stop the killing is hardly justification for abandoning the last elements of power sharing with the Hutu majority that remain from the June 1993 elections.

Rather, a test of the new government's commitment to democracy and rule of law should not only be its willingness to begin immediate discussions about a return to constitutional rule, as neighboring countries are demanding, but also its willingness to bring to justice those who have presided over the last three years of slaughter. Among those who certainly should be brought to justice are the former army chief of staff, Col. Jean Bikomagu, and the head of the gendarmerie, Col. Pascal Simbanduka: they are both, according to Human Rights Watch's own investigations, responsible for serious, violent abuses of human rights.

Human Rights Watch is also profoundly troubled by the scope of the sanctions regime imposed on Burundi. We have received reports that the sanctions are severely constraining the efforts of humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance to the civilian population of Burundi. Little, if any humanitarian aid appears to be reaching an increasingly needy population. International humanitarian law prohibits the employment of starvation as a method of warfare. Parties to a conflict are enjoined from acts which might hinder the availability of commodities and services that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. By the same token, economic sanctions should not be applied in a manner that substantially risks denying Burundi's civilian population foodstuffs, medicines and other humanitarian supplies that are vital to its subsistence.

Humanitarian assistance should be entirely excluded from the sanctions regime imposed upon Burundi in order to enable non-governmental organizations to dispense aid to all sectors of Burundi's vulnerable civilian population. We therefore urge that at its inaugural meeting in Nairobi on August 31, the Regional Sanctions Committee should formally and unambiguously exempt all humanitarian cargo and personnel from the sanctions regime imposed upon Burundi at the July 31, 1996 Arusha summit.

In addition to an exemption for humanitarian assistance, steps should be taken to ensure that the aid is distributed among the civilian population on the basis of need alone rather than on grounds of ethnicity or political affiliation. Further, steps should be taken to ensure that humanitarian aid not go to any military force, and that military forces inside Burundi do not obstruct the delivery of this aid to its intended recipients. Humanitarian aid should be distributed by nongovernmental organizations, a United Nations agency, or a combination of these and coordinated by a mutually agreed upon UN or NGO body. There should also be established an effective mechanism for monitoring the impacts of the current embargo, even with these necessary humanitarian exemptions. Given the growing need for humanitarian assistance on the part of Burundi's civilian population, Human Rights Watch believes that the quest for guarantees against misuse of humanitarian aid should not be permitted to delay unduly the actual delivery of humanitarian supplies.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch

Peter Takirambudde
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch/Africa

Gopher Address://gopher.humanrights.org:5000 Listserv address: To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@igc.apc.org with "subscribe hrw-news" in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank).

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[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 03 Sep 1996 11:14:49 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: CNDD Clarification on air space 31 August 1996 96.8.31

Sender: irinwire-owner@sasa.unon.org
To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org (Multiple recipients of UN DHA IRIN Wire Service) Reply-to:
irinwire@sasa.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: bulk
>Received: (from Usasa@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) with UUCP id
LAA06027; Tue, 3 Sep 1996 11:58:12 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org

[IRIN Note: Given the importance of air travel to humanitarian operations in Burundi, IRIN is distributing this statement for information purposes.]

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI REPUBLIKA Y'UBURUNDI
Conseil National pour la Defense Inama y'Igihugu
de la Democratie Igwanira Demokarasi

CNDD

REPRESENTATION Nairobi, August 31, 1996

CLARIFICATION

In two separate interviews that I gave to Reuter on 27/8/1996 and BBC London on 28/8/1996 answering their questions about the CNDD press release No.6/ issued by our Spokesman Jerome NDIHO on violation of the sanctions against Major Buyoya's regime, it has been attributed to me to have said that our CNDD freedom fighters (FDD) will shoot down indistinctly any plane venturing in the Burundi air space. Those statements have been taken out of their actual context.

I have decided to put things straight by issuing this clarification so as to avoid any misunderstanding:

1. CNDD is a liberation movement struggling against a putschist, bloodthirsty and oppressive military system, with the aim of restoring democracy and constitutional legality in Burundi. Thus, CNDD is definitely opposed to any kind of terrorism, be it on the ground or in the air.
2. Nonetheless, CNDD demands that the sanctions decided in Arusha by the Great Region States against Major Pierre Buyoya's regime must be implemented by all. On its part, CNDD accepts to give its contribution in implementing those sanctions, eventually by denouncing those violating them or in any other ways. We find it necessary to precise that whatever way we will give our contribution, it will be done in consultations with the Sanctions Monitoring Committee. On the other hand, we are comforted by the UN Security Council resolution voted on August 30 1996.
3. Therefore, no unilateral action on the ground or in the air will be taken without a prior consultation with the said Committee so as to avoid endangering lives of unconcerned and innocent people. This clarification does not apply for the Burundi army nor its planes and helicopters. The present clarification puts a final end to any present or future speculation on the above mentioned press release and interviews.

Innocent NIMPAGARITSE
CNDD Representative

[ENDS]
[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

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Date: Wed, 04 Sep 1996 15:53:19 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
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Subject:

Burundi: International Alert Account and Analysis 15-31 Aug 96.9.3

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irinwire@sasa.unon.org
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[IRIN Note: IRIN is pleased to offer its subscribers the following analysis on events in Burundi supplied by International Alert. The opinions expressed below are those of International Alert.]

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BURUNDI - ACCOUNT AND ANALYSIS OF EVENTS - 15-31 AUGUST 1996

ACCOUNT

The transitional regime: In speeches and declarations the transitional President, Pierre Buyoya, has reiterated his intentions as follows:

strengthening of discipline in the army; trials of those involved in the murder of former President Ndadaye and those implicated in the subsequent mass killings; acceptance of Mwalimu Nyerere as mediator, and willingness to negotiate with all parties including armed rebels, but conditional on a cease-fire and repudiation of genocide; restoration of political parties and the National Assembly with full constitutional powers but with additional members; organisation of the National Debate; flexibility regarding the duration of the transitional regime; a call for rapid deployment of international observers.

Killings of civilians by the army have continued, but reports of up to 6,000 deaths in the weeks following the coup have not been verified. Other estimates put the figure at 1,200 deaths. The three senior officers of the Armed Forces have been replaced. Buyoya met Mwalimu Nyerere on August 25th and there is talk of a further meeting in early September.

Frodebu: Frodebu is at present fragmented and thus unable to converge around a leadership to engage in negotiations. Leaders and parliamentarians inside the country are still mostly in refuge at embassies. Other leaders are now in Europe. Their refusal to cooperate in any way with the transitional regime appears to be hardening. There has been talk of forming a government in exile.

Rebel groups: There are contradictory reports regarding the willingness of CNDD, Palipehutu and Frolinat to negotiate with the transitional regime. Meanwhile Nyangoma has called on the rural population to deny food supplies to Bujumbura, and one of the rebel groups has cut power supplies to the capital by blowing up electricity pylons.

Sanctions: There has been some movement in and out of the country across the Rwandan border but otherwise the blockade is effectively total and, despite urgent requests by UN agencies, there has not been any significant relaxation for humanitarian supplies.

In press interviews Mwalimu Nyerere has emphasised that the primary purpose of the East African Heads of State in imposing sanctions is to pressure the transitional regime to: return to a measure of constitutional legitimacy by restoring political parties and the National Assembly. get all-party negotiations underway. NOTE: this means not just statements of willingness to negotiate but negotiations actually underway and making progress.

On 30th August the UN Security Council set a target date of 30th October for negotiations to be underway.

Country situation: Supplies of food are still being brought to market in Bujumbura by the mainly Hutu people from the surrounding hills. However, the combination of fuel shortages resulting from sanctions and the power cuts inflicted by rebel action are having an increasingly severe impact on the capital. UN agencies are barely functioning and government administration will grind to a halt in a few weeks at the most. Large parts of the interior remain calm and there appears to be sufficient food.

ANALYSIS

The action of East African leaders commands respect. Their will and capacity to implement total sanctions has been effectively demonstrated. So too has the vulnerability of the mainly Tutsi population of Bujumbura. However, there is a danger that the increasingly paralysing effects of sanctions will obstruct precisely those actions by the transitional regime that they are designed to bring about.

Therefore there is a strong case for immediate but selective relaxation of sanctions to allow government to function and political activity in Bujumbura to resume. If this does not occur soon there is a clear danger that the internal situation in Burundi will again degenerate towards anarchy. Selective relaxation of sanctions does not preclude them being reimposed with full vigour if the transitional regime does not live up to its words with swift and decisive action.

The difference between the intentions stated by Buyoya and the demands of the East African Heads of State does not appear to be unbridgeable. However Buyoya has not moved quickly enough on key issues. He has to act decisively through the moderate officers in the army to bring NCOs and troops under rigorous control and halt altogether the killings of civilians. It is also essential that conditions be created quickly that enable Frodebu politicians to operate freely and in sufficient security in Burundi. Again in practical terms this will require some relaxation of sanctions.

Unfortunately real moderates in Bujumbura and supporters of Buyoya who retain a genuine and justifiable fear of genocide (see the International Commission of Inquiry Report), perceive sanctions as strengthening the hand of their extremist Hutu adversaries. Sadly they also increasingly regard Mwalimu Nyerere as their adversary. This is despite the fact that he is repeatedly on record as being highly conscious of their fears and in no way in favour of dismantling the Burundian army. A new and strong signal of reassurance to moderates in Bujumbura by the mediator would be a positive move.

The issue of "security assistance" seems to have been superseded by events but the call for international observers to be deployed in Burundi should be acted upon. Now that the UN has set a two month time-frame for negotiations, pressure must surely be applied to other parties, particularly the armed rebel groups, to suspend attacks and unequivocally declare their willingness to participate in negotiations.

The window of opportunity for an end to violence and a negotiated way out of Burundi's crisis is getting narrower by the day.

Bill Yates,
International Alert, 3 September, 1996.

[ENDS]

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IRIN Summary of Main Events in Burundi 4 September 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

Serious fighting is reported between government forces and rebels in the area of Nyanbuye on the outskirts of Bujumbura. Government forces are reported to have deployed helicopters in the area which is near the RN 1 highway. A military spokesman also reported shooting in the air by rebels in the hills around Bujumbura. Overnight, more fighting had been reported near the capital, particularly in Tshianganano.

Twenty-two FRODEBU parliamentarians resident in Tanzania issued a statement dated 3 September in which they expressed support for the armed opposition organized by the CNDD and FDD. Yesterday, three FRODEBU members of parliament resident in Kenya had issued a similar statement of support for the rebels.

A US Air Force C-141 transport aircraft landed this morning in Bujumbura airport. It was believed to be carrying diplomatic cargo but no passengers and was expected to leave with 31 expatriate passengers of various nationalities. It took off at about 17:15 local time.

At a press conference in Nairobi, former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere restated the aims of the regional sanctions imposed on Burundi which were, he said, to open inclusive, unconditional negotiations, restore the Parliament and unban political parties.

The World Food Programme today began issuing rations to 16,000 people affected by the recent fighting in Kayanza province. WFP supplied 6-7,000 people sheltering in Rukasho transit centre with a two-week ration of beans and maize. A further 1,500 displaced persons in Mivo commune should be supplied with food tomorrow. Another 9,000 in two other locations in Kayanza remain to be supplied. Fifty-eight children affected by the fighting are being assisted by IFRC and WFP in Ngozi town. Clashes are continuing in Kayanza province which straddles the strategic route to Rwanda.

Three officials of the Burundi regime and members of Pierre Buyoya's family were turned away from Uganda last night and returned to Bujumbura. According to news reports, the officials had intended to deliver a message to the regional states and the family members were heading for Europe, but Uganda blocked their travel.

15:45 GMT Nairobi

[ENDS]

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Burundi: UN Security Council Resolution 1072 30 August 1996 96.8.30

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UNITED NATIONS

30 August 1996

Press Release
SC/6263

SECURITY COUNCIL CALLS ON BURUNDI REGIME TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER, DEMANDS UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

With Unanimous Adoption of Resolution 1072 (1996), Council May Consider Chapter VII
Action of Arms Embargo, Other Measures Should Demands Go Unmet

Condemning the overthrow of the legitimate government and constitutional order in Burundi and calling on the regime to return to that order, restore the National Assembly and lift the ban on all political parties, the Security Council this afternoon demanded that all sides cease hostilities, call for an immediate halt in the violence and initiate unconditional negotiations towards a comprehensive political settlement.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1072 (1996), the Council decided that, should its demands on negotiations not be met, it might consider acting under Chapter VII of the Charter to impose an arms embargo on all sides and other measures targeted against leaders who continued to encourage violence and obstruct a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Such a decision could come when the Council re-examines the matter on 31 October on the basis of a report it requested the Secretary-General to submit before then.

Declaring its readiness to help the people of Burundi with international cooperation to support a political settlement resulting from those negotiations, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake preparations when appropriate for a pledging conference to help rebuild and develop Burundi following a settlement.

The Council also demanded that the leaders of all parties ensure basic conditions of security for all by a commitment to abstain from attacking civilians, to ensure the security of humanitarian personnel operating in territory they control and to guarantee the protection within Burundi and safe passage out of the country for the members of President Silvestre Ntibantunganya's government and the members of parliament.

The Council expressed strong support for the regional leaders, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere in their efforts to help Burundi peacefully overcome its grave crisis and encouraged them to continue facilitating the search for a political solution.

The Secretary-General was encouraged by the Council to consult with the neighbouring States, other Member States, the OAU and international humanitarian organizations to establish mechanisms to ensure safe and timely supply of humanitarian relief throughout Burundi.

By other terms of the resolution, the Council acknowledged the implications of the Burundi situation for the region and underlined the importance of the convening, at an appropriate time, of a regional conference of the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU.

The Council reiterated the importance it attached to the contingency planning called for in resolution 1049 (1996) of 5 March and encouraged the Secretary-General and Member States to continue to facilitate the planning for an international presence and rapid humanitarian response should there be widespread violence or a serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Burundi.

Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, France and Italy. The representative of Burundi also addressed the Council.

The meeting, called to order at 3:10 p.m., was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. p.m.

Report of Secretary-General

The Secretary-General states, in his report on the situation in Burundi (document S/1996/660), that the international community must brace itself for the possibility of an attempt at genocide in that country. He appeals to States with the necessary military and logistic means to undertake contingency planning for an intervention force to save lives.

Member States' response to the Secretariat's efforts to seek support for intervention in Burundi has not matched the urgency and seriousness of the situation, according to the Secretary-General. Some States have suggested that, with the unwillingness of any of them to lead in deploying a multinational humanitarian intervention force under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Secretariat should examine whether such a force could be deployed by the United Nations itself and financed through assessed contributions. With signs that 50,000 troops would be needed for such a force, the Secretary-General expresses doubts that Member States will provide the troops for and fund such a large operation and whether the Secretariat could manage it. However, the Secretariat has written to about 30 potential troop contributors to assess their reactions and has received five replies, all but one of which are negative.

On the coup d'etat of 25 July, the Secretary-General states that it has not made the peace process easier. It will reinforce one side's fears, strengthen extremists on both sides and increase violence. The coup returned Major Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, to power, replacing President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya. Major Buyoya has declared that he intends to establish a transitional government and to consider setting up a parliament of transition to allow Burundians to take part in forming new institutions. He urged the international community not to intervene militarily in Burundi. Having announced his search for a Hutu with whom to implement his plans, he named Pascal Firmin Ndimira prime minister on 31 July.

On that day, the second Arusha Summit of regional leaders condemned the coup and imposed economic sanctions on Burundi. In a joint communique contained in an appendix to a 2 August letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to the Secretary-General (document S/1996/620), the leaders asked the new regime to start immediate talks with all parties, return to constitutional order, restore the National Assembly and legalize

all political parties. The Secretary-General comments that the leaders' forceful reaction shows their concern at the coup's implications for peace and security in the region. He appeals for the sanctions not to be used as an instrument of punishment of opening negotiations on a political settlement. Attending the Regional Summit were the Presidents of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda; the Prime Ministers of Ethiopia and Zaire; as well as Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Facilitator of the Burundi peace talks, former President Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania.

Text of Draft Resolution

The Council also has before it a draft resolution (document S/1996/708) sponsored by Botswana, Chile, Egypt, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, United States and Russian Federation:

"The Security Council,

"Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and statements by its President on the situation in Burundi,

"Recalling the statement by its President of 24 July 1996 (S/PRST/1996/31) in which the Council strongly condemned any attempt to overthrow the legitimate government of Burundi by force or coup d'etat; and recalling also the statement by its President of 29 July 1996 (S/PRST/1996/32) in which the Council condemned the actions that led to the overthrow of constitutional order in Burundi,

"Deeply concerned at the continued deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in Burundi that has been characterized in the last years by killings, massacres, torture and arbitrary detention, and at the threat that this poses to the peace and security of the Great Lakes Region as a whole,

"Reiterating its appeal to all parties in Burundi to defuse the present crisis and to demonstrate the necessary cohesion, unity and political will to restore constitutional order and processes without delay,

"Reiterating the urgent need for all parties in Burundi to commit themselves to a dialogue aimed at establishing a comprehensive political settlement and the creation of conditions conducive to national reconciliation,

"Recalling that all persons who commit or authorize the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law are individually responsible for such violations and should be held accountable, and reaffirming the need to put an end to impunity for such acts and the climate that fosters them,

"Strongly condemning those responsible for the attacks on personnel of international humanitarian organizations, and underlining that all parties in Burundi are responsible for the security of such personnel,

"Emphasizing the urgent need to establish humanitarian corridors to ensure the unimpeded flow of humanitarian goods to all people in Burundi,

"Taking note of the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania of 2 August 1996 (S/1996/620, Annex and Appendix),

"Taking note also of the note from the Secretary-General transmitting a letter from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity of 5 August 1996 (S/1996/628, Annex),

"Reiterating its support for the immediate resumption of dialogue and negotiations under the auspices of the Mwanza Peace Process facilitated by former President Nyerere and the Joint Communiqui of the Second Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi of 31 July 1996 which seeks to guarantee democracy and security for all people in Burundi,

"Determined to support the efforts and initiatives of the countries in the region, which were also supported by the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution aimed at returning Burundi to a democratic path and contributing to stability in the region,

"Underlining the importance it attaches to the continuation of the efforts of the OAU and its Observer Mission (MIOB),

"Welcoming the efforts made by interested Member States and by the European Union to contribute to a peaceful solution of the political crisis in Burundi,

"Underlining that only a comprehensive political settlement can open the way for international cooperation for the reconstruction, development and stability of Burundi, and expressing its readiness to support the convening, when appropriate, of an international conference involving the United Nations system, regional organizations, international financial institutions, donor countries and non-governmental organizations aimed at mobilizing international support for the implementation of a comprehensive political settlement,

"Recalling its resolution 1040 (1996) of 29 January 1996, in particular paragraph 8, in which the Council declared its readiness to consider the imposition of measures under the Charter of the United Nations,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 15 August 1996 (S/1996/660),

A

"1. Condemns the overthrow of the legitimate government and constitutional order in Burundi and condemns also all those parties and factions which resort to force and violence to advance their political objectives;

"2. Expresses its strong support for the efforts of regional leaders, including at their meeting in Arusha on 31 July 1996, of the Organization of African Unity and of former President Nyerere, to assist Burundi to overcome peacefully the grave crisis which it is undergoing, and encourages them to continue to facilitate the search for a political solution;

"3. Calls upon the regime to ensure a return to constitutional order and legality, to restore the National Assembly and to lift the ban on all political parties;

"4. Demands that all sides in Burundi declare a unilateral cessation of hostilities, call an immediate halt to violence and assume their individual and collective responsibilities to bring peace, security and tranquillity to the people of Burundi;

"5. Demands also that the leaders of all parties in Burundi ensure basic conditions of security for all in Burundi by a commitment to abstain from attacking civilians; to ensure the security of humanitarian personnel operating in the territory they control, and to guarantee the protection within Burundi and safe passage out of the country for the members of President Ntibantunganya's government and the members of parliament;

"6. Demands also that all of Burundi's political parties and factions without exception, whether inside or outside the country and including representatives of civil society, initiate unconditional negotiations immediately, with a view to reaching a comprehensive political settlement;

"7. Declares its readiness to assist the people of Burundi with appropriate international cooperation to support a comprehensive political settlement resulting from these negotiations and in this context, requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the international community to undertake preparations when appropriate for the convening of a pledging conference to assist in the reconstruction and development of Burundi following the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement;

"8. Encourages the Secretary-General in consultation with all those concerned, including the neighbouring States, other Member States, the Organization of African Unity and international humanitarian organizations, to establish mechanisms to ensure the safe and timely delivery of humanitarian relief throughout Burundi;

"9. Acknowledges the implication of the situation in Burundi for the region and underlines the importance of convening at an appropriate time a Regional Conference of the Great Lakes Region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

B

"10. Decides to re-examine the matter on 31 October 1996 and requests that the Secretary-General report to the Council by that time on the situation in Burundi, including on the status of the negotiations referred to in paragraph 6 above;

"11. Decides, in the event that the Secretary-General reports that the negotiations referred to in paragraph 6 above have not been initiated, to consider the imposition of measures under the Charter of the United Nations to further compliance with the demand of paragraph 6 above. These may include, among others, a ban on the sale or supply of arms and related materiel of all types to the regime in Burundi and to all factions inside or outside Burundi, and measures targeted against the leaders of the regime and all factions who continue to encourage violence and obstruct a peaceful resolution of the political crisis in Burundi;

"12. Reiterates the importance it attaches to the contingency planning called for in paragraph 13 of resolution 1049 (1996) of 5 March 1996 and encourages the Secretary-General and Member States to continue to facilitate contingency planning for an international presence and other initiatives to support and help consolidate a cessation of hostilities, as well as to make a rapid humanitarian response in the event of widespread violence or a serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Burundi;

"13. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Statements

JUAN LARRAIN (Chile) said that the draft resolution would show the support of the Council for regional efforts to search for peace in Burundi and encourage the work of the OAU and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. The Council would lend further support to Burundi if its leaders sought peaceful ways to solve their differences. It would also consider measures to ensure that the leaders of the country started peaceful negotiations and that they did not obstruct the efforts being made to find a peaceful, comprehensive political settlement. He reviewed other provisions of the resolution, which condemned the use of violence, the removal of the legitimate government in Burundi and called on all sides to stop the use of force.

The representative said that it should be clear that, when it met again on the issue at the end of October, the Council would consider taking strong measures if the negotiations which it had demanded in the resolution had not begun.

The resolution was adopted unanimously as resolution 1072 (1996).

HERVE LADSOUS (France), speaking after the vote, said he had voted in favour of the draft. France welcomed its provisions. Dialogue should be quickly organized. A political vote of confidence should be given to all parties and dialogue should be opened to all groups.

He said guarantees must be given to all the former leaders and deputies. He urged the convening of a conference of the Great Lakes region under United Nations and OAU auspices to deal with the problems of the region in a lasting manner. Concrete measures such as those set forth in the draft, particularly negotiations, should be implemented. Measures would have to be taken if negotiations were not initiated within 60 days. The measures should, however, be such that innocent civilians would not get hurt.

FRENCESCO PAOLO FULCI (Italy) said it was essential that the Council showed unanimity. He called attention to a letter from the European Union which expressed support for the efforts of regional leaders, the OAU and those of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and encouraged them to continue.

He noted that it was the second time in a month that the Council had expressed itself on the military coup. It was now time for a dialogue among all the parties. The parties should show restraint and a constructive attitude to put the country back on its feet.

NSANZE TERENCE (Burundi) said the new regime was receptive to the Council's appeals, and had introduced measures that would help implement some of the provisions of the resolution which were compatible with the interests of Burundi. Efforts should be aimed not at saving only one ethnic group but the entire Burundian nation. Some politicians were trying to divide the people of Burundi in order to pursue their interests. His Government would continue to fight against all bands and militias in its efforts to end the violence and the scorched earth policies they were pursuing. His Government's efforts would require the patience of the Security Council and the international community. The sanctions imposed by Burundi's neighbours were obstacles to its efforts to quickly and fully meet the conditions of the resolution.

The representative said that resolution was weakened by the absence of a condemnation of the blockade that had been imposed against Burundi. Also it did not call for the establishment of an ad hoc commission that would gather facts on all the problems of the region. The sword of Damocles hanging over Burundi in the shape of the threats of an arms embargo were not appropriate as it might punish the people of Burundi for acts perpetrated by some bands. The cooperation of the members of the Council was required to remove some of the pitfalls contained in the present resolution.

* * * * *

[ENDS]

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[This article has been excerpted.]

The New York Times

August 24, 1996

As West Hesitates on Burundi, African Leaders Take a Stand By JAMES C. MCKINLEY Jr.

MUSOMA, Tanzania -- Outsiders have often criticized African governments for doing little to halt disasters in their midst, such as the large-scale massacres in Rwanda and Burundi, let alone to oppose military coups and support democracy. ...now in East Africa, regional leaders are making a serious effort to confront the leaders of the recent coup in Burundi by imposing a trade embargo on the country.

The driving force behind the embargo is Julius K. Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania and an elder statesman in African politics. Nyerere had been trying to mediate an impasse between Tutsi and Hutu parties in Burundi since February, and had persuaded regional leaders to agree in June to a plan to send peacekeeping troops into the country to stop massacres.

..when Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi leader and former Burundian president, ousted the sitting president, a Hutu, and dismantled the government a month ago, Nyerere who led the drive for an embargo.

"The East African leaders said, one, we are not going to accept the idea...this is a coup by a nice man," Nyerere, 74, said in an interview at his home this week. "Secondly, they did not want to simply issue another statement of strong words. They really felt action was necessary."

The decision by Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Zaire to impose trade sanctions on Burundi two weeks ago caught many Western diplomats by surprise. Not only was it a rare show of unity by African states in the name of democracy, but it came swiftly, only days after Pierre Buyoya, a former Burundian president and a Tutsi, was named president after a bloodless coup that toppled a coalition government.

For once, African countries had taken the initiative and staked the high moral ground, while the United States and Europe hesitated. Some Western diplomats argued an embargo might provoke more violence and would hurt the poor.

They...viewed Buyoya as a moderate, a better alternative than more extremist Tutsi military commanders who might have seized power, and argued...the previous government had not been stemming the ongoing ethnic warfare there in any case.

In an hour-long interview at his home near here, Nyerere said the decision to impose sanctions was "a completely new development in Africa, during my phase of leadership."

In the past, he said, African nations had been loathe to interfere in the affairs of their neighbors. ...the charter of the Organization of African Unity prohibits any intervention in the affairs of other African nations. Neighbors usually accepted most coups without a whimper. Or they paid lip service to condemning them without taking concrete action.

Nyerere...was the first to break that tradition in 1979, when he sent 50,000 Tanzanian troops into Uganda to end Idi Amin's murderous dictatorship. The invasion was warranted, he argued, because Amin had tried the year before to occupy a sliver of Tanzania. The tradition of non-interference was also broken in Liberia, where an 8,000-strong peacekeeping force led by Nigeria has been trying since 1990 to halt the civil war there. ...the force has been criticized for having less than lofty motives, since it has stripped the country of everything from machinery to minerals.

The embargo of Burundi seems to have purer roots, diplomats said. Democracy has grown stronger in East Africa in recent years, and many more leaders here now see coups as a threat, Nyerere said. In May, Uganda held its first presidential election ever, giving a strong mandate to President Yoweri K. Museveni. In the last four years, ..Kenya and Tanzania have also held multiparty elections for the first time, and in both cases the ruling party survived all challenges. Even Zaire's longtime dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, is planning to hold elections next year, although under heavy international pressure.

None of these elections have been flawless democratic exercises, Nyerere acknowledged. None have even led to a change of leadership. But they have given leaders in the region what they see as a democratic mandate, he said, and so these leaders can no longer so easily accept coups meant to cancel out the voter's wishes. In addition, Nyerere said, the genocide in Rwanda in 1994...deeply affected the politics of the region. In hindsight, he said, many regional leaders believe they should have intervened to stop Hutu supremacists from massacring at least 500,000 Tutsi, instead of watching from the sidelines, as much of the world did.

"I think the genocide has gotten people to think: How much do we respect sovereignty?" Nyerere said. "There is a new leadership developing in Africa," he said. "They are saying 'What does this mean? This non-interference. What does it mean? Who is sovereign in the country. The people? Or the junta?'" Nyerere said he was slightly surprised by the lack of support the East African leaders have gotten from Western diplomats, who have balked at joining the embargo or to condemn the coup.

The Western nations were worried sanctions had been applied too quickly and might provoke more violence in Burundi, where more than 150,000 people are estimated to have been killed since 1993 in clashes between the mostly Tutsi army and Hutu rebels or in the widespread abuses of civilians committed by both sides. Some Western diplomats...wanted to give Buyoya more time, to see what he would do with his position, Nyerere said. They saw him as a moderate man, more likely to make peace with Hutu leaders than some other more militant Tutsi military leaders.

"East African leaders are not totally convinced of this," Nyerere said. The purpose of the embargo is to convince Buyoya and other Tutsi elite they must sit down at the bargaining table with the Hutu rebels in Zaire and the main Hutu party, which won the first presidential election in 1993, Nyerere said. To be successful, he said, the talks must find solutions to two problems: ...the Hutu have been politically disenfranchised since independence 35 years ago, and secondly, ...many Tutsi genuinely fear they will be massacred if Hutu come to power.

Nyerere said Tutsi leaders in Bujumbura "can't utter two sentences without saying the word genocide. Some are using it for the purpose of clinging to power." "They are like those who ride on the back of a tiger," he said. "And you don't get off the back of the tiger because the tiger will eat you up." So far, the embargo seems to be holding, diplomats and journalists in

Bujumbura say. Salt has tripled in price. Gasoline is being rationed, with only 20 liters for each car every week. Businessmen and importers are complaining...they are losing thousands and thousands of dollars, as their goods rot on piers in Dar Es Salaam and Mombasa. Still, it will take more time before the sanctions begin to cut deeply into the economy, diplomats say. Food is still plentiful in the market, and traffic is...moving. Most of the goods are being carried by hand into the capital on the backs of farmers from the surrounding countryside.

Beyond the principles of democracy, each country had other reasons to join in the blockade as well, several diplomats said. Both Zaire and Tanzania are sheltering 1.7 million Burundian and Rwandan refugees, a constant strain on resources and a source of crime. The refugees are unlikely to return home unless peace is made between Hutu and Tutsi factions in both countries.

In Kenya, President Daniel arap Moi has had an aversion to coups since he was almost overthrown in 1982. In addition, there is no love lost between Moi and Tutsi leaders in both Rwanda and Burundi. He has close ties to members of the former Hutu government in Rwanda.

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni...just recently won a mandate from his country in last May's election, after fighting his way to power ten years ago in a civil war. Since then, he has taken pains to say in almost every public speech...the cycle of coup and counter coup must be broken. Rwanda's decision to join the blockade was perhaps the most puzzling. The government in Kigali is dominated by Tutsi who invaded from Uganda in 1991, put an end to the Hutu-sponsored genocide against Tutsi and then drove the former Hutu-led government and army into Zaire. They were thought to sympathize with the Tutsi politicians in Burundi, who are also fighting Hutu insurgents in Zaire.

But Paul Kagame, the Tutsi vice president who is the defacto head of state in Rwanda, opted instead to stand on principle, after wavering for nearly two weeks. In this, he joined his longtime friend and ally, Museveni. He may have had little choice... Rwanda is landlocked and could easily have been added to the embargo. Still, diplomats say the sanctions are a hopeful sign...democracy is taking root here. Leaders appear more frightened now more than ever of the sort military coup common in the 1970s, like the coups that put Samuel Doe in charge of Liberia and allowed Idi Amin to take over Uganda.

"The ballgame has changed," said one diplomat in Nairobi. "What you have seen is more and more governments elected by the people. You do see a surge of democracy on the continent and that has changed the context in which people view these coups."

----- [This article has been excerpted.]

The New York Times

August 22, 1996

U.N. Hears Conflicting Views on What to Do About Burundi By BARBARA CROSSETTE

UNITED NATIONS -- Highlighting the Security Council's increasing attention to internal conflicts in unstable countries rather than threats of war between nations, leaders of opposing political parties in Burundi came to New York...Wednesday to brief the council and try to influence what course it will take.

It was the first time...a delegation of legislators has met the council in a formal session, said Shazia Rafi, secretary general of Parliamentarians for Global Action, an independent organization that arranged the Burundians' trip.

In an interview after the meeting, Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, a former Burundian foreign minister...now in exile serving as a spokesman for the president overthrown in a July 25 coup,

said...he had asked the council to support sanctions imposed on Burundi by its neighbors in central Africa.

The council has not taken any action beyond public criticism since the elected government of President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya was deposed by Maj. Pierre Buyoya, who has since announced...he intends to rule for three years with a hand-picked Parliament.

Ntibantunganya is still at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital, where he sought refuge. "The president is asking the international community to do what it can to help him and others leave the country," Ngendahayo said. "The speaker of house is in the German embassy and other members of parliament and ministers are also in hiding." Buyoya has refused to allow them to leave.

Adrien Sibomana, ...prime minister the last time Buyoya overthrew an elected government in 1987, also spoke to the council Wednesday, but he argued against sanctions and said ..Burundi would have to find its own solution to the political crisis with the help of international mediation led by the former president of Tanzania, Julius K. Nyerere.

Sibomana rejected calls for an international force to restore order in Burundi, where killings have continued since the coup. United Nations officials fear...genocidal attacks could erupt on a large scale. In a report to the Security Council this week, Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended...a force of 50,000 be assembled to prevent violence and give relief assistance. But he acknowledged...of 50 nations approached to lead the force or contribute to it, only 21 had replied and 11 of them declined to participate. Of the remaining 10, only three offered soldiers.

Sibomana said in an interview...one course of action all parties agreed to was...the Security Council should publish the results of an international commission of inquiry that investigated the assassination in 1993 of Burundi's first elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu, and massacres that followed in which Tutsi and Hutu were killed.

The Security Council had withheld the report fearing...naming names of people still in power would provoke violence. But as the report began to leak in Bujumbura and it became apparent...Buyoya was not among those accused of involvement in the deaths in 1993, the council reconsidered and decided last Friday to release the document. The report is now being translated for publication. In Bujumbura, Buyoya...Tuesday dismissed one of the military leaders named, Col. Jean Bikomagu, the army chief.

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Date: Mon, 9 Sep 1996 16:52:15 +0200
From: Debra Guzman <DEBRA@OLN.comlink.apc.org> To: Multiple recipients of list
<hrnet.africa@Germany.EU.net> Subject:

BDI: HRW Urges Burundi's Neighbors to Keep Humanitarian Aid

author : hrwatchnyc@igc.org
date: 29.08.96

----- (New York, August 28, 1996)--
Human Rights Watch, today, sent a letter to the Presidents of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, and Zambia, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, urging for the exemption of humanitarian aid and assistance from the imposed economic sanctions. HRW also demands Burundi's new government to bring to trial those who have presided over the last three years of bloodshed. Attached is a copy of the letter. ***

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization established in 1978 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and among the signatories of the Helsinki accords. It is supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly. The staff includes Kenneth Roth, executive director; Cynthia Brown, program director; Holly J. Burkhalter, advocacy director; Barbara Guglielmo, finance and administration director; Robert Kimzey, publications director; Jeri Laber, special advisor; Lotte Leicht, Brussels office director; Juan Mndez, general counsel; Susan Osnos, communications director; Jemera Rone, counsel; and Joanna Weschler, United Nations representative. Robert L. Bernstein is the chair of the board and Adrian W. DeWind is vice chair.

August 28, 1996

To: The Presidents of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, and Zambia
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity cc Yasushi Akashi, UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs cc Marrack Goulding, UN Department of Political Affairs

On July 31, 1996, in response to the coup d'etat that led to the installation of Major Pierre Buyoya as head of state, members of the Arusha "Emergency African Summit" imposed full economic sanctions upon Burundi including the cutting off of air links. Between August 2 and 10, 1996 all its neighbors implemented an economic embargo against Burundi. On August 16, 1996, regional foreign ministers decreed that only medicines and "emergency basic food aid for Rwandan refugees in Burundi" would be exempt from sanctions imposed at Arusha.

Although Human Rights Watch has serious concerns about the nature of the embargo imposed on Burundi, as outlined below, we share the sentiments that led Burundi's neighbors to act firmly in opposition to the coup. While we welcome the new government's pledge to stop the killing, we cannot help but note that the same military officers who launched the coup have been responsible for the terrible bloodshed at the hands of the Burundi army and allied militia for the past three years. A vow, in such circumstances, to stop the killing is hardly justification for abandoning the last elements of power sharing with the Hutu majority that remain from the June 1993 elections. Rather, a test of the new government's commitment to democracy and rule of law should not only be its willingness to begin immediate discussions about a return to constitutional rule, as neighboring countries are demanding, but also its willingness to bring to justice those who have presided over the last three years of slaughter. Among those who

certainly should be brought to justice are the former army chief of staff, Col. Jean Bikomagu, and the head of the gendarmerie, Col. Pascal Simbanduka: they are both, according to Human Rights Watch's own investigations, responsible for serious, violent abuses of human rights.

Human Rights Watch is also profoundly troubled by the scope of the sanctions regime imposed on Burundi. We have received reports that the sanctions are severely constraining the efforts of humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance to the civilian population of Burundi. Little, if any humanitarian aid appears to be reaching an increasingly needy population. International humanitarian law prohibits the employment of starvation as a method of warfare. Parties to a conflict are enjoined from acts which might hinder the availability of commodities and services that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. By the same token, economic sanctions should not be applied in a manner that substantially risks denying Burundi's civilian population foodstuffs, medicines and other humanitarian supplies that are vital to its subsistence.

Humanitarian assistance should be entirely excluded from the sanctions regime imposed upon Burundi in order to enable non-governmental organizations to dispense aid to all sectors of Burundi's vulnerable civilian population. We therefore urge that at its inaugural meeting in Nairobi on August 31, the Regional Sanctions Committee should formally and unambiguously exempt all humanitarian cargo and personnel from the sanctions regime imposed upon Burundi at the July 31, 1996 Arusha summit.

In addition to an exemption for humanitarian assistance, steps should be taken to ensure that the aid is distributed among the civilian population on the basis of need alone rather than on grounds of ethnicity or political affiliation. Further, steps should be taken to ensure that humanitarian aid not go to any military force, and that military forces inside Burundi do not obstruct the delivery of this aid to its intended recipients. Humanitarian aid should be distributed by nongovernmental organizations, a United Nations agency, or a combination of these and coordinated by a mutually agreed upon UN or NGO body. There should also be established an effective mechanism for monitoring the impacts of the current embargo, even with these necessary humanitarian exemptions. Given the growing need for humanitarian assistance on the part of Burundi's civilian population, Human Rights Watch believes that the quest for guarantees against misuse of humanitarian aid should not be permitted to delay unduly the actual delivery of humanitarian supplies.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch

Peter Takirambudde
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch/Africa

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Date: Wed, 11 Sep 1996 11:36:15 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: HRW and FIDH Call for International Tribunal for Burundi

96.09.10

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MAA16568; Wed, 11 Sep 1996 12:30:31 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org

9 Sept 96--In a letter today, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) urged the Security Council to create an ad hoc international tribunal to prosecute those charged with massive human rights violations in Burundi. The letter is attached.

Human Rights Watch/Africa

Human Rights Watch is a nongovernmental organization established in 1978 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and among the signatories of the Helsinki accords. It is supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly. Kenneth Roth, executive director and Robert L. Bernstein is the chair of the board. Its Africa division was established in 1988 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights in sub-Saharan Africa. Peter Takirambudde is the executive director and William Carmichael is the chair of the advisory committee.

Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) The International Federation of Human Rights is an international nongovernmental organization for the defense of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Created in 1922, it includes 89 national affiliates throughout the world. To date, FIDH has undertaken more than a thousand missions for investigation, observation of trials, mediation or training in some one hundred countries. FIDH enjoys consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the European Council and observer status with the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights. Antoine Bernard is the executive director. Patrick Baudouin is president; Pascuale Bandiera, Helene Cidade-Moura, Rene Degni-Segui, Enoch Djondang, Michael Ellman, Oswaldo Enriquez, Carmen Ferrer Pena, Cecilia Jimenez, Haytham Manna, Gerald McKenzie, Sabine Missistrano, Francisco Soberon, Robert Verdier, Vo Van Ai and Saadeddine Zmerli are vice-presidents; Odile Sidem Poulain, Claude Katz and William Bourdon are secretary generals; and Philippe Vallet is treasurer of the international board. Catherine Choquet is deputy secretary general and Eric Gillet is coordinator for Burundi and Rwanda.

Human Rights Watch/Africa
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Federation Internationale

des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme
17 Passage de la Main d'Or
Paris 75011
TEL: (331) 43 55 25 18
FAX: (331) 43 55 18 80

September 9, 1996

H.E. Ambassador Alfredo Cabral
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the U.N. 211 East 43rd Street, Room
604
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency,

Human Rights Watch and Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'Homme (FIDH) welcomed Security Council Resolution 1012 in August 1995 to create a United Nations Commission of Inquiry for Burundi with the mandate to "establish the facts relating to the assassination of the President of Burundi on 21 October 1993, the massacres and other related serious acts of violence which followed." As you may be aware, we sponsored, with several other organizations, the International Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in Burundi, which published a report in March 1994 concluding that important officers in the Burundi army were responsible for the assassination of President Ndadaye, that large numbers of Tutsi were killed by Hutu, sometimes under the leadership of local administrators, and that the army and police retaliated with massive killings of Hutu.

Our findings (referred to in the commission's report as the "FIDH report") are frequently cited and largely confirmed by the U.N. Commission of Inquiry in its report published in August 1996 as document S/1996/682. However, after documenting the indiscriminate killing of civilians by the Burundian army and Gendarmerie and "acts of genocide" against the Tutsi which were instigated by officials and leaders of the FRODEBU party, the Commission reaches the shocking conclusion that "[t]o make the suppression of impunity a precondition for the solution of the crisis is completely unrealistic and can serve only to give excuses to those who are unwilling to take the necessary actions." This conclusion contradicts completely both the letter and the spirit of Security Council Resolution 1012, which explicitly called for the commission to recommend legal, political and administrative measures to bring to justice those persons responsible for the acts and **to prevent any repetition of deeds similar to those investigated by the commission and, in general, to eradicate impunity..**." [emphasis added].

As the Security Council recognized in designing the mandate of the commission, the cycles of violence in Burundi cannot be stopped unless the impunity that has contributed to perpetrating human rights abuses is ended. In a situation where fear increasingly motivates all actors, only the assurance that those guilty of serious abuses will be punished provides a reason for refraining from violence.

The commission acknowledged that international jurisdiction should be asserted to address the massacre of Tutsi, but assigns responsibility for prosecuting the army's indiscriminate attacks on Hutu exclusively to the national courts of Burundi. Given that such attacks by the army appear to constitute genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as well as crimes against humanity, those cases should also be subject to international jurisdiction.

We urge the Security Council to disregard the conclusion of the commission and to uphold the principle clearly enunciated in Council Resolution 1012. To demonstrate that the Convention for

the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as well as the customary international law concerning crimes against humanity have meaning, the Council should create a tribunal to prosecute those charged with these massive violations in Burundi. We therefore call on the Security Council to establish an ad-hoc international tribunal to prosecute those charged with massive human rights violations in Burundi. To maximize its deterrent effect, jurisdiction should include future such violations committed in the course of the current crisis.

To turn away from such clear evidence of guilt would show the weakness of the Council in the face of human rights abuses that threaten international peace. It would also invite continuing violence not only in Burundi, but also elsewhere in the world.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roth Patrick Baudouin
Executive Director/HRW President/FIDH

**

Gopher Address://gopher.humanrights.org:5000 Listserv address: To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@igc.apc.org with "subscribe hrw-news" in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank).

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Date: Wed, 11 Sep 1996 17:17:28 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
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Subject:

Burundi: IRIN Summary of Main Events for 11 September 1996 96.09.11

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RAA19306; Wed, 11 Sep 1996 17:48:17 +0300 X-To: irinlist@sasa.unon.org

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IRIN Summary of Main Events in Burundi 11 September 1996

Sources for the information below include UN agencies, NGOs, other international organisations and media reports. IRIN issues these reports for the benefit of the humanitarian community, but accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy of the original sources.

Monsignor Joachim Ruhuna, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Burundi, is believed to have been killed after the discovery yesterday of his burnt out car. His vehicle was found in a valley near Bugendana town in Gitega province with the archbishop, a nun and a driver all missing. Traces of blood and burnt clothing, including the archbishop's mitre, were found beside the car. The army will continue to search for their bodies.

Announcing the discovery army spokesman Longin Minani blamed Hutu rebels for his death, while today Major Buyoya called for calm on Burundian national radio, saying "let nobody use this unhappy event as a pretext to perpetrate acts of vengeance or extremism". Jerome Ndiho, the CNDD's spokesman, today denied that Hutu rebels were responsible for the killing, saying "we have no interest in the disappearance of such a constructive personality". The CNDD claims that the army were responsible. Monsignor Ruhuna, a Tutsi, was regarded as a force for moderation in Burundi and had been an outspoken critic of violence by all parties to the conflict.

UN officials have welcomed the decision by the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee to exempt certain classes of relief items from the sanctions on Burundi. The decision last Friday followed concerns from humanitarian agencies that the sweeping sanctions would bring the whole emergency relief effort in Burundi to a halt. Michel Sidibe, head of UNICEF in Burundi, was quoted in media reports as saying, "I am pleased because everything UNICEF was requesting has been accepted. Now we can save our vaccination programme for 1996". Jean-Luc Siblot, head of WFP in Burundi, said that the agency was concerned about agriculture because neither seeds nor fertilizers were exempted in last Friday's meeting. The full Sanctions Committee statement, which includes details of which relief items have been exempted, is available from IRIN.

Jean-Luc Ndizeye, Pierre Buyoya's spokesman, yesterday urged regional governments to think again and lift sanctions completely, saying that "the total lifting of the embargo is necessary to restore peace". He also expressed optimism that regional governments would be

persuaded to lift the sanctions in time, saying that Major Buyoya's regime was convinced "misunderstandings would be cleared up". The Sanctions Committee statement, however, implies that the sanctions will be "strictly maintained" until the Buyoya regime agrees to the conditions laid down in the Arusha II summit of 31 July, namely the restoration of parliament, the unbanning of political parties and `immediate and unconditional negotiations with all groups within and outside the country.'

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<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: Radio Burundi broadcast re: Parliament/Parties 96.09.12

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irinwire@sasa.unon.org
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SAA09836; Fri, 13 Sep 1996 18:44:27 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org
X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!irinwire-owner using -f

in French 20:00 GMT 12 September 1996

Excerpts

The political parties and the national assembly which had been suspended following the change of 25th July have been restored. The council of ministers made the decision at an extraordinary meeting chaired by the head of state, Pierre Buyoya. This came during a discussion on a draft law on the organisation of the transitional institutional system. Here is a summary of the meeting's outcome read by the minister of communication and government spokesman, Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye ... The council of ministers of Thursday 12th September 1996, made two important political decisions. First decision: the national assembly is restored within the legal framework of the transitional institutional system which was studied today by members of the council. Second decision: political parties and associations of a political nature are authorised to resume their activities within the context of the law. The two decisions have been made and in the coming days a legal text will sanction the decision. The President of the republic and the government will point out to the restored parties ways of helping Burundians to restore peace. We take the opportunity to inform the national and international press that the President of the republic, H.E. Maj. Pierre Buyoya will hold a press conference on Friday 13th 1996 at 1600 (local) at the Source-du-Nil hotel. Members of the diplomatic community wishing to attend are invited. The President of the republic will take the opportunity to give political, diplomatic and socio-economic details which explain the decisions taken by the government (endall) na7
122000 BUJFRE ca/cb

Provided by BBC Monitoring Unit, Nairobi

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Date: Tue, 17 Sep 1996 17:39:10 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
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Burundi: Press Conference at UN HQ by Burundi Representative 96.9.16

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SAA13100; Tue, 17 Sep 1996 18:32:46 +0300 X-To: irinwire@sasa.unon.org
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16 September 1996

Press Briefing

PRESS CONFERENCE BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

[IRIN Note: Not an official record.]

At a press conference this morning, Nsanze Terence, Permanent Representative of Burundi, appealed for the lifting of economic sanctions against his country. He said Burundi's National Assembly was reinstated last week and political parties were fully re-established. The Government was prepared to enter into talks with all groups willing to participate in the establishment of peace and security. "The maker of this law will comply with it", he promised.

Mr. Terence expressed concern that some countries had imposed sanctions because they claimed that there was no democracy in Burundi. The situation had changed, and sanctions represented an illegal and immoral victimization of a small, land-locked country. Schools were due to open, but the absence of fuel -- a result of sanctions -- had stymied transportation, making it impossible for both students and teachers to return to their schools. The embargo was penalizing, not government, but innocent people.

In addition, various social and medical problems were emerging, including food and drug shortages, Mr. Terence said. Those shortages were causing considerable inflation and a loss of life. He cited epidemics of dysentery and diarrhoea and said programmes to fight AIDS were also being curtailed. Similarly, it had been impossible to move Burundi's important coffee and tea exports out of the country.

A correspondent asked whether the best way to eliminate sanctions and the general scepticism of the international community might be to restore Burundi's deposed leader, who was a Hutu. Mr. Terence said a person should be in power, not because of his ethnic origin, but because of his personal and professional qualifications. It was up to the people of Burundi, not foreign interests, to decide who governed them. Why was the coup in Burundi different from coups

elsewhere? Why were different standards being applied to his country? Elections would be scheduled according to the decisions of the National Assembly.

Asked about reports of divisions in Burundi's Mission to the United Nations over support for the new administration, Mr. Terence criticized sections of the international press that were unfair to his country. There was a need for balance in the reporting on his country. Diplomats in Burundi's Mission who expressed views different from his own would not be penalized, provided that they complied with their responsibilities. What was happening with diplomats in Burundi also happened where there was a new administration in the United States: top diplomats were changed, while those at the lower levels were usually left in their positions.

Mr. Terence went on to say that the sanctions against his country were determined by motives both hidden and apparent -- hidden because no one would come out to say why, and apparent because the international community understood the real reasons. Burundi was being asked to topple its own Government.

In its effort to have the sanctions lifted, Burundi had proposed a conference with its neighbours, Mr. Terence said. Major Pierre Buyoya also met with former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who promised to consult with the countries concerned to schedule the conference.

Contrary to certain propaganda about his country, only one minister was a military person in a Cabinet of 27, Mr. Terence said. Major Buyoya, having himself quit the army, made it clear when he ascended to power that the government would be civilian, not military. "There is no military junta in Burundi."

* * * * *

[ENDS]

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Burundi: US Catholic Bishops Conference on Archbishop 96.09.10

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A Statement in Response to the Disappearance of Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna
Archbishop of Gitega
by
Most Rev. Anthony M. Pilla
President
National Catholic Conference of Bishops/United States Catholic Conference
Bishop of Cleveland

September 10, 1996

IT IS WITH PROFOUND SADNESS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED NEWS OF THE
DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESUMED DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP JOACHIM RUHUNA,
ARCHBISHOP OF GITEGA, IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRY OF BURUNDI.
THE APPARENT MURDER OF THE ARCHBISHOP IS A MOST SERIOUS SIN
AGAINST GOD AND A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.

THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC BISHOPS, JOIN WITH ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD
WILL, IN CONDEMNING THIS ACT AGAINST A MAN OF GOD, A COURAGEOUS
PASTOR AND AN ADVOCATE OF PEACE, DESCRIBED AS "SOMEONE WHO LOVED
ALL OF HUMANITY." ARCHBISHOP RUHUNA'S DISAPPEARANCE IS A
HEARTBREAKING REMINDER OF THE URGENT NEED FOR THE CONTINUED
PURSUIT OF RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE IN BURUNDI.

WE RENEW OUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE IN
BURUNDI AT THIS TRAGIC MOMENT. WE PRAY THIS TERRIBLE LOSS WILL LEAD
TO NEW URGENCY AND COMMITMENT IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE FOR THE
SUFFERING PEOPLE OF BURUNDI.

[IRIN Note: IRIN regrets the delay in distributing this item, which was caused by a technical
hitch.]

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Date: Thu, 19 Sep 1996 14:14:27 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
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Subject:

Burundi: Statement by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator 96.9.11

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COORDONNATEUR RESIDENT DES ACTIVITES OPERATIONELLES DU SYSTEME
DES NATIONS UNIES AU BURUNDI
c/o PNUD
BP 1490
Bujumbura

M Mirza Hussain Khan

COMMUNIQUE

Le Coordonnateur Humanitaire du Systeme des Nations-Unies au Burundi, ayant pris acte avec satisfaction et soulagement des mesures d'assouplissement annoncees a Arusha (Tanzanie) par le Comite Regional de Coordination des Sanctions, voudrait porter a la connaissance du public ce qui suit:

1. Le Coordonnateur Humanitaire se rejouit du fait que les nombreux contacts pris par le Systeme des Nations-Unies, y compris par le Departement des Affaires Humanitaires, joints a ceux d'autres acteurs et partenaires, ont abouti a l'adoption de decisions positives qui permettront l'importation au Burundi d'un certain nombre de produits de premiere necessite et de caractere a faciliter la continuation des operations humanitaires.
2. Compte tenu des mesures d'assouplissement recemment adoptees, les agences humanitaires oeuvrant au Burundi se trouvent renforcees dans leur capacite de poursuivre, selon leur ferme volonte, les programmes d'aide en faveur des populations demunies du pays.
3. Le Systeme des Nations-Unies au Burundi continuera, en etroite collaboration avec ses partenaires nationaux et internationaux, de garder sous examen l'evolution de la situation humanitaire au Burundi dans tous les domaines.
4. Sur la base de cette evaluation, le Systeme des Nations-Unies continuera a maintenir un contact soutenu avec les autorites competentes de la region afin de leur fournir des informations objectives visant a soutenir le plaidoyer en faveur de l'adoption de mesures d'exemption consequentes.

Bujumbura, le 11 septembre 1996

[ENDS]

[Accented characters "simplified" for reliable electronic transmission.] [IRIN regrets that technical difficulties delayed the distribution of this item.]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 10-17 Sept 1996 96.9.17

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
SEPTEMBER 10 TO SEPTEMBER 17

Bujumbura remained calm following the assassination of the archbishop and President Buyoya's moves to restore political institutions. However, fighting continued in the hills outside the city and in northern Burundi. Diminished fuel stocks and limited supplies of other essential resources continue to limit humanitarian activities, although specific exemptions granted by the Regional Sanctions Coordination Committee (RSCC) should provide some improvement.

1. General

* Unknown assailants assassinated the Roman Catholic archbishop of Burundi, Joachim Ruhuna, after ambushing his vehicle on September 9 in the parish of Gitongo, 37 km north of Gitega.

The attack was another significant blow against those arguing for a negotiated settlement to Burundi's on-going civil war. UN and NGO representatives in the country fear that the assassination of the archbishop will further divide the country, isolating moderates arguing for restraint on both sides of the ongoing conflict.

Four of the six people who were travelling with the cleric have been found alive, while the body of a fifth was buried in Gitega on Sept. 11. The archbishop's body, and that of a nun who was travelling with him, have yet to be found.

Neither the military nor Hutu rebels have taken responsibility for the attack, while both sides have blamed the other for the ambush.

The archbishop's diocese of Gitega is the second biggest in the country and has recently been the scene of some of the heaviest fighting in Burundi. On July 23, the archbishop celebrated

a requiem mass close to Bugendana for some 330 Tutsis massacred in the area, criticizing extremists of both sides.

At least 10 Roman Catholic clerics have been assassinated in Burundi since 1993 and the archbishop himself survived an assassination attempt last year.

A public church service will be held for the archbishop in Bujumbura on September 17.

* UN officials have welcomed the decision by the RSCC to exempt certain classes of relief items from the sanctions on Burundi. However, strict sanctions remain on the importation of other essential humanitarian goods. Humanitarian agencies will now be able to import emergency medical and laboratory supplies, and nutritional supplements for infants and hospital patients. The UN will also be to import limited quantities of fuel for distributing these items. However, other essential humanitarian goods will still not be allowed in. The UN continues to seek exemptions for food and other items such as blankets, plastic sheeting, and supplies for water purification and sanitation.

* In a move which Burundian government authorities hope will persuade neighboring countries to lift the economic embargo, President Pierre Buyoya pledged to restore the country's national assembly and once again allow limited activities of political parties. "We have done our duty. We wait for others to do their duty," Buyoya said. "I believe there should be no other pretexts [for sustaining the sanctions]."

While UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali termed Buyoya's Sept. 12 announcement "extremely positive," political leaders from neighboring countries have made it clear their view that the announcement does not go far enough.

* Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who spear-headed the imposition of sanctions, has said that the sanctions could be eased if there was evidence of serious talks with the rebels. He described the restoration of political institutions as being of lesser importance. Buyoya has offered to hold peace talks, but only if rebel movements first lay down their arms and "renounce their ideology of genocide." Moreover, the constitution remains suspended, no new legislative elections will be held and it is unclear how the national assembly could operate since many of the Frodebu delegates elected three years ago have since fled the country and are now calling on party activists to join the armed rebellion.

In a statement issued from Tanzania, Frodebu leader Jean Minani denounced the Buyoya move as a "totally unacceptable masquerade." But 12 other Frodebu members declared their allegiance to the Buyoya government, setting themselves apart from those who have called for armed insurrection. The mainly Hutu Frodebu party won 65 of the 81 parliamentary seats in the 1993 legislative elections, while the Tutsi dominated Uprona party won the remaining 16.

Some observers, including Uprona head Charles Mukasi think it is unlikely that the contending Frodebu factions could work together effectively in parliament and doubt the viability of a re-instituted national assembly. Mukasi added that the measures taken by Buyoya will be "useless and dangerous" unless the sanctions are lifted and warned that Buyoya risked losing his credibility if they were not. Uprona's withdrawal of support for the Ntibantunganya government was one of the factors which precipitated the July coup.

Former head of state Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, who has influence over sections of the army and Tutsi youth, has also called the plan unworkable. "You can't govern a country in this fashion...Buyoya and his group must go."

However, the CNDD, which might have been expected to be more skeptical, has been more supportive. In a statement issued from Brussels, the organization called the move "a positive step but insufficient."

* Burundian Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama denied accusations by the Zairian government that his country was being used as a base for Rwandan Tutsis currently battling the Zairian army in the hills surrounding Uvira. However, he warned that the fighting could engulf the entire region and called for meetings between the three countries to resolve the conflict. Over the past ten days, the Zairian army has been conducting a sweep against armed Tutsis near Uvira. The Zairian government on September 13 accused the Rwandan government of enrolling some 3,000 Zairian Tutsis and training them to destabilize eastern Zaire with Burundi providing rear bases. Although the number of casualties is unknown, several hundred people have fled the region and are now reportedly living as refugees in Cibitoke province.

2. Security

Two days after the ambush of the archbishop, the Burundian military claims to have killed seven Hutu rebels on an attack on a bus. A military spokesman claims the attack was carried out by the same band who ambushed the cleric and that the attack was at the same approximate location.

Hutu rebels killed 15 people Sept. 13 in an attack on a displaced camp in Bubanza province. A military spokesman said that seven civilians, six rebels and a soldier were killed in the raid on Gara camp. In a separate attack, Hutu rebels ambushed two vehicles on the main RN1 highway near Bugarama, 35 kilometers east of Bujumbura, killing one civilian and wounding another. Numerous trucks and minibuses have also reportedly been attacked along the same road.

Security in Bujumbura has returned to normal after rebels lobbed three mortars into the city's suburbs September 3. Three soldiers and over 100 rebels were killed in subsequent heavy fighting that lasted for over a week in the hills surrounding the city, military sources say. Over 1,700 displaced people temporarily moved to the Johnson Center and other sites around Bujumbura to escape the fighting. Many of them have since returned to their homes.

Rebels destroyed two more electrical pylons in Bubanza September 11. Roughly 20 pylons have been destroyed since April, leaving Bujumbura virtually without electricity for the past month.

Anti-personnel mines are increasingly being used in the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke. At least eight mine casualties have recently been treated in Bujumbura hospitals.

3. Affected Populations

Following rebel offensives in Kayanza and Ngozi provinces, UNICEF, CRS and DHA conducted a joint mission to the region Sept. 11-12 in order to assess the needs of the affected populations. The mission visited several IDP sites and reported that humanitarian needs were largely being met.

Provincial authorities told the mission that at least 15,000 people had been displaced by the fighting but that they expected many IDPs to return to their homes shortly since security appeared to be improving. Humanitarian agencies in the north provided a quick and coordinated response to the emergency. WFP has provided 15 days of food rations and continues to operate Food for Work programs. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Christian Aid have provided blankets, jerry cans and soap, while MSF-Holland, MSF-Belgium and UNICEF are covering medical needs. UNICEF reports that it has provided 5mt of high energy biscuits to the population. UN agencies and NGOs operating in the area report that humanitarian activities have been limited by a shortage of fuel.

CRS reports that it provided food for approximately 2,360 people in Gitega over the reporting period as well as to approximately 1,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in Bujumbura Rural. Some of those receiving distributions from CRS in the outskirts of the city were displaced by recent fighting in the area. Oxfam-UK and Christian Aid distributed blankets and other non-

food items to individuals in the Kamenge area of the city displaced by recent fighting in the surrounding hills.

5. Coordination of Humanitarian Activities

Given the critical fuel shortages, UN agencies have created a joint logistics service to combine deliveries of existing supplies. WFP and UNHCR will, whenever possible, attempt to deliver humanitarian supplies for other UN agencies and NGOs. WFP will coordinate requests from NGOs to transport food and nutritional supplements, UNICEF will handle NGO requests for the transport of non-food items and WHO will handle NGO requests for medical supplies.

In light of the RSCC's decision to allow UN agencies to import fuel for specified humanitarian activities, the UN system has agreed that WFP will be the sole importer of fuel products. Relying on a single importer, rather than each agency importing its own needs, will simplify reporting and verification requirements. A committee composed of representatives of UN agencies will oversee the distribution of the fuel to ensure that humanitarian agencies use it in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the exemption. ActionAid will coordinate fuel requests from recognized NGOs and forward those requests to the UN committee.

Work on the Joint Operations Plan for Humanitarian Intervention in Burundi continues. Sectoral drafting responsibilities have been distributed among UN agencies and September 30 has been set as a target date for final completion of the document.

FAO, in conjunction with WFP, hosted a meeting Sept. 16 with UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the effects of the embargo on the agricultural sector. An FAO emergency survey on seeds, fertilizer and insecticide needs is continuing with an FAO assessment mission visiting the provinces of Bururi, Rutana, Makamba, Gitega and Muramvya over the reporting period. FAO, in conjunction with its NGO partners Dorkas Aid and CRS, conducted a mission to Rutana to discuss planned seed multiplication programs with local authorities.

6. Impact of Sanctions on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance

Sanctions continue to take their toll on the delivery of humanitarian goods. Fuel shortages have been compounded by the lack of electricity in the capital. This has forced all humanitarian agencies to divert a significant portion of their fuel supply to run office generators.

Due to the lack of fuel, for example, UNICEF deliveries of clean water to IDPs were limited to 21m³ of water for 4,500 persons in two camps. Under normal circumstances, deliveries of clean water consist of 100m³ for over 8,500 IDPs. UNICEF has also been forced to halt field visits planned for the delivery of materials and the monitoring of work being carried out on the rehabilitation of gravity flow water systems.

FAO reports that if seeds and other agricultural inputs required for the upcoming planting season are not allowed into the country, there will be an over 40 percent decrease in the production of basic, non-export food crops.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION SUPPORT UNIT/DHA P.B. 1490
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[ENDS]

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Burundi: International Alert Analysis No.4 1-15 Sep 1996 96.9.18

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INTERNATIONAL ALERT
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BURUNDI ANALYSIS NO.4

I am pleased to send you our latest analysis on developments in Burundi. We have been encouraged to receive a number of positive reactions to previous analyses. We welcome further comments and feedback.

Yours faithfully,

Bill Yates
International Alert
Burundi team.

BURUNDI - ACCOUNT AND ANALYSIS OF EVENTS - 1-15 SEPT. 1996.

ACCOUNT OF EVENTS

FRODEBU - Statements indicate differing inclinations. Twenty MPs declared support for CNDD and the armed struggle. This was not backed by the party President, Dr. Jean Minani. More recently two FRODEBU MPs and others who are ministers in the Bujumbura government have signed a declaration condemning the calls to violence. Former Foreign Minister, Jean Marie Ngendahayo has declared there is a rapprochement between FRODEBU and CNDD. Political realignments appear to be in progress.

CNDD - The rebel forces are reported to be more strongly equipped and supplied than earlier in the year. There are also reports of training by the South African mercenary organisation, Executive Outcomes. There has been fighting in the north where the rebels are apparently trying to block access to Rwanda. Several mortar rounds were fired into Bujumbura in the first week of September.

Bujumbura government - There have been two further meetings between Buyoya and Mwalimu Nyerere. On 12th September decrees lifted the ban on political parties and restored the National Assembly. The Tanzanian Foreign Minister immediately commented that the measures were insufficient for the lifting of sanctions.

Killing of Archbishop - On 9th September Archbishop Ruhuna was murdered in a car ambush on the road to Gitega. Both the army and CNDD have condemned the killing, and the army is reported to have subsequently killed large numbers of Hutu in the area.

Sanctions - The Co-ordinating Committee of regional Foreign Ministers decided on 6th September to allow access for humanitarian supplies. Otherwise the embargo is unchanged.

Justice - Amnesty International has called for the suspension of death sentences passed on Hutu prisoners who were not represented by expert legal counsel at their trials earlier this year. Human Rights Watch has called for an International Tribunal to follow up the report of the UN Commission of Enquiry.

ANALYSIS

Ostensibly the restoration of Parliament and political parties signify a turn towards constitutional government. But, in practice, in a climate of tension and physical danger, and with a large number of parliamentarians and leaders of the largest party now outside the country, free and normal political activity is as far away as ever.

All parties still appear to be focused on the past rather than the future :

- Buyoya's transitional programme in many ways envisaged a re-run of 1992 and 1993. It is failing because it does not include the main military and political protagonists of 1996. - CNDD and FRODEBU leaders insist on a return to the constitution and democratic gains of 1993.

There is a refusal on both sides to take realistic account of the implications of the violence and war that has taken over 100,000 lives in the intervening period and to recognise the realities of 1996. Buyoya is showing more flexibility but how much space does he have for manoeuvre ?

Negotiations - The Priorities :

Current mediation, both public and private, is focused on the issues of negotiations and a cease-fire; but in what order ?

Buyoya's pre-conditions for negotiations are declared to be a cease-fire and renunciation of the "ideology of genocide". Could these issues be taken up by the Mediator and the regional Heads of State through a public declaration addressed to all Burundi's people :

- that the purpose of the process of negotiations is precisely to bring an end to violence and to safeguard all groups from ethnic killing now and in the future,
- that negotiations under the auspices of the OAU and neighbouring Heads of State offer a more assured prevention of future genocide than any declarations by the parties at this stage, - and that a cessation of violence backed by a peace enforcement presence will be the first item on the negotiating agenda.

It seems that CNDD and FRODEBU will not negotiate with Buyoya in the capacity of Head of a transitional government. Nor will UPRONA, the army and the small parties accept a reversion to the 1993 constitution. Therefore, after a cease-fire, agreement on a power-sharing transitional structure has to be negotiated around the table.

All the above are not easy to achieve, but as sanctions impact with increasing severity, it could be helpful for the people of Burundi - Hutu and Tutsi alike - to be told what negotiations are initially to be about, by those who are trying to bring them about.

Justice and Impunity :

Impunity in Burundi will not be resolved by carrying out the death sentence after trials in which accused Hutu did not have defence counsel. The rehabilitation of the Burundi justice system needs foreign expert legal assistance. It cannot be undertaken at the current juncture, but all necessary preparations, funding commitments, etc. should be put in place so that a programme can be activated as soon as circumstances permit. Meanwhile it should be urged upon President Buyoya that to carry out the death sentences would be a breach of universal human rights which would bring widespread condemnation.

Bill Yates
International Alert
18 September, 1996

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 24 Sep 1996 15:47:50 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
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Subject:

Burundi: UNICEF Press Release on Re-Opening of Schools 96.9.23

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UNICEF

PRESS
RELEASE

UNICEF SUPPORTS THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN BURUNDI

Bujumbura, September 23, 1996

For the re-opening of primary schools on Monday 23 September 1996, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Burundi and the National Radio and Television Service has launched a campaign to raise primary school enrollment rates which have fallen 15% over the last 3 years to only 35% .

Since the beginning of the crisis in October 1993, UNICEF has strongly supported the Government of Burundi's efforts to ensure maximum school enrollment of the country's children. UNICEF played a key role in the re-opening of schools closed following the events of October 1993 and since that time has provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Education to improve infrastructures, equipment and personnel in the education sector.

Specifically, UNICEF provided financial support for:

- o the production of school textbooks to replaced those destroyed over the past 3 years
- o training for over 3,000 underqualified teachers to replace those who left the country, were internally displaced or killed
- o logistical support to the Ministry through the provision of 3 vehicles, 20 motorbikes, 336 bicycles, 400 radios and 476 library kits
- o improving radio distance education programmes
- o strengthening administration of the sector
- o updating curricula
- o improving in-class teaching methods

For this year's re-opening of schools, UNICEF has provided large quantities of school materials which will be distributed by the Ministry of Education and by NGOs. To address the needs of the most vulnerable victims of the crisis, UNICEF has provided school materials and health insurance cards to non-accompanied children who wish to attend school. In upholding Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child , UNICEF, the Government of Burundi and several local and international NGOs have developed the "Let's Build Peace" project which in 1994 and 1995 has reached over 200,000 children in grades 4 and 5, and more than 3,000 teachers, school directors and inspectors. A teachers' manual is currently being prepared to extend peace education to include grades 2 and 3 this year. To provide internally displaced and dispersed children access to schools in regions where few exist, UNICEF has undertaken the construction of temporary classrooms. To date, twelve such classrooms have been erected to

serve over 1,200 displaced children in Gatumba outside of Bujumbura. Additional temporary classrooms are planned for other sites in and around Bujumbura and for displaced children in Muyinga Province. To meet the psycho-social needs of children traumatized by the crisis, UNICEF has prepared a games and activity book to address the special needs of these children.

UNICEF thanks all donors whose assistance has made possible these efforts to support education in Burundi, including the European Union through ECHO, the Governments of Italy, Norway, Sweden, Canada, the United States, as well as UNICEF National Committees in Belgium, the UK and Australia.

[ENDS]

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
SEPTEMBER 18 TO SEPTEMBER 24

Despite President Buyoya's announcement 12 days ago restoring the national assembly and political parties, neither measure has yet had any appreciable effect, domestically or externally. Frodebu parliamentarians who had fled earlier this year to neighboring countries have said they have little faith in government assurances that they would be safe if they returned. While Buyoya's move was clearly aimed at encouraging regional states to loosen the grip of sanctions, regional leaders have reacted unenthusiastically. Without concessions from neighboring states, political observers in Bujumbura fear that President Buyoya's political support will be undermined by accusations from military and other Tutsi hardliners that he has granted concessions to opponents and received nothing in return.

Meanwhile, there is mounting concern that the on-going skirmishes in eastern Zaire could mushroom into a full scale regional conflict. The battles, which are occurring just across the Burundian border, have reportedly involved the use of rockets and heavy artillery and could lead to a new inflow of weapons into Burundi.

Diminished fuel stocks have now reached the critical stage. With no new fuel stocks having yet arrived, UN agencies and NGOs remain extremely limited in their ability to provide crucial humanitarian services. The problem is compounded by the need to tap limited fuel stocks to run office generators, with much of Bujumbura being once again without electricity.

1.General

*Kenya and Tanzania, the two most influential nations leading the embargo against Burundi, rejected Buyoya's appeal to ease sanctions in return for his lifting the ban on parliament and political parties. "The crucial condition is the requirement that there has to be unconditional negotiations involving all parties to the conflict in Burundi," Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said September 18. "I am not convinced much has happened in as much as the

constitution remains suspended." The Tanzanian foreign ministry released a similar statement, adding that the concessions lacked detail and fell short on the demand made by other countries in the region that there be immediate talks on power sharing. President Buyoya continues to hold out hope that the Tanzanians and other regional powers will agree to his request to be invited to a regional summit to discuss the situation in Burundi and the need to ease the sanctions.

In a September 23 statement, Major Buyoya said that sanctions risked plunging the country into further violence if they continued. "If this country remains under sanctions for two or three months, all is going to explode. So I call upon Tanzania and other countries in the region to do all they can to lift this embargo," he urged. *Meanwhile, the European Parliament urged the European Community not to recognize the Buyoya regime. "The European Parliament calls on European Institutions and the EU member states not to recognize the authority of the new regime in Bujumbura," the parliament said in a non-binding resolution September 19. The EU assembly said it supported the embargo against Burundi by neighboring countries and urged them to extend the ban to arms and ammunition. The EC has already cut off all development aid to the country. To date, no country has recognized the Buyoya government.

*Rebel leader Leonard Nyangoma claimed announced September 19 that he had taken over the presidency of Frodebu, a move that would effectively merge his CNDD party, which is supporting an armed guerrilla campaign against the Tutsi-led military, with the more moderate mainly Hutu opposition party.

Nyangoma, a former minister of interior, announced his party takeover in a statement signed by himself and a majority of the other eight surviving members of the Frodebu executive steering committee. The statement said Nyangoma had become interim president of the party in "view of the higher interests of the nation," and added that the move was in accordance with party statutes. At least 40 Frodebu members of parliament have recently issued statements supporting the CNDD and its armed wing, the FDD.

The CNDD leader's move was challenged by Jean Minani, who became Frodebu's president last year after being forced out of the candidacy for speaker of parliament after Uprona accused him of responsibility for the massacres in 1993. His insistence that he was still chairman of the party was backed by Augustin Nzojibwami, Frodebu's secretary general, who until this week had been in hiding in the residence of the German ambassador in Bujumbura. Nzojibwami left the residence September 23, declaring that Minani "is and stays" the president of Frodebu.

Observers say that although it is clear that Minani no longer holds much sway over the entire party hierarchy, many rank-and-file members still support his more moderate tone. Minani is now in Tanzania, where he fled in July following the coup.

*Nyangoma on September 18 said that he was prepared, under certain conditions, to open talks towards a negotiated settlement of the Burundian conflict. In a statement released in Nairobi, he said that the CNDD was ready to negotiate, but would only talk with "delegates who had not taken part in the planning and execution of the coup d'etat" in 1993. However, the statement left open the question of whether the CNDD would be willing to talk directly to Buyoya or would insist on working through intermediaries. The CNDD has consistently accused Buyoya of taking part in the 1993 coup. In previous statements the CNDD has also insisted on the rehabilitation of Burundi's constitution, the freeing of more than 6,000 prisoners and the arrest of those responsible for the 1993 coup.

*As Zairian troops continued to clash with armed groups of Banyamulenge Tutsi in Eastern Zaire, concern grew over the possible repercussions on Burundi, which, along with Rwanda, was accused by Zaire of backing Tutsi "infiltrations" into the county. The Banyamulenge are Tutsis of Rwandan origin who have lived in eastern Zaire for decades, and Zaire's accusations heightened fears of a regional, ethnically-aligned, conflict. Nevertheless, the weight of regional leadership still seemed determined to avoid such an outcome, and the principal protagonists, Zaire and Rwanda, appeared to want to limit the escalation.

2. Security

Rebel ambushes against minibuses and military attacks against the rebels continued in western Burundi and along major roads leading to the capital. Between September 9-23, UN security officials reported eight ambushes and seven engagements between military and rebel forces. The number of rebel ambushes against minibuses and other vehicles appeared to reflect an attempt by rebel forces to limit trade and movement of population between the towns.

Among the more significant ambushes was a September 19 attack near Rutagama that killed four passengers and wounded four others travelling between Bujumbura and Gitega on National Route 2. That road is closed to UN travel except with military escort.

Heavy weapon fire echoed in the hills surrounding Bujumbura once again on the morning of September 21 as military and rebel forces fought in a brief engagement near the suburb of Muthanga North. At least one person was reported killed in the fighting.

The American Embassy continues to encourage Americans to leave Burundi and is arranging a charter flight for those who can not leave on scheduled UN flights. The embassy says it is arranging the flight because commercial flights were unlikely to resume anytime soon, and out of concern that the security situation was likely to deteriorate further.

The Belgium government had also considered organizing a special flight to evacuate Belgians who wanted to leave. However, the Belgium Embassy in Bujumbura said September 20 that a special flight appeared unlikely since fewer than 10 of the some 300 Belgians remaining in the country had asked to leave.

3. Affected Populations

UNHCR reports that up to 250 Banyamulenge Tutsi have fled eastern Zaire in recent weeks and are now congregating in several sites in western Burundi, including in Cibitoke province and in the town of Gatumba on the border with Zaire. In light of security concerns, UNHCR will concentrate the groups in a single camp in Gihanga, about 15 km north of the airport. Local authorities have identified a possible site which will be reviewed by a UNHCR site planner later this week. MSF-Belgium will provide the camp's medical needs.

4. Coordination of Humanitarian Activities

Despite the September 6 agreement by the RSCC to allow humanitarian organizations to import limited quantities of fuel for essential humanitarian operations, humanitarian agencies have not yet been able to import new stocks. The ability of UN agencies and NGOs to continue essential humanitarian activities in Burundi will remain diminished until new fuel stocks arrive.

In advance of the Regional Sanctions Committee meeting in Kigali, the UN and NGOs in Burundi collaborated in the preparation of a position paper advocating further exemptions to the sanctions, in the areas of agriculture, food aid and emergency relief supplies. Proposals were also submitted for expanding the exemptions already granted for humanitarian flights into Burundi.

Twice-weekly humanitarian flights have already begun between Nairobi and Bujumbura. Permission for regular flights between Bujumbura and Kigali has been requested but not yet granted.

5. Impact of Sanctions on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance

While waiting for the first deliveries of exempted fuel for humanitarian operations, UN and NGO agencies reported a growing impact of the sanctions on the health sector. Drug supplies in some provinces were running low, and the lack of fuel prevented the necessary assessment

missions from being carried out to determine exact needs. Stocks of polio vaccine have already been depleted. Many provincial health authorities and NGOs currently lack the fuel needed to transport drugs from Bujumbura to the interior of the country. Arrangements are being made to transport health supplies using UNHCR and WFP trucks under the previously established joint logistics service.

UNICEF is ready to supply medicines to two hospitals in Bururi province but has not been able to do so because of a lack of fuel. Accelerated immunization activities, a nation-wide anti-AIDS campaign and training programs for health personnel are also on hold as a result of the fuel shortage.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION SUPPORT UNIT/DHA P.B. 1490
Bujumbura, BURUNDI
tel: 257 22 31 35
fax: 257 22 58 50

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 26 Sep 1996 17:29:17 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: Regional Sanctions Co-ordinating Committee Statement 96.9.25

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id
RAA03212 for irinwire-outgoing; Thu, 26 Sep 1996 17:32:10 +0300 X-Authentication-
warning: unigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE 2ND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SANCTIONS CO- ORDINATING COMMITTEE

KIGALI, RWANDA 25 SEPTEMBER 1996

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the Regional Sanctions Co-ordinating Committee held its 2nd meeting in Kigali, Rwanda on 25 September, 1996 under its Chairman H.E. Major-General M.S.H. SARAKIKYA, High Commissioner of Tanzania to Kenya. Representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and the OAU Secretariat attended the meeting. Zaire and the OAU current Chairman were not represented.
2. The Committee reviewed the recent developments in Burundi, the implementation of Sanctions and noted that the Sanctions have so far been effective.
3. The Committee considered the requests for exemptions made by various U.N. Agencies and the Diplomatic corps based in Bujumbura and recommended that the exemptions given so far including those related to fertilizer and vegetable seeds are sufficient.
4. The Committee took note of the positive steps taken by the BUYOYA regime towards meeting the conditions set out by the Arusha II Summit, namely the lifting of the ban on political parties and the restoration of the National Assembly. However, the Committee stressed that the most important condition yet to be fully met is the immediate and unconditional negotiations with all groups.
5. In view of the steps taken so far by the BUYOYA regime, the Committee recommended that Major BUYOYA be invited to be available during the forthcoming Summit. In addition, other leaders of parties to the conflict as may be recommended by the Facilitator also be invited to be available during the Summit meeting.
6. The Committee underscored the fact that the sanctions were not imposed for the benefit of, or to the detriment of any group or political faction. To that end, it reiterated the Political objective of the sanctions, namely to pressure the BUYOYA regime to undertake measures aimed at restoring Burundi to legality and constitutional order; finding a negotiated settlement to the conflict and to bring about lasting peace to Burundi.
7. The Committee reiterated the need for coordination, harmonization and information-sharing among all the participating countries in order to maintain cohesion and unity of purpose in all matters pertaining to the Sanctions.

8. The Committee recommended that a Ministerial meeting be held on 10 October 1996 in order to review the situation in Burundi and prepare for the proposed Third Regional Summit.

9. The Committee agreed to hold its 3rd Session in Arusha, Tanzania on 8 October 1996.

10. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting the meeting and for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to all the delegations.

Kigali, 25 September 1996

[ENDS]

[Transcribed from a faxed original by UN DHA IRIN, Nairobi.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 1996 22:52:03 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN
<irin@dha.unon.org>
Subject:

Burundi: Summary of 1994 Inquiry on Human Rights 94.7.5

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id
WAA01012; Mon, 21 Oct 1996 22:52:43 +0300

[IRIN Note: Following is a summary of a 200-page report issued 5 July 1994. Given today's anniversary, IRIN subscribers may find it relevant and interesting. The full report can be consulted in our Nairobi office, and copies may still be purchased directly from Human Rights Watch.]

EMBARGO: 5 JUILLET 1994

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE D'ENQUETE SUR LES VIOLATIONS DES DROITS DE
L'HOMME AU BURUNDI DEPUIS LE 21 OCTOBRE 1993.

RAPPORT FINAL.

- HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AFRICA WATCH (New York, Washington) - LIGUE DES
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DANS LA REGION DES GRANDES LACS
(L.D.G.L.-Kigali)
- CENTRE NATIONAL POUR LA COOPERATION AU DEVELOPPEMENT (CNCD -
Bruxelles) - FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (FIDH -
Paris) - ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE (O.M.C.T.)/S.O.S. Torture
(Geneve) - NATIONAAL CENTRUM VOOR ONTWIKKELINGSSAMENWERKING
(NCOS - Brussel) - NOVIB (Amsterdam)

SUMMARY:

The International Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in Burundi since October 21, 1993 concluded that important officers of the Burundi army, including the Chief of Staff, are responsible for the attempted coup d'etat on October 21. These officers knew in advance that there was a serious risk that massacres would follow any attempt at overthrowing the government and so they must also share the responsibility for the killings that took place as a consequence of the attempted coup. The officers, even those who said they opposed the coup, obeyed the orders of an illegitimate power, including orders to attack the presidential palace and to arrest members of the government, governors and other local government officials. The assassinations of the President and other important members of the government and the arrests of the governors contributed to the atmosphere of terror that itself stimulated killings in the interior of the country.

The assassination of President Ndadaye was ordered by Lieutenant Paul Kamana. The Commission has identified the four presumed assassins and will hand over their names to the Burundian authorities.

In the hours and days following the attempted coup, people in the interior of the country took steps to protect themselves, including barring roads and organizing security patrols. Most of these steps were ordered by or at least suggested by provincial and local authorities. In addition, certain Ministers broadcast appeals for resistance. These measures carried the serious risk of leading bloodshed unless they were accompanied by clear instructions to avoid violence. The

Government did not react effectively to the massacres; fear and disorganization are not acceptable excuses for the lack of action. The Ministers who made appeals for resistance could have used the same means of communication to call for an end to the massacres.

In those places where a large number of Tutsi were killed, an important minority of local government officials participated in the summary executions or incited others to carry them out. In these communes, the killings began with detaining the Tutsi hostages, often in public buildings. Tutsi government employees also used their positions and the resources of their posts to facilitate the killing of Hutu. These findings call into the question the thesis that the violence was spontaneous, all least as a general explanation for the killings.

Some authorities, both civilian and military, tried to avoid violence and to stop the killings, sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

The army and police used excessive and unnecessary force, including heavy machine guns of 14.5 mm and 20 mm cannons, armored vehicles and helicopters against a civilian population that was usually trying to flee or to protect itself. The army and the police attacked communities where the Tutsi had been detained or killed. But they intervened also in communities where there had been no killings, thereby introducing the very violence that they were supposed to be quelling. In some cases they killed the civilian population themselves and in some cases, they provoked reprisals against the Tutsi.

The army and the police used Tutsi and Twa civilians, both adults and students, to extend the reach of their attack. These attacks were undertaken for political or strategic ends and also for personal economic profit. In addition, students from several secondary schools participated in the killings and pillage, sometimes on their own initiative, but often under the direction of adults.

In many cases, rumor and myth were used to incite people to kill or to justify their killings.

No effective investigations or prosecutions have been undertaken to bring to justice those guilty of these massive human rights violations.

Because the Commission had only limited resources at its command, it would not undertake the exhaustive inquiries needed. It recommends most strongly that the Government of Burundi carry on these investigations through its own national commission and through the usual judicial channels so that the guilty may be brought to justice. The Commission appeals to the international community to support the Government of Burundi with the necessary resources, both human and financial, so that the Burundian courts can judge the accused within a reasonable period of time.

The Commission recommends that the army and the police be clearly and permanently separated, with one given the task of defending the country and the other the task of maintaining order within the country. Each should have a separate hierarchy of command and should be organized, trained and equipped in accord with its functions. Recruitment and advancement should be based on merit and equal access. The Government should vigorously pursue the objective of an army and police force that reflects the composition of the national population.

The Government should also establish programs to eliminate discrimination in the provision of government services, to combat rumors, to educate people in human rights and to permit the displaced and refugees to return home.

The International Commission was organized at the request of the Burundian human rights league ITEKA. Composed of 13 human rights specialists from 8 different countries, it carried out investigations in 13 of the 15 provinces of Burundi and collected testimony from approximately 1,000 witnesses.

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN Nairobi.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 02 Oct 1996 11:12:01 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Unicef delivers Vaccines For Burundi 96.9.30

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id
LAA04961; Wed, 2 Oct 1996 11:16:43 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigigiri.unep.org:
usasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNICEF News

For further information, contact:

OG Kofi - Regional External Relations Officer, UNICEF/ESARO/Nairobi, Tel 622 214).

Nairobi, Monday, September 30 - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) airlifted sorely-needed batch of vaccines to Bujumbura today to help stave off a serious crisis in local stocks. The 500-kg of polio and measles vaccines were the first such humanitarian supplies to reach beleaguered Burundi since July when neighbouring countries announced a complete land and sea blockade of the central African state in sanction against the July 25 military takeover there.

In cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) which is providing flight support, UNICEF plans to airlift to Burundi in the coming weeks several tons of drugs, high protein biscuits, soap, plastic sheeting, water bladders and jerrycans under a programme of humanitarian aid exemptions agreed upon by the Regional Sanctions Committee earlier this month.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 03 Oct 1996 13:33:07 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 25 Sept - 1 Oct 96.10.1

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
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>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id NAA06566; Thu, 3 Oct 1996 13:44:58 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: ungigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 1

Humanitarian activities in Burundi continue to be limited by the regional sanctions imposed on the country. The September 25 meeting of the Regional Sanctions Coordination Committee (RSCC) in Kigali concentrated on the political stalemate in Burundi. The RSCC did, however, publicly confirm that it had agreed earlier in the week to allow FAO to import limited quantities of fertilizer for non-cash crops and vegetable seeds. A six percent drop in the January 1997 pulse harvest is forecast by FAO as a result of the non-delivery of fertilizer that had earlier been blocked by the embargo. It is already too late to use the fertilizer this season.

Security throughout Burundi remains precarious with ambushes continuing on the main roads and with most of Bujumbura once again without electricity. Fuel supplies held by the humanitarian community continue to be alarmingly low, and while an order has been made, no new stocks have been received.

While there have been few reports of new fighting in Burundi over the last week, reports of continued fighting in eastern Zaire have raised concern about the possibility of a new inflow of refugees into Burundi. To date, however, only small numbers of people have crossed into Burundi to escape the fighting in Uvira and Bukavu.

1. General

*Burundi's neighboring states enforcing sanctions against the Buyoya regime hinted last week that they would allow Buyoya to meet with political leaders of neighboring country's at the next regional summit, effectively reducing the Burundian leader's political isolation. In recommendations issued after the September 25 meeting of the RSCC in Kigali, committee members advised that "Buyoya be invited to be available" for the next regional summit to discuss developments in Burundi. The text added that "other leaders of parties to the conflict

[are] also invited to be available." Buyoya had tried for some time to win an audience with those responsible for imposing the economic sanctions but had been rebuffed until last week. No firm date has yet been set for the regional summit, but it could be as soon as the second week in October.

Members of the Buyoya government welcomed the opening even though the wording of the recommendations appeared to give President Buyoya's rule the same degree of legitimacy as that of rebel leaders such as Leonard Nyangoma. "We consider that it is a good thing to be able to explain the situation to our neighbors," said Minister of Information Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye. "It is never too late to make peace, but while people hesitate about lifting sanctions, the embargo claims innocent victims," he added in an interview with reporters.

*The power struggle within the Hutu-dominated Frodebu party intensified September 25 with 34 more members backing CNDD leader Leonard Nyangoma's claim to be the new party chief. Nyangoma had announced the previous week that he had wrested the party's presidency away from Jean Minani, the former speaker of the national assembly. Minani continues to contest Nyangoma's claim.

*In a speech during the September 27 ceremony in which the Burundian Supreme Court swore in Buyoya as head of state, Buyoya reiterated his claim that the coup was necessary to avoid the disintegration of the Burundian state and promised once again to organize a national debate on the country's political future. He added that preparations for the debate were already underway.

*Howard Wolpe, President Clinton's special envoy to Burundi arrived in Bujumbura September 29 to once again argue for a negotiated settlement of the conflict and a return to constitutional rule. This was his first trip to Burundi since early August, shortly after the July 25 coup. After his September 30 meeting, Wolpe told reporters that he and Buyoya had discussed ways of restoring peace, but gave no other details. Wolpe is expected to leave Burundi October 3 to meet with political leaders of other countries in the region imposing sanctions against Burundi

For the first time since this summer, Burundian authorities have opened their side of the border with Zaire. Although the border was somewhat porous even when it was officially closed, the action by Burundian authorities has made it easier for those supplying the parallel market for fuel in Burundi to bring supplies into the country. The price on the parallel market for fuel is now said to be between 500 FrBu to 700 FrBu, a reduction of several hundred FrBu per liter. Officially, Zaire has kept its side of the border closed.

2. Security

The Burundian army reports that five civilians, ten rebels and two soldiers were killed last week near Rutegama in Muramvya province. Thirteen people were injured in separate attacks in the province over the week but additional details were not available.

Rebel ambushes continue along major roads throughout the country, although UN security officials report somewhat fewer ambushes than previous weeks. Rebels continue to target minibuses transporting passengers and food to markets, as well as other soft, commercial targets. Direct attacks against military units have become infrequent.

While attacks along Route 2 between Gitega and Murumvya continue, rebels have now begun to target vehicles travelling along Route 3 between Bujumbura and Rumonge. This week, rebels attacked at least three vehicles traveling on that route with at least one person killed, three injured and three vehicles destroyed. The attacks were in the vicinity of Kabezi, about 25km south of Bujumbura.

According to WFP, there are unconfirmed reports of serious clashes in Kayanza province, including an attack on a health center and hospital in Butaganzwa commune.

Rebels have once again destroyed electric pylons in Bubanza province. At least one more pylon was toppled Sunday, once again plunging most parts of the city into darkness and forcing UN agencies and NGOs to divert fuel stocks to run generators.

WFP has had to remove its Twin Otter plane from service in order for it to undergo maintenance in Johannesburg. Without the use of the plane, members of the humanitarian community who need to travel between Bujumbura and other regional towns will be forced to risk travel by road. Use of the plane would be essential should an evacuation of UN staff be necessary. It is expected to be at least a week until the plane is back in service.

3. Affected Populations

UNHCR reports that refugees continue to cross into Burundi from eastern Zaire. Over 400 have crossed the border since the conflict between Zairian Tutsis and elements of the Zairian military erupted last month. Many of those escaping the fighting who have crossed into Burundi are in the troubled Cibitoke province, and will be transported by the Burundian government to a UNHCR camp now being prepared in Gihanga, about 15 km north of the Bujumbura airport.

ACF is exploring the possibility of enlarging its nutritional programs in Gitega, rural Bujumbura and northern Kayanza.

The International Rescue Committee has begun operations in Muyinga province. In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, IRC will work to improve sanitation in IDP camps and rehabilitate local water systems.

According to WFP, the governor of Ngozi province is discussing with relief agencies, including WFP, the possibility of resettling internally displaced Burundians on the sites of the two former refugee camps in the province.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

The Rwandan Sanctions Committee has granted a joint request from the humanitarian community for a bulk shipment of diesel and petrol for UN and NGO humanitarian operations and basic administration. WFP and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania are exploring procedures for importing fuel from that country. On the assumption that the Rwandan shipment will arrive shortly, no order has been placed with Tanzanian suppliers.

On September 30, UNICEF, with the logistical support of WFP, organized an airlift to Burundi of 500 kg of vaccines to prevent the spread of measles and polio. The quantity is sufficient to immunize 150,000 children.

UNICEF has sent essential drug kits to Rutana and Muyinga provinces through its operational partner IMC, to Cankuzo through MSF-Switzerland and to Bururi through WFP in collaboration with provincial health authorities.

Final touches are being completed on the new draft of the Joint Operations Plan for Humanitarian Assistance in Burundi.

Preparations for a joint-agency assessment mission to examine the state of IDPs in the Gitega region are underway.

5. Impact of Sanctions on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance

The recent RSCC exemptions granted for medicine have not prevented serious shortfalls in the providing of essential services in the health sector. A major concern continues to be the severe

shortage of BCG (tuberculosis) vaccines. UNICEF-donated government stocks of the vaccine are virtually depleted. New supplies have been ordered, but unless they are received within days, the vaccination chain will be broken.

The lack of fuel continues to limit the ability of all agencies to undertake field activities. It has become increasingly difficult to deliver essential drugs, vaccines and food used in supplementary feeding programs. Lack of fuel, for example, has prevented UNICEF from supervising the delivery of materials for the repair of water catchment sites and gravity flow systems in Kirundo and Ngozi provinces, as well as the distribution of emergency water and sanitation materials for recently displaced persons in Kayanza and Ngozi provinces.

Materials ordered from suppliers outside the country for the provision of emergency water and sanitation facilities, as well as other humanitarian needs, have been blocked from delivery. Obtaining humanitarian materials locally has become increasingly difficult as supplies have run out and can not be replenished.

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[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 04 Oct 1996 16:57:08 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Press Conference by Minister for Foreign Affairs 96.10.2

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org

To: irinwire@dha.unon.org

MIME-version: 1.0

Precedence: list

>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id

SAA01819; Fri, 4 Oct 1996 18:00:53 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to

dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

UNITED NATIONS

2 October 1996

Press Briefing

PRESS CONFERENCE BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BURUNDI

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

[IRIN Note: Not an official record.]

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burundi, Luc Rukingama, told correspondents at a Headquarters press conference today that there was an urgent need for the international community to condemn the "dangerous current" in relations between States, and to act to put a stop to the blockade declared against Burundi. He was referring to sanctions imposed on Burundi by its neighbours after the 31 July summit meeting of its leaders.

He added that ending the blockade "was a moral obligation for the credibility of the United Nations, the conscience of a world that speaks in terms of solidarity and cannot endorse the aggravation of the suffering of the people of Burundi, and the curtailment of the chances of the process of peace, reconciliation, and economic and social recovery of Burundi".

Mr. Rukingama said that while the fifty-first session of the General Assembly was taking place during a "severe crisis" in Burundi, there recently was a positive change. On 25 July, a transitional institutional system of Government was set up for a three-year period. It was headed by President Pierre Buyoya, a politician who had led the country towards national unity and democracy at a very early stage in the 1990s.

The Burundians welcomed the establishment of a transitional institution with a "sigh of relief", he said. Some members of the international community encouraged the new Government to work towards a return to peace and security and to normal constitutional life. On the other hand, neighbouring countries reacted by imposing on 31 July, a land, air and lake blockage on an enclaved country already weakened by three years of civil war. Institutions were blocked, there was an increased level of genocidal massacres, and an atmosphere of insurrection prevailed. At risk was the survival of a "profoundly wounded" population.

He added that the blockade was a serious violation of the following principles: the right of a people to self-determination, sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and freedom of transit and trade for all States, especially those which were land-locked.

According to the initiators of the blockade, its purpose was solely political, he said. It was meant to return Burundi to constitutional legality, meaning the restoration of the National Assembly, the unbanning of political parties, and the immediate, unconditional negotiations with the armed groups. The restoration of the National Assembly and political parties took place on 12 September. A formal pledge to engage in dialogue with the armed factions was reiterated on 13 September. Any possible pretext for that new form of interventionism had, therefore, been eliminated. Yet, the embargo was still operative except in a few cases.

Turning to what he called the "nefarious" side effects of the blockade against Burundi, Mr. Rukingama said that politically, it had the effect of radicalizing the extreme positions, especially the rebellion. Socially, it offended the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable people in Burundi, namely the children, women, the elderly and disaster victims. Basic drugs were not available, surgery, including emergency procedures, could no longer be performed, and vaccinations of children had been halted -- resulting in a new outbreak of prenatal tetanus, measles, and whooping cough, thus annihilating the efforts of an expanded programme of immunization over the past 15 years.

As the current rainy season begins, there were no antibiotics and no rehydration infusions at a time when there was generally an epidemic upsurge of diseases such as cholera and dysentery, he said. Malnutrition had already increased, and children were forced to stop attending school.

The economic result of the embargo was a 30 per cent decline in the national production of food crops, a 10 per cent decline of industrial crop production, 24 per cent for livestock, and 30 per cent in the industrial sector, he said. The balance of payments for the rest of the year would show a profit loss of 25 billion in Burundi francs. The inflation rate was already reaching 40 per cent. The total value of losses in the economic sector was estimated at \$127 million dollars, including a considerable loss of income to peasants.

In a question about what measures the Government had undertaken to ensure the safety of the members of the National Assembly and of political leaders, Mr. Rukingama said the security sector had been revitalized, and members of the Parliament, the President of the National Assembly, as well as some politicians had additional security staff. Throughout the country, there was a redeployment of the security forces, and additional contributions had been made by individuals in that regard. In an official note verbale to the individual sheltering the former President, the Government had clearly expressed its will to protect the former President, as well as all dignitary members of the former regime. Where previously there had been more than 30 individuals seeking shelter, only one individual now remained outside such shelter.

Asked if he had raised the issue of sanctions in his meeting today with the Secretary-General, Mr. Rukingama said it was not for the Secretary-General to lift the sanctions. That depended on the good will of the neighbouring countries. He hoped that an upcoming subregional summit on 11 October would result in lifting the embargo. Asked in a follow-up question about who was participating in the embargo, he said there was an exhaustive list that mainly included government officials of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and from time to time, Zaire and Ethiopia.

Asked about negotiations with his opponents, he said the Government was committed to dialogue with all groups, including armed groups. The problem was not on the Government side. Paradoxically, pressure was being placed on those who were promoting dialogue, whereas no pressure was being placed on the armed groups who continued to kill innocent people, and who had just assassinated an Archbishop there. He hoped the international community would put pressure on the armed groups to force them to talk in order to find

solutions. His Government had already indicated to neighbouring countries, to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and to the President of the Security Council, his readiness to talk. There was presently no dialogue with the rebels, who first had to stop the massacres.

Asked in a follow-up whether that was a precondition for dialogue with armed groups, that they first of all reject violence and lay down their weapons, Mr. Rukingama said he had stressed that condition, but it was not a precondition for dialogue. Wisdom would dictate, however, that those armed groups had to stop killing people if they wished to speak on the people's behalf. The Government found itself "in a bind", he added.

To a question about his relations with the Holy See in light of the assassination of the Archbishop, he said the Holy See was one of the institutions that was following events in Burundi very closely. When the reconciliation process was concluded in the 1990s, the Pope came to Burundi to express his message of unity and peace. Also, a Cardinal had come to the funeral of the Archbishop, and had said that the Holy See was still on Burundi's side. In addition, the Holy See had stated that economic sanctions against Burundi did not provide a chance for peace.

Asked how he explained the fact that men of the Church were being attacked, he said he did not think they were attacked specifically because they were men of the Church, but because of their expressed appeals for unity, reconciliation and peace in Burundi.

A correspondent asked if he had received any kind of support by the international community for his appeal to put pressure on Burundi's neighbours in order to lift the embargo on 11 October. Mr. Rukingama said he had broad support in the international community, including those who had said they did not understand measures that were not going to achieve anything politically, economically or socially. "When history seeks to lay the blame on someone for the death and suffering in Burundi, we do not want our neighbouring countries to whom we are so dearly attached to suffer that blame", he concluded.

* * * * *

[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 11 Oct 1996 11:44:49 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report Oct 2 - 9 96.10.9

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
OCTOBER 2 TO OCTOBER 9

With a new regional summit on Burundi taking place later this week in Arusha, a succession of high-level visitors have come to Burundi in recent days, searching for a break through in the country's protracted crisis. There are signs of progress, the national assembly officially met on Oct. 7 for the first time since the July coup. But most observers see the reinstatement of the national assembly as largely a symbolic gesture, with the legislative body likely to play only a limited role in shaping government policies.

While elements of both sides of the conflict continue to say they would support a negotiated settlement, it is far from clear if those elements have the internal support they need to sit at the negotiating table. Indeed, in separate statements issued during the week, both the head of Uprona and a major Tutsi youth militia strongly hinted that if President Buyoya held talks with Hutu rebels, then they would withdraw their support for his government.

While Tutsi power brokers have expressed increasing skepticism about the value of negotiations, both regional and international leaders have made it clear that the sanctions will not be lifted unless there is concrete evidence that negotiations with the Hutu majority are underway. Two months of sanctions have blocked lucrative coffee exports and weakened the economy, leading to lost jobs and risking the erosion of Buyoya's support.

1. General

*With a new regional summit on Burundi due to take place in Arusha on October 12, diplomatic efforts to encourage negotiations have stepped up. After nearly four days of talks, President Clinton's special envoy Howard Wolpe left Bujumbura October 3. He was not optimistic about an early solution to the crisis and told reporters that there was "a long way to go" before a lasting settlement could be established. Wolpe's visit was followed by separate visits by UN Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and European Union representative Aldo Ajello. Ajello told reporters that Buyoya's decision to restore parliament and political parties was a "step forward." He

added that it would be unrealistic to expect the Arusha summit to lead directly to negotiations, but that "one can expect a framework in which negotiations can take place."

*Uprona chairman Charles Mukasi, whose withdrawal from the former government was one of the precursors of the July coup, has denounced calls by Wolpe and others for a cease fire followed by negotiations. "This can not be envisaged with people who don't fight face to face, and with the genocidal people who don't want to stop killing innocent civilians," he said, referring to Hutu rebels. The Tutsi youth faction Sodajem also warned Buyoya that negotiations with Hutu rebels would be tantamount to high treason. In the past, Buyoya has said that he is willing to negotiate with Hutu rebels if they were first willing to lay down their arms and renounce their "genocidal ideology".

*In an opening speech, Parliamentary Speaker Leonce Ngendakumana quoted from a speech Buyoya delivered during his first presidency supporting democracy as an institution. Earlier in the week, he said that parliament should play "a middle role" in the conflict and represent "those without weapons."

But the body is unlikely to begin its legislative functions anytime soon. Although over 30 deputies attended the October 7 parliamentary session, Frodebu Secretary General Augustin Nzojibwami said his party's deputies would not vote on legislation, nor allow the institution to function until several conditions were met. Nzojibwami told reporters that his party insisted on the restoration of the constitution, introduction of an electoral code and a negotiated settlement of the on-going civil war. "The parliament will not function unless we have those three texts. At the moment, we can not work," he said.

*Plans for a U.S.- backed African crisis force are moving ahead, although it is still unclear if the force would be under the direct control of the UN Security Council. In a press briefing before Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to Arusha and elsewhere in Africa later this week, U.S. officials said that the 10,000 man force would establish safe havens for civilians, and would seek to avoid direct engagements with warring factions. The troops, provided by OAU members but funded in part by the U.S., would be sent to countries like Burundi where civil war or campaigns of genocide threaten massive civilian casualties.

2. Security

Skirmishes reportedly continue in Muramvya province and to the south of Bujumbura along National Route 3, the road linking the city with Rumonge. Troops were also said to be in action in the Teza region northeast of the capital, and south of the Kibera mountains where Hutu rebels have long held sway. Several ambushes were reported on National Route 2 between Muramvya and Gitega and on National Route 3 near Ruziba. Both roads are closed to UN traffic.

In light of possible unrest as the Arusha meetings approach, the US embassy has advised American citizens in the country to take extra precautions. In an Oct. 4 message sent out to American citizens, the embassy advised Americans to restrict travel after dark to areas frequented by the expatriate community and to ensure that gatherings in local establishments include groups of at least three.

Electricity in the city continues to be sporadic although it is still unclear if more pylons have been sabotaged.

3. Affected Populations

Hundreds of Banyamulenge, persons of Rwandan origin living in South Kivu, have crossed into Burundi over the past week as unrest in eastern Zaire continues to grow. According to UNHCR, there are now some 800 Banyamulenge in Burundi, with approximately 300 of them in strife-torn Cibitoke province. With the collaboration of the Burundian government, WFP and UNHCR have provided assistance to the recently arrived refugees, but will soon limit

assistance to the Gihanga camp now being constructed at a site north of the Bujumbura airport. With harassment of the Banyamulenge continuing in Zaire, humanitarian agencies are preparing for the possibility of a larger inflow of refugees into Burundi.

Burundians continue to flee to neighboring countries. UNHCR reports that approximately 80 per day are crossing into Tanzania, while approximately 20 per day are crossing into Zaire. Given the recent insecurity in Zaire's South Kivu province, the number currently seeking refuge in that province is significantly lower than in the past.

The reintegration of war-affected Burundians living in the former refugee camps in northern Burundi continues, with 91 moving from Ngara on September 27 to communes in Ngozi province, leaving 383 in the former camp, 600 in Ntamba camp and 1,000 in the former Rukuramigabo camp.

Rwandan authorities forced 392 Burundian refugees from Kibangira camp in Cyangugu to return to Cibitoke province on September 30. UNHCR has contacted the Rwandan government concerning the incident.

WHO and medical NGOs operating in Burundi report growing incidences of infectious illnesses. According to MSF-France, there have been approximately 45 cases of meningitis in Kirundo since September 24, with 12 fatalities. The NGO further reports that the number of new cases dropped off almost as quickly as they occurred. An adequate quantity of drugs have been pre-positioned in the province to respond to new outbreaks.

Several NGOs, including MSF-Belgium, are reporting a significant increase in the number of cases of bacillary dysentery. In Ruyigi, there are now approximately 1,500 cases, a four fold increase in the number of reported cases earlier this summer. There are also reports of a similar outbreak in Karuzi province. IMC has also reported cases in Rutana. Although bacillary dysentery outbreaks are often seasonal, health officials are particularly concerned that their ability to contain outbreaks may be curtailed by sanctions-induced fuel and drug shortages.

WHO reports 200 cases of typhoid in Muramvya over the reporting period. The outbreak is tied to the increased number of people crowding in Muramvya town to escape fighting in the region. WHO has sent a medical team to investigate the outbreak.

CRS reports that it recently provided used clothes and blankets to approximately 10,000 war affected individuals in Cibitoke province. Transportation and distribution of the goods was carried out by the Burundian government.

A WFP needs assessment in Kayanza province will result in emergency relief distributions to approximately 8,000 people recently affected by conflict in the area.

The Human Rights Field Office for Burundi has opened a youth camp for 60 children. Through lectures and community development activities, participants are taught how different groups in society must learn to live and work together. Material support for the project is being provided by UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

To alleviate the difficulties agencies are facing in trying to import essential medical supplies, the Burundian Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, has created a logistics coordinating committee. The committee is responsible for collecting information on drug supplies and organizing common, cost-effective transport for new shipments.

UNICEF conducted a special airlift of vaccines from Nairobi to Bujumbura with logistical support from WFP. Five hundred kilos of measles and polio vaccines were received, sufficient

quantities to vaccinate 150,000 children. Future flights to replenish stocks of tuberculosis and tetanus medicine are also being organized.

In collaboration with WFP, FAO is conducting a food and crop assessment throughout the country. FAO is also continuing to assist the NGOs Austrian Relief, Dorkas Aid and CRS in seed multiplication programs.

WFP reports that it has received funds from USAID to cover the planned extension of the Ngozi airstrip, and the construction of airstrips in Ruyigi, Karuzi and Muyinga.

5. Impact of Sanctions on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance

There are now regular ruptures in the supply of essential drugs and of the fuel needed to transport, distribute and undertake essential follow up visits at commune level health centers throughout the country. To help alleviate the situation, the Ministry of Health, through WHO, has provided medical NGOs with 8,000 liters of fuel.

Moreover, a number of NGOs and UN agencies including MDM, Caritas, World Vision, UNICEF and WHO have drug supplies outside of Burundi, and because of logistical problems associated with the sanctions, have not been able to transport them to Burundi. There are also approximately 104 mt of drugs ordered by the private sector which are still blocked outside the country.

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Date: Mon, 14 Oct 1996 13:59:19 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Communique of the Third Arusha Regional Summit 96.10.12

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NAA05476; Mon, 14 Oct 1996 13:59:59 +0300 X-Authentication-warning: unigigiri.unep.org: usasa set sender to

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD ARUSHA REGIONAL SUMMIT ON BURUNDI

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Presidents Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Prime Ministers Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Kengo wa Dondo of Zaire met on 12th October, 1996 in Arusha, Tanzania to review the situation in Burundi after the imposition of economic sanctions.

2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, Hon. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, representing the current Chairman of the OAU, the Secretary General of the OAU, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Talks, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

3. The Regional Summit received and took note of the report of the Ministerial Technical Committee on the implementation and co-ordination of the economic sanctions imposed on 31st July, 1996 in the effort to obtain a peaceful settlement of the Burundi crisis.

4. The Summit reaffirmed the commitment and solidarity of the countries of the region in their ongoing efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in Burundi through a negotiated settlement.

5. The Regional Summit expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the sanctions and commended the countries of the region and other implementing countries for the cooperation and cohesion shown in applying the sanctions to ensure the attainment of the intended objective. It also commended the support extended to the countries of the region by the international community and in particular the UN through its Resolution 1072 (1996) and the OAU.

6. The Summit reiterated that the objective of the sanctions is to serve as an effective means of securing a negotiated settlement between all the parties to the conflict in Burundi in an effort to avert a human disaster in the country. This should also remain a common objective of the international community as a whole and deserves its continued support.

7. The Regional Summit also took note of the exemptions already granted in respect of fertilisers and vegetable seeds in recognition of the steps taken by the Buyoya regime towards meeting the conditions set by the Arusha II Summit. It also undertook to further respond positively should the regime enter into negotiations with all parties to the conflict in the context of the Arusha II Summit. It commended the work of the Regional Sanctions Co-ordinating Committee and directed the latter to ensure the speedy implementation of decisions already taken or to be taken with respect to exemptions on humanitarian grounds.

8. The Summit emphasized that the central requirement of the Arusha II Summit was unconditional negotiations of all parties to the conflict and armed factions inside and outside the country. The Summit decided that these negotiations in the context of the Mwanza Peace

Process should start within a period of one month from the date of this communique. The preparatory phase of these negotiations should commence immediately. The Summit further expressed its readiness to take appropriate measures against any group or faction that refuses to participate in the negotiations or places obstacles in the way of the peace process.

9. The Summit reiterated that sanctions were not imposed for the benefit of, or to the detriment of any group or faction. The imposition of sanctions was intended, inter-alia, to exert the necessary pressure in order to achieve the political objective of a negotiated and peaceful solution to the conflict.

10. The Summit was briefed by the Facilitator on the contacts and efforts he has made towards promoting negotiations since Arusha II Summit. In this connection, the Summit was informed by the Facilitator that he has now received a written communication from Major Buyoya confirming the latter's commitment to enter into negotiations with CNDD and all other armed factions which are ready to negotiate. In view of this development, the Summit decided to send a Ministerial delegation to Bujumbura to follow up on this development, so as to enable the countries of the region to evaluate the situation and take appropriate action.

11. The Regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Mkapa, his Government and the people of Tanzania for hosting the Summit and extending the usual hospitality to the Heads and delegation.

Done at Arusha, Tanzania, on 12th October 1996.

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN Nairobi.]

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Date: Thu, 17 Oct 1996 11:53:22 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 8-15 Oct 1996 96.10.16

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Burundi

Humanitarian Situation Report

October 8 to October 15

The Burundian government reacted angrily to the October 12 decision by neighboring countries to maintain economic sanctions against Burundi. Despite the Buyoya regime's hopes that recent measures to reinstate parliament and allow the functioning of political parties would lead to a relaxing of the sanctions, heads of state from regional countries meeting in Arusha refused to grant additional concessions. In a statement two days later, the Burundian government said that talks with Hutu rebels would not take place until sanctions imposed by countries in the region were lifted. Both the Buyoya government and Leonard Nyangoma, head of the Hutu rebel CNDD movement, had earlier provided participants in the Summit written assurances that they were ready to negotiate.

Meanwhile, Tutsi hardliners continued to criticize the Buyoya regime's professed readiness to negotiate with those who support a "genocidal ideology" while receiving nothing in return from the international community.

Requests by humanitarian agencies for exemptions for the importation of food and emergency relief items, such as blankets and plastic sheeting, were denied by the Arusha summit. However, recent outbreaks of fighting in both southern and northern Burundi, and the possible influx of thousands of refugees fleeing the fighting in eastern Zaire, makes the need for the items especially acute.

1. General

*In the days leading up to Arusha summit, Burundian officials warned that continued sanctions could spark further bloodshed in Burundi. Prime Minister Pascal-Fermin Ndimira told reporters that the embargo had so far cost his country \$162 million.

Leaders of regional countries meeting in Arusha Oct. 12 to review the economic sanctions imposed on Burundi reiterated that the sanctions would remain in place until there was evidence of unconditional negotiations between all parties to the conflict in the country. In a communique issued by the presidents of Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda and the prime ministers of Ethiopia and Zaire, participants noted that exemptions had already been granted for the import

of seeds and fertilizer and held out the carrot of further exemptions should the Buyoya regime begin negotiations. The participants agreed to send a ministerial level delegation to Bujumbura to evaluate Buyoya's commitment to enter into negotiations with the CNDD and "to evaluate the situation and take appropriate action." The delegation was expected to arrive October 15, but only one member arrived.

The Arusha communique stated that these negotiations should start by November 12, adding that participants had "expressed readiness to take appropriate action against any group or faction that refuses to participate in the negotiations or places obstacles in the way of the peace process." It is still unclear what those actions might include, although an intervention force has been discussed as one possibility.

The Burundian government lashed out at those countries backing the sanctions and said that the maintenance of sanctions favored Hutu rebels and encouraged them to continue their campaign of killing civilians. In a national radio broadcast, a government spokesman called the decision one that "gravely compromises the chances of peace and reconciliation." He added that "in some quarters the objectives are different from those publicly expressed and amount to a secret agenda." In an October 15 press conference, the government withdrew former statements that it was willing to begin negotiations and said that now no negotiations would begin until sanctions are lifted.

*US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a press conference in Arusha Oct. 11 that a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Burundi "is attainable" but he added that should the situation in Burundi deteriorate further, "the international community must be prepared to act quickly to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe." The US has been promoting the creation of a US-backed African peace keeping force that could intervene in civil conflicts where mass killings of civilians appear likely.

*Ceremonies marking the 35th anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore were conducted peacefully October 13. However, appeals from the mayor of Bujumbura for the events to be apolitical were ignored by Uprona supporters, who attended ceremonies wearing red and white caps and t-shirts, their party's colors. Prince Rwagasore, a founder of Uprona, was assassinated in 1961 shortly after being appointed prime minister. Although the crowd applauded warmly when Buyoya laid a wreath at Rwagasore's tomb, Leonce Ngendakumana, the speaker of the national assembly and most senior member of Frodebu present, was booed when he stepped up with a crown of flowers.

*As violent clashes between the Zairian army, local tribes and the Banyamulenge continue, fears are mounting that the violence could have a severe impact on Burundi. Some 20,000 Hutu refugees from Burundi fled their camp in eastern Zaire on Sunday after it was attacked by armed men believed to be Banyamulenge.

The attack on Runingo camp was the first of its kind in growing conflict in eastern Zaire. Runingo, close to the Burundian border, is one of several camps in the region that are home to 230,000 Hutu refugees. Most of the refugees are from Burundi, but some are also from Rwanda.

Earlier in the week, following the attack on a major hospital, allegedly by the Banyamulenge, Zaire declared a state of war in South Kivu and the vice governor of the region declared that the Banyamulenge had until October 15 to leave the region. That order was later revoked by the central government but officials in Kinshasa have made it clear that they want the approximately 200,000 Banyamulenge in eastern Zaire to leave, raising fears of a possible large scale refugee flow into Rwanda and Burundi. Zaire has accused Burundi of backing the Banyamulenge, a charge the Burundian government denies.

Calling for a military observer force to be dispatched to the region, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights [for Zaire] warned that the consequences of continued violence could be far greater than the current crisis in the Great Lakes region.

2. Security

Fierce fighting was underway between military forces and Hutu rebels over the weekend of Oct. 12-13 in the southwestern province of Bururi. Although the number of casualties is still unclear, preliminary reports from aid agencies indicate that some 35,000 people have been displaced in towns around Rumenge. Those sites containing the affected people are: Muyange, Murage, Buyengero, Busaga, Kibizi and Muramvya.

This most recent wave of fighting was sparked after 23 people were killed in the village of Burambi, 100 kilometers south of Bujumbura. The attack, allegedly by Hutu rebels, was one of the worst since the July coup. Soldiers reportedly set fire to the homes of local Hutu families accused of collaborating with the rebels.

Explosions were heard around Bujumbura throughout the week, although it was difficult to ascertain if it was from fighting in Uvira or in the hills near the city. On October 14, soldiers were exchanging fire with Hutu rebels on the hills overlooking the capital. Soldiers were said to be shelling houses where rebels were allegedly hiding. Some 2,000 people living in the area reportedly fled to the Kamenge suburb of the city.

According to Burundian national radio, a local administrator was killed in Kibuye in northern Kayanza province. His death was announced October 13.

Banditry has returned to Bujumbura. On the morning of October 13, armed men entered the house of a UN employee and stole at gun point cash and other items. The employee was not hurt in the incident.

Recent attacks were also reported in Mubeka and Ruvubu in Gitega province, but additional details were not available.

3. Affected Populations

A recently released MSF- Belgium report on the nutritional status of affected persons in Gihogazi and Nyogoro camps in Karuzi province states that global malnutrition in the camps stands at 14 percent while 3.7 percent of the children were found to be severely malnourished. 85.6 percent of the children were immunized against measles. In an effort to assist the severely malnourished, MSF-Belgium will establish a therapeutic feeding center with 50 beds at Buhiga hospital. There are 17 affected persons sites containing some 50,000 people throughout Karuzi province.

Public health specialists from WHO, the Ministry of Health and MSF-France worked in Kirundo Oct. 9-11 to investigate an outbreak of meningitis in the region. The team reported that from September 20 to October 10, 131 people were diagnosed with the disease, of which 32 have since died. The team reported that the population of the area in Busoni commune where the disease is prevalent is approximately 10,780 people. The team will soon begin a vaccination campaign and has stepped up its epidemiological monitoring of the area in addition to a risk-avoidance campaign among the local population.

WFP states that during the reporting period it distributed emergency rations to over 8,500 people affected by recent clashes in southern Kayanza province. WFP also reports that it provided food for a UNHCR implemented reforestation program in northern Burundi and a CARE housing reconstruction program in Ngozi province.

MSF-F Holland reports that it received an emergency air shipment of 36 MT of bulk drugs October 15. Fourteen MT of the drugs were imported on behalf of MSF-Belgium. The drugs will be used in rural health centers.

UNICEF reports that it distributed essential drugs for 50,000 beneficiaries to four health centers and two camps for war affected persons in the Bujumbura area.

Christian Aid distributed 600 blankets and 500 pieces of plastic sheeting to vulnerable groups in Kayanza province. The NGO reports that its stocks of non-food relief items is virtually depleted. For several months, Christian Aid has been prevented by the embargo from transporting 60,000 blankets, 20 mt of soap and other badly needed relief items from Tanzania to Burundi.

CRS has begun distributing bean seeds and hoes to war affected persons and other vulnerable groups in Gitega province. Over the next month, CRS will distribute 252 mt of seeds and 21,000 hoes to 105,000 people in the province.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

DHA/HCU organized a rapid assessment mission to Gitega province to ascertain the needs of affected populations in the region. The mission included representatives from: Christian Aid, CRS, ACF, World Vision, DHA, UNICEF and WFP. Participants visited five of sixteen sites in the province, and found a severe shortage of non-food relief items and a growing shortage of medicine. The team recommended that additional medical supplies and NFI items be distributed throughout the area, but acknowledged that endemic insecurity, the embargo-related prohibition on importing more NFIs and on-going fuel shortages make this difficult.

DHA, in collaboration with the NGO Terre des Hommes, has been helping to coordinate other actors in the establishment of an educational infrastructure to serve the 1,400 children living at the Johnson Center and the CPPK. The two adjacent sites in the Kamenge district of Bujumbura provide care to war-affected people from the surrounding hills.

DHA, in association with Italian Cooperation, is attempting to arrange an emergency cargo flight to Bujumbura for medical supplies. The flight, to be funded by the Italian government, will leave when a sufficient quantity of cargo is received from medical NGOs and UN agencies.

In a special flight from Nairobi, UNICEF received 200,000 doses of BCG vaccine on Oct. 13. The vaccines will be supplied to the national immunization program. The flight also carried approximately 800 kg of essential drugs for the NGO International Medical Corps.

FAO is continuing in its efforts to import the seeds and fertilizers which were exempted by the RSCC in Kigali on September 25. Contact has been made with the importer and the transporter in an effort to facilitate the clearance of the fertilizer through Tanzanian customs for transport by barge from Kigoma.

In an effort to facilitate Caritas's shipment of bulk drugs and supplementary feeding materials from Kigoma, DHA has put the NGO in contact with the transport agents for the exempted fertilizer.

5. Impact of Sanctions on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance

UNICEF's activities targeting displaced populations in the interior of the country have been temporarily suspended due to a lack of fuel. These activities include the construction and maintenance of latrines, hygiene and sanitation education, and the distribution of water by tanker truck. A combined fuel order for UN and international NGOs has been made, but supplies from Rwanda have yet to arrive.

As illustrated by the recent assessment mission to Gitega, the shortage of non-food relief items is becoming critical. As NGOs deplete their current stocks, there is a danger that victims of new outbreaks of fighting will not receive the necessary life-sustaining goods. In addition, NGOs and UN agencies continue to encounter administrative difficulties in importing sanctions-exempted goods into the country.

Although the WFP regional aircraft continues its Nairobi-Bujumbura service, the number of available seats remains insufficient. This shortage has severely limited the ability of humanitarian agencies to rotate staff.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION UNIT/DHA
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[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 441125 Fax: +254 2 448816 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Sat, 26 Oct 1996 15:11:52 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Sanctions Coordinating Committee Press Release 96.10.24

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[The following Press Release has been received from the Office of the Regional Chairman of the Sanctions Coordinating Committee in Nairobi.]

PRESS RELEASE

In response to the Arusha III Summit meeting concern over the fate of internally displaced persons under the care of UN Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in Burundi, the regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee during its extraordinary meeting in Arusha on 21 October, 1996, allowed the importation of the following items to cater for the 250,000 displaced persons in Burundi:-

- i. Food
- ii. Bean Seeds
- iii. Water purification agents
- iv. Blankets
- v. Plastic sheeting
- vi. Jerry cans and buckets
- vii. Cooking materials (pots and utensils)
- viii. Sanitary facilities
- ix. Mats.

Quantities and details of the above will have to be defined by the respective UN systems and NGOs and be submitted to the Office of the Regional Chairman of Sanctions Coordinating Committee before importation. The decision has been taken by the Committee on humanitarian grounds.

Nairobi
24th October, 1996

[For additional information/clarification please contact the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, Nairobi telephone 228776.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 14 Nov 1996 14:25:49 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 7-12 Nov 1996 96.11.12

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UN DHA/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION SUPPORT UNIT P.B. 1490

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Burundi

Humanitarian Situation Report

November 7 to November 12

The humanitarian impact of the turmoil in eastern Zaire continues to spill over into Burundi. There has been a marked increase in both the number and size of skirmishes between Hutu rebels and Burundian military authorities as rebels continue to attempt to traverse the country and establish new bases of operation in existing camps in Tanzania on the border with Burundi. Over the past week, fighting or major attacks have been reported in northern, southern and central provinces as well as in the hills overlooking Bujumbura. These attacks have displaced thousands of more people from both major ethnic groups who will require assistance from international humanitarian agencies.

Meanwhile, returnees from the former refugee camps near Uvira continue to arrive at the Gatumba transit camp 15 km west of Bujumbura. However, far fewer have returned than in previous weeks and relief workers have expressed concern about the fate of some 100,000 Burundian refugees missing since fleeing their camps in eastern Zaire last month. Roughly 140,000 of the 220,000 refugees who fled the Uvira camps were Burundian Hutus. Only 40,000 of them have been accounted for.

1. General

International concern over the three-year old crisis in Burundi has largely been brushed aside by the more dramatic events unfolding in Zaire. However, there are fears among the humanitarian community in Burundi that both sides of the conflict may take advantage of the situation and mount new offensives, leading to a further deterioration of general security and increased humanitarian needs.

The Third Arusha Regional Summit on Oct. 14 said that all parties to the conflict in Burundi should begin negotiations within a month. That deadline has now passed without any evidence of concrete results. Summit participants threatened to take unspecified further actions against Burundi if the deadline was not met.

The Burundian government has once again claimed that continued attempts by neighboring countries to keep Burundi isolated will be counter productive. A new meeting of regional countries to review economic sanctions imposed on Burundi is scheduled to take place November 14 in Arusha. A spokesman for Buyoya told reporters that it was "unfortunate" that the Burundian government had not even been notified that the meeting would take place, and added that it would serve little purpose unless Burundian government representatives were invited to take part. The meeting had originally been scheduled for November 12.

Despite the regional implications of the Kivu crisis, Burundian government officials have not been invited to official meetings to discuss actions needed to address the situation in eastern Zaire. Spokesmen for Buyoya have told reporters that his government would support possible international military intervention into eastern Zaire if it was for purely humanitarian purposes, but would reserve further comment until additional details were known.

2. Security

On November 11, Hutu rebels attempted to assassinate the governors of Cankuzo and Ruyigi. The attempt was unsuccessful, and neither governor was hurt. The governors, who were travelling in the same vehicle with military escort, were ambushed on RN 13 near the town of Makebuko, 30 km south of Gitega. Casualties suffered by either the attackers or the soldiers guarding the convoy are unclear. This attack against high level Burundian officials was the latest since the governor of Cibitoke was assassinated three weeks ago. Heavy fighting is now reported in Ruyigi province in a front that stretches between the towns of Makebuko and Butaganzwa.

Fighting between the military and rebels has been reported in southern and western communes in Kayanza province. Hundreds of houses and public buildings have been destroyed. There are as yet no reliable reports on the number of additional people displaced by the fighting. However, there were already over 13,000 people displaced in the province in early October. WFP reports that 8,000 to 10,000 people are now dispersed in Matongo commune alone, while others have joined existing IDP camps that are guarded by the military.

On November 7, Hutu rebels attacked an IDP camp in Matongo commune in Kayanza. Thirty two of the camps residents were killed and 19 injured. On the same day, the nearby village of Kwizamu was destroyed, forcing the residents to flee to the town of Banga now thought to hold 1,500 affected people.

Skirmishes between the military and rebel forces were also reported just outside of Bujumbura, displacing an additional 10,000 people. Insecurity was reported in the communes of Mugamba, Muhuta, Mukike and Buyengero with at least 300 houses burned.

Skirmishes were also reported in southern Gitega and Muramvya. Rebels attacked the Gitega commune of Makebuko on November 11 but the number casualties is still unknown.

CRS reports that insecurity has forced it to temporarily suspend all activities in the diocese of Gitega. The diocese includes all of Gitega province and parts of Muramvya and Karuzi provinces. CRS is the largest distributor of food and non-food items in Gitega, distributing an average of 100 mt of WFP-donated food to 12,000 beneficiaries per month.

On November 4, the Burundian military reported that one of its soldiers was injured when he stepped on a land mine between Gatumba and the Zairean border.

3. Affected Populations

With Uvira now calm and firmly in ADFL hands, aid agencies operating in Burundi are negotiating with Burundian and ADFL authorities to cross the border and enter the town. DHA in Bujumbura is attempting to facilitate access by international humanitarian agencies. Although agencies have now been able to perform rapid needs assessments in Goma and Bukavu, ADFL forces have not permitted aid agencies to travel further south. Zairean government authorities have threatened to withdraw the rights of foreign aid organizations to work in Zaire if they struck deals with the rebels.

It has been almost one month since most of the refugees who were in the Uvira camps have received WFP-distributed food. Many are now dispersed in the hills and high plateau to the west of the town. Others have returned to Uvira and report that food and clean water are scarce

in the town. Significant levels of malnutrition have been reported among those who have returned to Burundi and registered at the Gatumba transit site.

As of November 11, 12,774 Burundian returnees had registered at the camp since it opened on October 29. Of those returnees, 10,616 have been transferred to their communes of origin, leaving 2,158 returnees remaining in the camp. The number of new arrivals at the camp has slowed considerably since last week. Although UNHCR registered 578 new returnees on November 7 and 369 new returnees on November 10, on most days fewer than 20 new returnees have arrived. During the first week the camp was open, between 2,000 and 3,000 people were registered per day. With up to 100,000 Burundians remaining on the other side of the border, it is unclear if Burundian refugees are being prevented from returning or if they are refusing to return out of fear for their own security.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

On November 8 representatives from UNHCR, WFP, FAO, IFRC and MSF-Belgium travelled in an armored UN vehicle, with heavy military escort, to Buganda in Cibitoke province. This was the first visit to the province by international humanitarian agencies since the assassination of three ICRC staff members visiting the province in June.

Thousands of former Burundian refugees from the camps in South Kivu returned directly to Cibitoke without passing through the Gatumba transit site. Between 12,000 and 16,000 of them are believed to be living in fields near Buganda, 10 km south of Cibitoke town. They are now being registered by local authorities. With only the limited possessions they were able to carry with them from Zaire, few have shelter or other basic living supplies. There is no clean water or sanitation facilities and the risk of disease is high.

WFP and UNHCR are in the process of arranging distributions of food and non-food relief items to the site to begin soon. Periodic follow up visits to the site by humanitarian agencies are also planned. In a November 12 meeting hosted by UNHCR, the Burundian government welcomed on-going efforts to provide relief to returnees in Cibitoke, and asked humanitarian organizations to consider implementing broader and more permanent programs for affected populations in the province. Given security concerns, no international organization has yet agreed to do so.

Three thousand Burundians from Mugina commune in Cibitoke, who had been living in refugee camps in South Kivu, are now encamped in a football stadium in Rugombo, 10 km north of Cibitoke. They have returned to Burundi, via Gatumba, over the last two weeks and have been transferred to the Rugombo site by the Burundian government with the cooperation of UNHCR. Continued insecurity in Mugina has prevented their transfer to their home commune. Although WFP and UNHCR provided the returnees with three months worth of food, jerry cans, soap, sheeting and other basic relief items, they have no access to clean water.

Given the endemic insecurity in the province, On November 9 MSF issued a statement criticizing efforts by the Burundian government and UNHCR to repatriate returnees to Cibitoke. The statement added that many of the returnees were malnourished or ill and continued repatriation of returnees to the region would make it difficult for humanitarian organizations to ensure the returnees well being.

CRS reports that it conducted two distributions in Bubanza through its local church partners. Over a thousand residents of a displaced camp in Nabubu commune were provided with food and non-food relief items. Local diocese workers also distributed food in Bubanza hospital to 215 patients.

A special UNICEF charter flight arrived November 7 from Nairobi with 330,000 doses of polio vaccine and 440,000 doses of BCG vaccine. The vaccines have been transferred to the Ministry of Health for dispatch to rural health centers. UNICEF says that combined with current stocks, it now has sufficient supplies of BCG and polio vaccine to last four to six months.

IMC reports that it received a month supply of essential drugs for a total of 20,000 consultations at twelve health centers in Rutana and nine in Muyinga.

UNICEF reports that it has supplied ACF with 15 mt of food supplements to be used in supplementary feeding programs in health centers in Kayanza and rural Bujumbura.

5. Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Operations

Although humanitarian agencies were granted the right to import fuel in early September, agencies have still not received new supplies. Fuel imported from Rwanda has been in Bujumbura for several weeks, but bureaucratic delays have prevented its release from BP\Fina. Following a decision by the RSCC, all further imports will be done through Tanzania.

Reports indicate that bakeries are running out of flour with bread shortages now common in the city.

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 18 Nov 1996 18:23:35 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights reports 96.11.15

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UNITED NATIONS

15 November 1996

[INLINE]

Press Release

GA/SHC/3391

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS PRESENT COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO
THIRD COMMITTEE; COUNTRIES RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS

[...]

[...]

Events of the last weeks in the Great Lakes region of Africa had confirmed the seriousness of preventing another human catastrophe, according to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. He said economic sanctions against the country should not be lifted until the authorities pursued efforts for a cease-fire between the parties and human rights violations had been investigated. The moral conscience of all mankind was being challenged by the suffering of many people in the region.

[...]

The report of Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro on the human rights situation in Burundi covers the period from 16 February through 30 September 1996 and reflects the Special Rapporteur's findings during his third mission to that country from 1 to 17 July 1996, a week before the coup d'etat. The coup brought Major Pierre Boyoya to power on 25 July and led to the suspension of the National Assembly and political parties. During the mission, the Special Rapporteur met with the country's higher political, administrative, judicial, military and religious authorities, as well as representatives from civil society associations, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the OAU. He also visited shelters for displaced persons.

In reviewing the Burundi crisis during the second half of 1996, the report states that the human rights situation has assumed catastrophic proportions, with an endless stream of targeted assassinations, arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, looting, crime and the destruction of property. The report describes a "smouldering civil war" in which the Burundi army and related militias, comprised of Tutsis, fight against armed Hutu gangs. While the conflict is delineated along ethnic lines, historical variables, specifically the class distinctions imposed by colonial

domination, are in fact the underlying causes. An elite minority denies the majority access to resources and democratic privileges. A brief rebellion by the Hutu majority in 1972 was countered by excessive force from the armed forces. At least 100,000 Hutus were massacred and some 200,000 Burundians went into exile at the time. Three months later, the army, government and the economy were purged of their Hutu elements.

Starting with the assassination of former President Melchior Ndadaye in 1993, the report describes a "creeping coup d'etat" in which genocide is committed by attrition. The coup dismantled a system in which democracy was hardly extant, according to the report. Since October 1993, there had been a continuous dismantling of democratic institutions by the forces belonging to the minority. There can be no lasting solution to the crisis in Burundi unless human rights violations are ended, past abuses investigated, and perpetrators brought to justice.

The Special Rapporteur regretted that the report of the International Commission of Inquiry had not come up with new ways to address impunity and genocide. He was shocked by the unrealistic nature of the Commission's conclusions on the issue of assigning to the Burundi system of justice the task of prosecuting, trying and sentencing those responsible for the October 1993 coup d'etat, the assassination of President Ndadaye, acts of genocide against the Tutsis and the ensuing massacres of Hutus. The speed with which a series of recent criminal convictions had been reached -- an average of two to three hours had been spent hearing each case -- made clear that even minimum conditions for justice were not being met.

Burundi's climate of insecurity was epitomized by the murders of three staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). That action led to withdrawals by international organizations that effectively cut the country off from international assistance. Sanctions imposed by neighbouring countries are impacting on the population of the towns, particularly the urban elite and in the rural areas.

At the national level, the Special Rapporteur recommends in his report genuine and inclusive dialogues between all parties to the conflict. The de facto authorities should facilitate access to State institutions by the majority, who are currently excluded from the country's elite. The de facto authorities should set a timetable for holding free and fair elections with the participation of the entire population, halt the violence and massacres occurring throughout the country, and arrest and bring to trial perpetrators of such crimes. Within the armed forces, a firm chain of command should be established. The de facto authorities should carry out an objective inquiry into the murder of the ICRC delegates, provide non-governmental organizations with adequate security conditions, and fundamentally reform the judicial system, emphasizing the inclusion of Hutus in the ranks of judges, prosecutors, and judicial police.

At the international level, the Special Rapporteur requests the international community remain united behind the efforts currently being made by the United Nations, the OAU, and the African countries as a group to maintain pressure by means of economic sanctions and to demand the de facto authorities give immediate concrete evidence of their intention to conclude a cease-fire between all interested parties, leading to realistic negotiations. Recourse to the presence of an international peace-keeping force should not be excluded. He calls for the international community to increase the number of human rights observers in Burundi and encourages Member States in the region to ensure that their territory not be used by armed groups as a base to launch attacks or train rebel groups, and to make efforts to eliminate arms traffic.

The Special Rapporteur further requests the Security Council and the Secretary-General to address the lack of attention which the problem of impunity in Burundi received from the International Commission of Inquiry, and with the absence from its recommendations of proposals for measures, including those for bringing to justice persons responsible for atrocities. On this matter, the Special Rapporteur requests that the Security Council consider setting up an international court to prosecute those who ordered and carried out the assassination of President Ndadaye, the genocide against the Tutsis, and the ensuing massacres of the Hutus.

Human Rights Questions, Situations

[...]

PAULO SERGIO PINHEIRO, the Special Rapporteur on the situation in Burundi, said events of the last weeks had confirmed the seriousness of his efforts to try and prevent a human catastrophe in the region. The transition to democracy died with the coup d'etat of 25 July 1996, the assassination of former President Ndadaye and in the wake of events which led to the genocide of the Tutsis and then to the massacre of the Hutus. Any equitable solution required solid gains in sharing power on a realistic basis and efforts to overcome the deep social problems and divisions. Building democracy would need the participation of all Burundians in a political and economic plan. The suspension of the National Assembly and political parties had been ended, but the Assembly had not regained all of its political powers. He noted that the third Arusha Summit had called for an unconditional negotiated settlement to avoid the major humanitarian crisis. He called on the United Nations and the OAU and the international community to keep up their peace efforts. The economic sanctions should be kept up until the authorities pursued efforts for a cease-fire between the parties.

He said the reorganization of the army and negotiations were even more crucial given increased tensions in the region, including eastern Zaire where there had been disastrous consequences. The General Assembly should condemn armed attacks by Burundi on the territory of Zaire. The army must cease serious human rights violations. Other important mechanisms included the commission of inquiry on armed sales. States should firmly stress that Security Council sanctions would only end when violations and past violations were investigated and the perpetrators were brought to justice. Some 10,000 people had perished since the coup d'etat. So far, the true dimensions of the human rights abuses had been hidden because most of the country had become a "no man's land".

The impunity problem in the country must be overcome. He urged the setting up of an international criminal tribunal to bring to justice those guilty of assassinating President Ndadaye and the killings of Tutsis. A Tribunal's jurisdiction should apply to past and future crimes. He also supported a special session of the Human Rights Commission to investigate conditions in the country. Noting the Secretary-General's call for a regional conference on peace and security in the region, he stressed such a conference was needed now, more than ever to prevent a regionalization of the conflict. He appealed for the international community, especially those States with the means to do so, to act to prevent the continued deterioration in the Great Lakes region and bring a peaceful settlement of disputes there.

The Government had implemented some measures to improve the situation, including the announcement that the armed forces would prosecute soldiers guilty of killing civilians, he said. The moral conscience of all mankind was being challenged by the suffering of many people in the region. The main actors in the international community had a clear view of the dangers and the problems and must work together to address them.

JEAN-BAPTISTE HAJAYANDI (Burundi), said in reply, that his Government had very good relations with the Human Rights Centre and there was an office in Bujumbura. It had officially asked that the numbers of human rights observers be increased because it had nothing to hide. He said the changes which took place on 25 July, were dictated by a catastrophic situation, namely the withering of the State and an inability to govern the country. The number of 10,000 alleged victims cited by the Special Rapporteur was very exaggerated. The new regime had worked to strengthen security, especially in the towns and was working to deal with armed bands.

He was surprised with the Rapporteur's support for economic sanctions which affected women and children and displaced persons and were taken without recourse to the Security Council. The sanctions were unjust. His Government had been in contact with the main negotiators,

including former President of Tanzania Julius Nyerere. The emphasis should be on the main violators of human rights -- not the Government or the people -- but extremists. The Government had just proposed to the Security Council that an international tribunal be established to investigate the assassination of President Ndadaye and the subsequent genocide and other crimes. His Government was acting to normalize the situation and to find a globalized agreement with all factions and parties.

[...]

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Thu, 21 Nov 1996 17:58:39 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Amnesty International on "plight" of returnees 96.11.21

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AMNESTY-L:

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21 NOVEMBER 1996

BURUNDI: PLIGHT OF RETURNING REFUGEES SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Refugees forced by Tutsi-led armed groups in eastern Zaire to return to Burundi are in danger of further atrocities, Amnesty International said today, as it called on United Nations member states to ensure their safety.

The human rights organization has documented cases of killings, ~disappearances~ and ill-treatment occurring almost daily throughout Burundi, with women, children, babies and the elderly among the victims. According to the UN Secretary-General's latest report, there have been at least 10,000 casualties since Major Pierre Buyoya took power in July 1996.

~These refugees are being forced back to Burundi to face the same terrible human rights abuses that caused them to flee in the first place,~ Amnesty International said. ~No refugees should be forcibly returned to a country which has seen as many as 500 returnees reportedly killed by the Burundi security forces in recent weeks.~

~It is completely unacceptable for governments to remain silent and refuse to condemn this appalling situation. While these governments concentrate on events in Rwanda and their desire to resolve the current ~refugee problem~, the fate of those refugees who have fled Burundi should not be ignored.~

Many of these refugees fled the mass killings in Burundi which have been part of a deliberate political strategy by the Tutsi elite to eliminate potential Hutu opposition. This policy has led to the expulsion of Hutu from whole swathes of the country, while others have been hunted down and massacred by government forces and armed Tutsi groups.

Burundi refugees returning home have to go through roadblocks set up in Burundi to screen identity cards. Many Hutu are reportedly arrested at these roadblocks on the grounds that a corner cut off their identity cards indicates that they are members of Hutu opposition groups. However, Amnesty International has learned that the corners were cut off by officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to prevent refugees from being registered more than once.

People are also arrested because of the colour of the stamp in their identity cards, since cards with a green stamp are said to have been issued by the opposition groups. However, many identity cards issued by officials in Bujumbura bear the same green stamp.

Amnesty International has documented numerous massacres of refugees returning to the country. These include:

~ 22 October: At least 400 returnees from Zaire were reportedly rounded up by members of the Burundi security forces at Muramba Seventh Day Adventist Church, Cibitoke Province. The adult males were then shot dead or bayoneted to death.

~ 27 October: 20 people who were returning from Zaire by canoe on Lake Tanganyika were reportedly arrested in Kabezi and taken to Bujumbura and tortured after being forced to give 200,000 Burundi francs to soldiers. They were allegedly taken back to Kabezi in a government bus but nobody has seen them since that day. Amnesty International believes they have ~disappeared.~

~ 27 October: 40 returnees from Zaire were reportedly killed before reaching the Gatumba transit camp. Among the victims were Isaias Barasengeta and his children, Hakizimana, aged 10, and Viateur Bukuru, aged five, Clotilde Nizigiyimana and her three young children, Spes Maninzana, aged two, Odette Habumuremyi, aged four, and Vestine Bigirimana, just eight months old.

~ On or around 10 November 1996: At least 46 Burundi nationals who had just returned from Zaire are reported to have been shot and bayoneted to death by the security forces in the Bwiza district of Bujumbura.

The human rights abuses suffered by refugees who have been forced back to Burundi form part of a continuing pattern of atrocities taking place in the country, which has seen more than 150,000 men, women and children killed since 1993.

Amnesty International is calling on governments to condemn the Tutsi-led armed groups in eastern Zaire for forcing the refugees to return home, and the Zairian authorities for stating that they may not remain. These actions are a flagrant violation of the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, the organization said.

~While the world focuses on the plight of refugees returning to Rwanda, it must not forget that refugees are also being forced to return to an uncertain fate in Burundi,~ Amnesty International said. ~The dangers of ignoring what is happening in Burundi are obvious, and if this silence continues, Burundi refugees may quite justifiably conclude that the international community is unconcerned for their lives.~

Background

During 1996, Hutu armed groups have deliberately and arbitrarily killed civilians in almost all the provinces of Burundi, leaving virtually no part of Burundi unaffected by the civil war. In particular, the Conseil National pour la Defense de la Democratie, (CNDD), National Council for the Defence of Democracy, the Parti pour la Liberation du Peuple Hutu, (PALIPEHUTU), Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People and the Front pour la Liberation Nationale, (FROLINA), Front for National Liberation, have carried out attacks against camps for displaced Tutsi.

Since August 1996, the authorities have introduced military service for Tutsi youth, including students. Thousands of members of Tutsi armed groups who have been responsible for widespread human rights abuses have been incorporated in the government forces. Virtually no action has been taken against Tutsi who have perpetrated human rights abuses, leading many to believe that they will continue to enjoy impunity for further killings.

ENDS.../*****

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Date: Fri, 29 Nov 1996 15:12:48 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 14-27 Nov 96 96.11.27

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Burundi
Humanitarian Situation Report
November 14 to November 27

The impact of recent events in Zaire continue to affect Burundi, with evidence of tensions rising both within the country and between Burundi and its Tanzanian and Zairean neighbors. In addition to unrest in Kayanza, Karuzi, Muramvya and Gitega, major fighting has been reported in southeastern Burundi as the Burundian military attempts to prevent rebels from traversing the country to set up new bases in Tanzania. UN refugee authorities in Tanzania report thousands of Burundians from the border region have crossed the border into Tanzania to escape the violence in their own country. Large numbers of Burundians from the former camps in South Kivu continue to cross the Zairean border into Cibitoke and arrive in fits-and-starts and the Gatumba transit center outside of Bujumbura.

Although the possibility of an international intervention force arriving in the Great Lakes region remains unclear, the likelihood of the use of Bujumbura as a base of operations for humanitarian activities in South Kivu remains remote. Burundian authorities refuse to allow the international community to transport items to South Kivu through Burundi unless sanctions against Burundi are first removed. To date, there has been no access from Bujumbura to the tens of thousands refugees and Zairean internally displaced in the Uvira area.

1. General

Burundi will not host an international force protecting aid going to eastern Zaire until the economic embargo imposed by neighboring countries is lifted, Burundian Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama told reporters November 15. "You can't leave the population here to suffer in misery while helping those on the other side of the border."

UN Special Envoy Raymond Chretien and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio de Mello met November 15 in Bujumbura with the diplomatic corps, representatives of the humanitarian community and Burundian government officials to discuss the situation in eastern Zaire and its impact on Burundi.

Hutu rebels who have lost their rear bases in Zaire, have been battling their way across Burundi to set up new bases in Tanzania, and President Buyoya has alleged that the Tanzanian government is looking the other way as they do so. After a meeting with former president Julius

Nyerere in the Tanzanian town of Musoma on November 16, Buyoya said he was "concerned" about deteriorating relations between Burundi and Tanzania and asked for a meeting to be scheduled between representatives of the two governments to ensure that the border was not "troubled."

Although Hutu rebels have used camps in western Tanzania as a base for some time, Burundian authorities fear that Hutu rebels will take advantage of the confusion caused by the arrival in Tanzania of tens of thousands of people fleeing violence in Zaire and attempt to set up new operations. Tanzanian authorities have angrily denied Burundian allegations that they are helping the rebels. According to the Tanzanian minister of foreign affairs, "all refugees are searched and screened to ensure that there is no infiltration by Hutu militia."

There are reports that the Burundian military is transferring large numbers of men and equipment to strategic points along Burundi's border with Tanzania. A Burundian military spokesman said November 19 that they were monitoring the border but denied that there was any tension between the two countries.

The Zairean government on November 14 repeated its accusation that Burundi and Rwanda had violated its territory and threatened war with both countries. "We are determined to wage a total war...we have the means," Zairean Deputy Foreign Minister Lokondo Yoka told reporters in Brussels. Yoka claimed that major towns in North and South Kivu had been occupied by Burundians and Rwandans for two weeks. There continue to be persistent reports in Bujumbura that Burundian forces have crossed into Zaire. The Burundian government, however, denies that its forces have crossed the frontier.

The government of Burundi has redrawn administrative structures in five of the provinces that have been recently hit by rebel attacks. According to the Minister of Interior and Public Security Lt. Col. Epitace Bayaganakandi, the restructuring will provide military authorities with greater control of access and administration of selected communes in the provinces of Bujumbura-Rural, Kayanza, Gitega, Muramvya and Karuzi.

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Paulo Sergio Pinheiro said that economic sanctions against Burundi should not be lifted until there was more movement towards a cease-fire and human rights violations had been investigated. His report, which covers the period from February 16 thorough September 30, 1996, calls the current state of human rights in the country "catastrophic." He said responsibility for the situation must be shared equally by the Hutu and Tutsi communities but that the government of Burundi and its armed forces have played a "major role" in the perpetration of human rights abuses. He called on the international community to increase the number of human rights observers in the country, and said that the possibility of stationing an international peace keeping force in the country should not be excluded.

Burundian authorities are now allowing limited fishing in Lake Tanganyika. Fisherman are being allowed to fish in selected areas provided they give advance notice to military authorities, and undergo a search of their boat when they return to shore. Authorities had previously prohibited fishing by boat, arguing that Hutu rebels in Zaire could infiltrate the country posing as fisherman.

Congolese President Pascal Lissouba on November 17 criticized the sanctions imposed by neighboring countries against Burundi as counterproductive and called for their removal. Speaking on national radio, he also called for a 10-nation African summit on December 2-3 to review the crisis in the Great lakes region. The summit will be held in Brazzaville within the framework of UN consultative committee on security issues in central Africa. Buyoya has said that he will attend the summit.

Last week, Buyoya met in Kampala with Ugandan President Museveni. Some reports indicated that Museveni was now willing to consider helping Buyoya campaign for a lifting of the

sanctions. However, according to November 25 statements by Tanzania's foreign minister, east and central African leaders remain unanimous in the need to maintain sanctions.

The Burundian minister for institutional reforms, Eugene Nindorera, announced November 18 that his government has named members of a commission to prepare for a national debate on the country's political future. The 18 individuals named are from both the public and private sector. The minister did not provide further details on the date the debate would begin or the precise scope of the commission's work.

On November 22, state prosecutors accused National Assembly Speaker Leonce Ngendakumana of having participated in massacres in Bujumbura Rural province in 1993. No formal charges have yet been delivered, and he was later allowed to return home. Ngendakumana left the German Ambassador's residence, where he had been in hiding since the July coup, earlier last month.

2. Security

Some 300 people were massacred in a church in Buganda commune in Cibitoke province on October 22, according to UN Human Rights observers. Those killed were among the first wave of returnees from eastern Zaire. Those responsible for that attack, which left 70 others wounded, reportedly used guns and hand grenades. Prime Minister Pascal-Firmin Ndimira has denied the massacre took place. "It is not true. It is absolutely wrong," he told reporters. "Even the people who inform the UN are not always right." President Buyoya, however, was more circumspect and said that he was seeking details on the report.

Humanitarian organizations working in eastern Burundi report heavy fighting over the last week in the Moso region of Ruyigi province and parts of northern Rutana. Although the numbers of dead or injured are unclear, some 43,000 have fled the region for Tanzania during the first two weeks of November. Sources in Ruyigi province report that virtually the entire population of Nyabitsinda commune, and about half the population of Kinyinya and Butegenswa communes have fled across the border.

On November 17, an antitank mine destroyed a military truck in Butegenswa commune killing at least two people. It is unclear who set the mine. This was the first time mines have been used in this part of Burundi.

Continued insecurity is reported throughout much of Kayanza province, including the communes of Rango, Butaganzwa, Matongo, Muruta and Gahombo. Skirmishes between the Burundian military and rebels have also been reported throughout the northern communes of Karuzi province.

According to the military, rebels raided Gihanga commune in Bubanza province on November 15 killing seven villagers and wounding eleven others.

Ambushes continue on RN 3, the main road from Bujumbura leading south to Rumonge. This road is now considered to be one of the most dangerous in the country. The ambushes along the road coincide with increased insecurity in the South. Skirmishes have been reported in the vicinity of Nyanza Lac in Makamba province. Shooting continues to be heard in the hills around Bujumbura, especially in the hills to the southeast of the city.

3. Affected populations

UNHCR reports that as of November 25, 2,019 people were resident at the Gatumba transit center. Over the last two weeks, the number of daily new arrivals from Zaire has usually been under 400, with fewer than 50 arriving on some days.

Inter-agency missions continue to Cibitoke where the number of Burundian returnees from Zaire now tops 30,000. Local administrators are registering the returnees, most of whom

returned from Zaire with little more than the clothing on their backs. Tension is reported to be high between recent returnees and those displaced by recent fighting in the province. Both communities are living in close proximity to each other or on the same site.

The NGO African Humanitarian Initiative, whose headquarters are in Benin, continues regular food distributions in Buganda commune. On November 22, the date of the last distribution, IHA distributed three month food rations to approximately 3,500 returnees. On November 16, IHA distributed 40 mt (3 month rations) to 1,243 people in the same commune.

Between November 18 and November 25, WFP provided two week emergency rations to 66,957 people in five provinces, and general distributions to 5,256 refugees and returnees.

WFP reports that it has suspended its distributions to affected persons in Kayanza province pending clarification from the governor on how and where food can be distributed.

UNICEF reports that on a November 20 trip to Cibitoke, it found that thousands of recent returnees were living along the side of Route National 5. The returnees had limited shelter and limited access to clean water, and were living under conditions endemic for the outbreak of disease. The agency reported incidences of malnutrition and diarrhea, and that many of the children required nutritional rehabilitation.

WHO has conducted its own medical assessment of the conditions facing returnees in Cibitoke. The agency has issued a set of recommendations that include regular epidemiological surveys of Buganda commune and international support for the rehabilitation of the medical infrastructure in the commune.

Returnees from Zaire continue to arrive in the province of Bujumbura Rural. Following a DHA-led mission to Kinama commune in that province, humanitarian agencies noted that many returnees are coming home to find their houses either destroyed or occupied by others. Moreover, many of the returnees to the commune were urban residents of Uvira and supported themselves through micro-enterprises and street-side sales. To date, they have not been able to resume these activities. On a November 22, mission to Mutimbuzi commune, a more rural commune in the same province, mission participants noted that returnees did not have seeds and the farming tools necessary for the up-coming planting season. Some returnees also faced hostility for having received assistance from the international community at the Gatumba transit site while current residents did not.

Mission participants also noted that returnees in both communes had limited access to health care, a problem that is faced by many in Burundi. In addition to DHA, agencies participating on the missions were: WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, FICR, Oxfam-Quebec, CRS, Burundian Red Cross, MSF-France, Christian Aid, MDM and ACF.

A UNICEF assessment mission in Muramvya province found 18 displaced camps with more than 24,500 people in need of soap, jerry cans blankets and cooking supplies.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

DHA is now the focal point for all requests from local groups or associations seeking assistance from international NGOs. Given that local groups often simultaneously ask more than one NGO for the same assistance, DHA will keep records of the requests in an attempt to ensure that there is no duplication in the aid provided.

UNICEF reports that it has signed new agreements with several medical NGOs working in Burundi. UNICEF will provide MSF-Switzerland with medical supplies and equipment for health services in Gitega and Cankuzo provinces. SCF will oversee the distribution of UNICEF-funded drugs, medical supplies and equipment to some 10 health centers in Muramvya province. UNICEF extended its existing agreement with Caritas, providing 50 Caritas-managed health centers throughout the country with essential drugs for more than

80,000 consultations. UNICEF will provide ACF with 20mt of nutritional supplements to be used by the NGO in its supplementary feeding program at the Gatumba transit site.

UNICEF provided IMC with essential drugs for 80,000 consultations in 20 health centers in Muyinga and Rutana provinces. MSF-France also received a small quantity of drugs to supplement its existing stocks in Kirundo province.

Humanitarian organizations continue to use the RSCC-approved airbridge to Nairobi to bring in needed medical supplies and non-food relief items. MSF-Belgium and UNICEF have both used specially chartered flights to bring in new supplies over the reporting period.

DHA's new Telecommunications Coordination Officer arrived November 25. He will work with humanitarian agencies to ensure that existing UN and NGO radio systems are functionally compatible and to provide a unified network for both regular and emergency operations.

5. Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Operations

WFP reports that it now has only sufficient stocks of cereal to meet its needs through December 18. The agency, however, has now received permission from the RSCC to import 2,500 mt of food per month for affected populations in Burundi. WFP is exploring the possibility of importing larger stocks by barge from Kigoma.

Local agricultural concerns received 400mt of sanctions-exempted fertilizer for non-cash crops on November 15. FAO facilitated the shipment. However, some 3,600 mt of exempted fertilizer continue to be blocked by Tanzanian authorities. FAO continues to await delivery of 826kg of vegetable seeds that are still in Tanzania pending shipment to Burundi. Both the fertilizer and the seeds were to be used in the current planting season.

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Date: Fri, 13 Dec 1996 14:42:08 +0300
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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 28 Nov-10 Dec 96 96.12.10

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Burundi
Humanitarian Situation Report
November 28 to December 10

Efforts continue to reintegrate the approximately 60,000 Burundian refugees who have returned from the camps in eastern Zaire. Even though the return of Burundian refugees from Zaire has slowed to a trickle, there are still tens of thousands of Burundian refugees in Tanzania. If they return home, this will put new demands on the already slim material resources of humanitarian organizations working in Burundi.

Relations between Tanzania and Burundi remain extremely tense with both sides fearing the other may be preparing to launch an attack. Zaire too, has accused Burundi of aggression. Within Burundi, there are reports of new massacres in Kayanza Province. Meanwhile, the Buyoya government continues to argue that sanctions are aggravating existing tensions within the country, and is pushing hard for their removal.

General

President Buyoya achieved his first tangible victory December 3 in his long running efforts to have sanctions against his country removed. Central African leaders meeting for a summit in Brazzaville issued a communique calling for a lifting of sanctions, "noting steps taken by the Burundian government towards re-establishing democracy." However, representatives of the Tanzanian and Kenyan governments, who are among two most ardent supports of sanctions, did not participate in the meeting. Burundi depends on access to port facilities in both countries for access to international markets.

During the Congo summit, Buyoya argued that long-term peace in the Great Lakes would be impossible with Burundi's continued isolation. Burundian authorities have trumpeted the fact that he was invited as a head of state, adding that this amounts to recognition of the legitimacy of his government.

Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, the leading mediator in Burundi's civil war, has invited representatives of the Burundian government and Hutu rebel groups to attend peace talks in Arusha from December 12 to 14. In announcing the meeting, Nyerere's office did not specify exactly who from the opposing sides had been invited to attend. Neither side has publicly committed to attending to the session, although in the past, CNDD leader Leonard Nyangoma and President Buyoya have both said they are open to the idea of talks providing certain conditions were met. Previously, Buyoya has emphasized that the CNDD must renounce "its ideology of genocide." If the parties do show up, it will mark their first public meeting.

The government of Burundi announced November 29 that all citizens would be required to perform mandatory public service for the state. Although details of the program are still unclear, citizens will be required to work for a period yet to be specified. The work performed will be uncompensated but could be in any public sector, including the military. Citing the impact of the embargo and the on-going civil war, the government also announced that it was imposing a new tax that could be paid in cash or labor. The amount to be paid was dependant on each individual's resources, but government ministers are to take the lead by paying 25,000 Burundian Francs per month.

Amnesty International has reported that at least five prisoners from Muyinga prison "disappeared" shortly after they were taken from the prison by security forces on November 27 to be tried. The organization fears that they may have been extrajudicially executed. According to Amnesty, there are more than 6,500 civilians, including at least 2,600 accused of participating in massacres, held in various detention sites around the country. Many are held without formal charges.

With the Tanzanian government pressing for a return of Rwandan refugees before the end of the year, there are concerns in Burundi that there might be a similar mass return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania. Tanzania hosts about 720,000 refugees of which some 190,000 are Burundians. UNHCR has looked at possible transit sites in Burundi in case the Burundian refugees eventually return, but has been reassured by the Tanzanian government that no pressure will be placed on Burundian refugees to leave Tanzania.

The decision by the New York based Parliamentarians for Global Action to honor National Assembly Speaker Leonce Ngendakumana for his support of democracy in Burundi is being used by both sides of the conflict in Burundi to rally supporters to their cause. The Tutsi extremist youth group Sojedem has used the nomination to rally the support of their backers. The group is seen as being responsible by many observers for pressuring Burundian authorities to investigate allegations that Ngendakumana participated in massacres in Bujumbura Rural province in 1993. Ngendakumana has now complained to the New York body that the government's actions have put his life in danger.

Security

Unconfirmed reports indicate that between 400 and 600 people have been killed in the area south of Rukago and east of Musema in Kayanza province over the last week. The reports include allegations that the military, accompanied by civilians armed with sticks and other weapons, systematically burned houses and killed their inhabitants. There are confirmed reports that numerous villages were burned. The area is now reported to be virtually empty.

There are also reports of a December 3 massacre by unknown assailants in a Pentecostal church in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province. There were 107 people reported killed, but further details are still unknown.

Mines have become a potential threat to humanitarian and other vehicles operating in Burundi. Although their use is still relatively infrequent, they are no longer rare. On December 6, a military pick up travelling on a dirt road 10 km west of Muramvya hit an antitank mine killing nine soldiers. On November 17, an antitank mine destroyed a military truck in Ruyigi province. These were the first mine incidents in either part of the country. In both attacks, the mines were placed on roads used primarily by military vehicles. Although it is unclear who placed the mines, many observers suspect rebel forces who passed through both areas en route from their former bases in eastern Zaire to new camps in western Tanzania.

Politically motivated attacks appear to be increasingly mixed with acts of banditry. Several recent attacks in Cibitoke have involved the theft of large numbers of cattle. Since the outbreak of fighting in eastern Zaire in late October, Military authorities in the province report an increase in cross-border raids originating from both sides of the frontier.

On November 30, armed persons of unknown origin attacked the Johnson Center, killing four and injuring three others. The Center in the Kamenge neighborhood of Bujumbura provides assistance to war-affected populations from the surrounding hills. On December 3, military authorities searched the center and claimed to have found a grenade and parts of a landmine.

On December 11, 25 people were killed in a rebel attack on an IDP camp in Gihanga in Bubanza province. Ten of those killed were rebels killed by soldiers defending the camp, according to military sources. Hundreds of cattle were also reported stolen in the melee.

According to one report, on the night of December 4, 23 of 35 prisoners held in Gashoho commune prison in Muyinga were killed by their guards. The report indicated that the prisoners were tightly packed into their cell and were demonstrating against the conditions.

3. Affected Populations

UNHCR reports that as of December 9, some 200 people were resident at the Gatumba transit center. Over the last two weeks, there have been virtually no new arrivals.

NGOs operating in eastern Burundi report that some of the estimated 60,000 people who fled strife-torn communes in Ruyigi and Rutana provinces have returned. The affected communes are now reported to be largely calm.

MDM reports that since November 10, some 400 people have sought help at the health center which they support in Maramvya in Bubanza province. Most of those who have come to the center are women and children who have shown evidence of acute malnutrition. Many of these people were reportedly living in nearby forests out of fear that their villages would be attacked, or even as hostages of rebel forces. Aid workers fear that there may be thousands of others in the nearby bush without adequate food or water.

Aid workers entered Uvira for the first time in over a month. Representatives from DHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC and MSF participated in the December 4 mission which entered Uvira from Bukavu. The team, which was attempting to trace some 60,000 Burundian refugees from the area that are still unaccounted for, reported that life was returning to normal in the town. Agencies have no immediate plans to set up permanent new offices in Uvira, and negotiations are continuing for the creation of an aid corridor from Bujumbura.

A WFP crop assessment mission in northern Kirundo has reported that lower than average rainfall in the region since October has limited crop production, particularly in Bugabira commune. The region, in which beans, rice, maize, and sorghum are produced, normally has a crop surplus. The mission estimated that some 30,000 families will be affected.

FAO reports in its December 3 Burundi food and crop assessment that civil strife in Bubanza, Cibitoke and Karuzi has reduced crop production in those provinces by as much as 50 percent. However, favorable climactic conditions throughout the country has limited overall crop losses. FAO estimates that the 1996 second season food crop production to be about 1.63 million tons, a drop of some eight percent from the 1988-93 pre-crisis levels, and two percent lower than the previous year. Nevertheless, the impact of civil strife and the sanctions on internal transportation is expected to magnify the effect of the shortfall. Meanwhile, only ten percent of the fertilizers exempted from the sanctions two months ago have arrived from Kigoma. If the rest does not arrive immediately, the impact on the second agricultural season will be significant.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

DHA/HCU wishes to clarify that international humanitarian organizations in Burundi have asked that copies of requests from local organizations for non-food relief items be provided to

the DHA/HCU unit. Local organizations should not submit their requests directly to the DHA/HCU unit, as was inferred in the November 27 sitrep.

UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Sergio de Mello requested that the humanitarian community in Burundi prepare a joint position paper on recent developments in the country, and other issues that affect humanitarian operations, as well as recommended responses. Over the course of a week, UN and NGO agencies in Burundi produced a common document that was submitted to the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator on December 5, and discussed in his meeting with the Prime Minister on December 7.

WHO reports that it received 9 mt of medical goods December 4. The goods, which include vaccines and transfusion kits, are for use in rural health centers.

In Ngozi, MSF-Belgium is supporting 20 rural health centers. Two years ago, only half of the centers were functioning. An inter-agency mission visited several of the centers and found them to be well supplied and managed.

In Muyinga, IRC is working to improve local water and sanitation systems. Through one project, IRC is putting together a water supply system for the hospital which would be independent from the city supply.

IMC is also working in Muyinga to provide health care through public health centers and mobile clinics. The NGO has provided a surgeon and two surgical nurses on 24 hour call in Muyinga hospital.

SCF has now started operations in Muramvya with an office in Ijenda. The organization has provided health services in six of the nine working dispensaries in the southern part of the province.

5. Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Operations

Although the international spotlight has shifted to Zaire, humanitarian needs in Burundi continue to increase. With the return of tens of thousands of Burundian refugees from the former camps in eastern Zaire and reports of fresh fighting throughout the country, the rapid dispatch of large supplies of exempted humanitarian goods remains essential.

Even though agencies have received permission from the RSCC to import the needed humanitarian goods, continued bureaucratic delays outside of Burundi are slowing the delivery of the needed items. WFP, for example, has received permission to import 2,545 mt of food per month to replenish its food stocks which are nearly exhausted. The agency has only sufficient cereal stocks to meet its needs through December 28. However, it still has not received permission to transport the food by barge from the port of Kigoma. Until permission is received, it must continue to use trucks which can only take small quantities at a time, and are in short supply due to the increasing transportation needs in Rwanda. To date, FAO has only received 400 mt of the 4,000 mt tons of fertilizer for non-cash crops which were exempted by the RSCC in September. Caritas Burundi, which has had medical and NFI stocks en route for Burundi delayed in Kigoma since July, is now considering transferring the stocks to another program.

The governor of Ngozi has indicated that because of the embargo, his province has almost no basic school materials. UNICEF, as well as other organizations, continues to press for a sanctions exemption for educational materials.

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Burundi
Humanitarian Situation Report
December 11 to December 18

African leaders met in Nairobi December 16 and 17 to discuss the crisis in the Great Lakes Region. However, contrary to the expectations of the Buyoya government and others, neither the conflict within Burundi nor the regionally imposed embargo against the country were discussed.

With discussion on loosening, or even eliminating, the embargo against the country a possibility, both President Buyoya and CNDD leader Leonard Nyangoma took steps in advance that they hoped would help sway any decision. President Buyoya had made it clear that he hoped to attend the Nairobi summit to build on his success earlier this month in Brazzaville where central African leaders issued a communique calling for the removal of sanctions. However, no representatives from Burundi were invited to attend the Nairobi meeting. For his part, Nyangoma sent a message to summit participants claiming that 35,000 people had been killed by the Buyoya regime since it seized power last July, and calling on the participants to maintain sanctions against the Buyoya government.

Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere is continuing his efforts to broker an internal settlement to the Burundi crisis. However, his ability to successfully mediate an end to the conflict is increasingly in doubt with several Tutsi dominated political parties denouncing Nyerere as being partial to opposition concerns. UPRONA and others in the Tutsi community have blamed Nyerere for convincing regional leaders to maintain the embargo against Burundi. With increasingly vocal opposition from influential members of the Tutsi community to Nyerere's role as the leading mediator, there are fears that Buyoya may be forced to distance himself from the Nyerere-led negotiation process.

1. General

Despite the misgivings of UPRONA, the Tutsi-dominated political party on whose support Buyoya has depended, Buyoya did send representatives to Arusha December 12 to 14. The Buyoya delegation attended meetings solely to, in the words of his spokesman, "reaffirm our commitment to talks" but not to negotiate anything. Delegations from both UPRONA and FRODEBU reportedly met with Nyerere separately, and did not meet with each other. The

Buyoya team was lead by Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama. The Hutu-dominated FRODEBU party, which had a parliamentary majority under ousted president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, was represented by its chairman Jean Minani.

Other FRODEBU members that were to participate in the talks were prevented from leaving the country. Augustin Nzojibwami, a former governor of Bururi and Frederic Bamvuginyumvira, a spokesman for the party, were both prevented from leaving the country by the Office of the Public Prosecutor. No reasons were given for the prosecutor's refusal to allow them to leave. However, their colleague, FRODEBU member and Speaker of the National Assembly, Leonce Ngendakumana is being investigated by that office for his alleged participation in the 1993 massacres. Representatives of the exiled CNDD rebel movement also participated in the talks.

Following the talks in Arusha, Rukingama again appealed for lifting of the economic sanctions and said that his government had drawn up several recommendations for peace which would be presented to Nyerere.

UPRONA has rejected Nyerere's mediation efforts, accusing the former president of bias. In a December 11 letter to Nyerere, UPRONA President Charles Mukasi turned down an invitation to come to Arusha to discuss the possibility of peace talks. In a statement released to reporters, Mukasi said that "given... the biased attitude of Nyerere regarding terrorist and genocidal organizations, it is no longer open to us to accept his invitations." Earlier in the week, a spokesman for RADDES, a smaller and more extremist Tutsi-dominated political party, also questioned Nyerere's impartiality and said it could not support his mediation efforts.

According to the CNDD, the main armed opposition group, the Buyoya government has been responsible for the deaths of 34,515 people since it took power in July. In a statement signed by CNDD leader Leonard Nyangoma, and distributed to those participating in the Nairobi summit, the CNDD called for continued sanctions and continued political isolation of the Buyoya government. Nyangoma said that the CNDD was "ready for direct and official negotiations with the military junta" but wanted the summit to force the regime "to unconditionally restore the state of those elected in June 1993." The statement was a reference to Hutu members of parliament who won a majority in the first free elections, when Hutu President Ndadaye also won office, defeating Buyoya at the polls.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso said that more than 1,000 people had been killed in Burundi over the last month, most of them civilians killed by the army. He added that the human rights situation in Burundi in November could be described as "alarming, with its wave of massacres, arbitrary arrests and looting and destruction of property." However, a report, issued by his office detailing human rights incidents in Burundi in November, said both sides had targeted non-combatants.

The report noted a marked increase in the number of skirmishes between the Burundian military and rebels in the provinces of Kayanza, Bururi, Cibitoke, Gitega, Ruyigi and Bujumbura Rural. It said that tensions throughout the country had been aggravated by the return of tens of thousands of Burundian refugees from the camps in eastern Zaire.

The Burundian government has contested the report, questioning both the sources for the information and the high number of casualties. Interior Minister Lt. Col. Epitace Bayaganakandi told reporters that "it has become a habit among some agencies to ignore the crimes of terrorist organizations, and to blame systematically the Burundi army for killings with inflated casualty figures for propaganda purposes. He claimed that the Burundian army intervened only to protect the population.

2. Security

Reports of generalized insecurity continue in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Kayanza and Muramvya provinces. In communes bordering Zaire, some attacks appear to be motivated more by simple banditry than by ethnic or political division.

Although some 100,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania have returned home since December 14, Burundian refugees in Tanzania have not begun to move towards the border with Burundi. There are an estimated 190,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania and their mass return could have serious security and humanitarian repercussions.

Three major military offensives appear to be under way in the country. Intense fighting has been reported in Mugina commune in the northern part of Cibitoke province. Casualty figures are unknown but over 450 residents of the area crossed the Rwandan border to escape the fighting and are now being housed in Rwanda in a refugee camp near Bugarama.

A massive military operation is now underway in Mutambu commune, south of Bujumbura. Although the number of troops involved is unknown, it is one of the largest in recent weeks and international humanitarian staff have been prevented from entering the area.

In Kayanza, military operations continue in the area south of the Kayanza-Ngozi road. There have been unconfirmed reports of mines being used in the area.

3. Affected Populations

WFP reports that assessment missions in Bujumbura Rural have revealed that groups of people are emerging from the bush after several months of hiding. Following improved security in Mubimbi commune, a group of 800 people recently emerged from the bush showing evidence of malnutrition.

In Maramvya, Bubanza province, MDM has reported that over 600 people have arrived at the health center they support since the second week of November. Two hundred of the arrivals were over the last week. The NGO reports that all of the arrivals are in extremely poor health, with the majority showing visible signs of acute malnutrition. Interviews with the arrivals reveal that most survived only from scavenging in fields and from wild fruits, living in fear of rebel or military attack. The depth of fear was so deep that some mothers at first brought out only those children who were on the verge of death. Once it was clear that those children were safe, they sent for their other children. Many arrive at the door of the health center with severe parasitic infections. MDM has found it necessary to disinfect all new arrivals and boil their cloths. MDM is providing medical care to the arrivals while ACF is providing therapeutic feeding and other nutritional assistance. IFRC has constructed the shelters and latrines. The site is not capable of supporting more arrivals unless additional space and facilities are provided.

An estimated 15,000 people are now living in camps in Muramvya created by the military, and under military protection. WFP visited two recently created sites in Bukeye commune and Rutegama commune. The assessment team reported that residents of both sites had access to their land, but that neither site had adequate sanitation.

4. Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Operations

On December 13, FAO received 1,860 MT of fertilizer to be used on non-cash crops. Although the RSCC granted exemptions for the import of fertilizer in September, continued delays in Tanzania have meant that FAO has only received just over half of the 4,000 mt it requested.

Caritas Burundi received four containers of medical supplies from Tanzania. The goods had been delayed in Kigoma since July.

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Date: Mon, 13 Jan 1997 15:09:51 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN GL Humanitarian Coordinator Statement on Fuel 97.1.13

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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN
COORDINATOR FOR THE GREAT LAKES

13 January, 1997
Nairobi, Kenya

The following Press Statement is attributable to Martin Griffiths, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region.

The regional embargo on Burundi declared on July 31, 1996 continues to impose severe restrictions on the ability of international humanitarian organizations to provide aid to the country's most vulnerable populations.

On September 6, the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) authorized international humanitarian organizations to import fuel for emergency humanitarian relief. The fuel imported was sufficient for only one month of operations.

Since November 18, international humanitarian organizations have made several joint requests for a new allocation of fuel to the RSCC. To date, no authorization to import new supplies of fuel has been received.

Today, both UN and NGO fuel reserves are virtually depleted. Essential programs have already been reduced. Agencies are now being forced to consider reducing their emergency relief operations even further. If a favourable decision by the RSCC is not taken immediately, agencies will be unable to provide life-sustaining assistance to hundreds of thousands of extremely vulnerable people in Burundi.

For further information please contact Kerstin Holst, Policy Advisor, Office of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region on (Tel: 254-2-622166 or 622148, Fax: 254-2-622129).

[ENDS]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 30 Dec 96 - 13 Jan 97.1.13

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Burundi
Humanitarian Situation Report
December 30, 1996 to January 13, 1997

Although representatives of major political parties in Burundi are scheduled to meet later this month to discuss the country's political future, the CNDD, the political arm of one of the leading rebel groups, has not been invited to participate. Many observers believe that lasting peace in the country will only be possible with the participation of all opposition groups in talks.

Six months after neighboring countries imposed an economic embargo against Burundi, there is little sign that the sanctions will be lifted. Despite exemptions for selected humanitarian supplies, NGOs and UN agencies continue to face delays in importing essential exempted goods. Fuel reserves of humanitarian agencies are now virtually empty. Without authorization by the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) to import new fuel, the ability of humanitarian organizations to continue to serve hundreds of thousands of Burundians of all ethnic groups will be in doubt.

1. General

Although consumer and household items have remained on store shelves in Burundi since the regional economic sanctions were first imposed, smuggling and the breaking of sanctions by entrepreneurs has received fresh attention. A report published in a weekly Kenyan newspaper, and picked up by international wire services, provided examples of organized smuggling into the country. The article noted that a convoy of ten fuel tankers was seen driving towards Bujumbura, their license plates obscured by mud. Five of the tankers were said to have come from Rwanda, the other five from Tanzania. Other products supplied through smuggling include Zambian cement, salt from Tanzania and consumer products from Kenya.

The report on sanctions violations came after published accusations that the Burundian government was involved in smuggling arms into the country. The CNDD claimed that during the last weekend of December, an Egyptian owned plane landed in Bujumbura and off-loaded 34 mt of munitions and military uniforms. The cargo flight was said to have originated in Ostende, and to have returned with 24 mt of tea. The CNDD made the accusations in a letter to the chairman of the RSCC who is also the Tanzanian High Commissioner to Kenya. Both the Burundian military and the Egyptian government denied the claim.

Meanwhile, the German government is investigating a German company suspected of illegally exporting arms to Burundi. The investigation was launched after customs officials at Brussels airport seized seven engines and other parts from Soviet BDRM-2 armored vehicles. The company, Fahrzeugwerke Neubrandenburg, is suspected of attempting to export the goods after a request for an export license was turned down by authorities in October. The company has denied the charges.

All Burundian political parties, except for the CNDD, have been invited to participate in a national debate to discuss the conflict in the country. In his New Year's address, President Buyoya said the talks would show the international community that Burundi was not afraid to tackle its own problems. In an acknowledgment that some Tutsi hard liners continue to oppose dialogue with Hutu dominated opposition groups, he said that there should be no fear of talks "since we know that truth lies on our side."

According to a government spokesman, about 60 people from across the political spectrum will take part in the debate which will begin January 27 and last four days. "If there is a cease-fire and an end to the massacres, then fine" the CNDD could participate, a government spokesman said. The debate will be divided into five major themes: the causes of the world's divisions and wars; peace and reconciliation in Africa; the nature of the Burundian conflict; past debates on national unity and the democratization of Burundi; steps to resolve the conflict in Burundi. President Buyoya has promised a debate since assuming power last July, and Burundian officials hope that their holding of the debate will help convince neighboring countries to remove sanctions.

Sources in Zaire indicate that ADFL rear positions in Zaire were coming under pressure from Burundian Hutu rebels belonging to the FDD operating out of the Virunga National Park. The rebels are said to be planting mines and staging ambushes along the Goma-Bukavu route. Many of the Hutu rebels who had been operating in the former camps in eastern Zaire have since fled to Tanzania.

The Burundian government has made serving a year of military service mandatory for all current first and second year university students. Most students at the campuses in Bujumbura and Gitega are Tutsi. The main Hutu dominated FRODEBU party condemned the move as "national suicide", saying the solution to the country's problem lay in negotiations, not war. Details of the military service program have not been finalized. It is still unclear when the program will take effect and how many students will be directed to serve. Prior to the July coup, students paraded through the streets of Bujumbura demanding to be enlisted by the military to fight Hutu rebels.

U.S. Special Envoy to Burundi, Howard Wolpe, arrived in Burundi January 6 for four days of meetings with Burundian officials and others involved in the search for peace in Burundi.

2. Security

Mine incidents continue, with twelve confirmed incidents in which both civilian and military vehicles have been destroyed by antitank mines over the last eight weeks. Eight of the incidents occurred in Bujumbura Rural. Other provinces in which vehicles have detonated antitank mines include Kayanza, Muramvya and Bururi. Sources indicate that for every detonated mine, the Burundian military is locating and disarming some 20 mines. Antipersonnel mines have also been found in Kayanza Province, but to date there have been no reported injuries from their detonation.

In response to the increased use of mines, the UN security cell is conducting mine awareness sessions to help humanitarian staff who must conduct operations in potentially mined areas.

Banditry is also on the rise, with expatriate houses and offices increasingly being targeted for attack. At 7:30 am on the morning of January 8, the house/office of an American NGO was raided by 5 armed men who stole a vehicle and computer equipment.

Attacks on displaced camps continue. During the night of January 2, rebels attacked a displaced camp in Muramba commune of Bubanza province. Between 15 and 30 residents of the camp were killed and an unknown number injured. On January 9, in Gihanga commune in the same province, rebels opened fire on a small gathering. The incident resulted in an unknown number of casualties.

On January 10, the Burundian military killed 124 Burundian refugees from camps in western Tanzania who had been transported to the Burundian border by the Tanzanian military. The killings occurred at the Kobero crossing point in Muyinga province. Exact details of the incident are unclear. A spokesman for the Burundian government confirmed that an incident occurred but provided few details. He said that an internal military investigation would be conducted and those responsible would be punished.

There are at least 160,000 Burundian refugees in camps in western Tanzania. Those Burundians transported to the border were from camps near Kitali. According to some reports, they had been involved in skirmishes earlier in the week between members of the FDD, PALIPEHUTU and other Hutu rebel groups living in the camps.

Ambushes continue on RN 3, the main road from Bujumbura leading south to Rumonge. Several Burundian military vehicles were ambushed along the route January 11. This road is now considered to be one of the most dangerous in the country and is completely closed to UN traffic.

3. Affected populations

UNHCR reports that as of January 6, some 78,000 Burundian refugees from camps in Zaire had returned home. Of those, some 16,000 passed through the Gatumba transit center outside Bujumbura. The majority, however, returned directly to the provinces of Cibitoke and Bubanza, two of the most severely war affected provinces in the country.

Two new regroupment camps have been identified in Karuzi. It is now estimated that the number of displaced in that province alone is approximately 100,000

Both rebel and military attacks are reported to be on the rise in northern Kayanza. With ethnic tensions high in the province, humanitarian organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to provide services to the area's most vulnerable populations. MSF-Holland, the NGO responsible for much of the province's emergency medical care was forced to pull out due to repeated threats against staff, and the refusal of local authorities to allow them to serve more than one ethnic group.

WHO is looking into a possible cholera outbreak in communities near Rumonge in southern Burundi. According to local press reports, approximately 250 people are suspected of having contracted the disease over the last several weeks with 10 fatalities. The Burundian government has blamed rebel sabotage of the town's water supply system for precipitating the outbreak.

CRS reports that large numbers of newly displaced continue to arrive at or around the hospital in the town of Bubanza. Two hundred and fifty were registered on one day alone, many showing signs of acute malnutrition. Those arriving at the center report continued instability in the hills north of the town. With the health center overwhelmed by patients suffering from malnutrition, CRS with the assistance of UNICEF, is constructing a new center on the hospital grounds for therapeutic feeding.

CRS reports that it is completing preparations to distribute 450 mt of bean seeds to 38,000 families in Kirondo province. The province suffered from drought during the last planting season.

4. Humanitarian Coordination

Martin Griffiths, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, arrived in Bujumbura January 6 for two days of meetings with representatives of international humanitarian organizations and the Burundian government. From a regional perspective, he said that Burundi continued to be the country in the region with the greatest need for international humanitarian intervention. He said that he would highlight the continued gravity of the situation in the country at a January 14 meeting in Nairobi of UN Humanitarian Coordinators from the Great Lakes.

A strategic framework for the Regional Consolidated Appeal Process is now in place. The appeal for funds for the Great Lake region will be launched February 6. In light of the fluidity of the situation in the Great Lakes, the appeal, which will be managed by DHA, will be reviewed every three months and revised accordingly.

The Dutch government has agreed to subsidize the Nairobi - Bujumbura humanitarian air link. The cost of tickets has been reduced from \$260 each way to \$180. The Dutch have agreed to fund 20 flights over the next ten week period.

5. Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Operations

UN and NGO humanitarian services in Burundi are threatened by the continued refusal of the RSCC to consider allowing international humanitarian agencies to import additional fuel reserves.

Since November 18, international humanitarian organizations have made several joint requests to the RSCC for a new allocation of fuel. To date, no authorization to import new supplies has been received. Today, both UN and NGO fuel reserves are virtually depleted. Essential programs have already been reduced. Agencies are now being forced to consider reducing their emergency relief operations even further. If a favorable decision by the RSCC is not taken immediately, agencies will be unable to provide life sustaining assistance to hundreds of thousands of extremely vulnerable people in Burundi.

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Date: Fri, 31 Jan 1997 17:59:16 +0300
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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 14-28 Jan 97 97.1.28

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BURUNDI
DHA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JANUARY 14 TO 28, 1997

1. GENERAL

UN Secretary General Koffi Annan has announced the creation of a joint UN/OAU post to oversee the mediation efforts of the two organizations in the Great Lakes region. Mohamad Sahnoun, an Algerian diplomat who headed UN operations in Somalia in 1992 and had earlier served as assistant secretary general of the OAU, has been named Special Representative for the Great Lakes. Sahnoun, who will be based in Nairobi, will have three primary tasks: to promote peace in Zaire and Burundi, to organize an international conference on the Great Lakes Region, and to work towards the preservation of the territorial integrity of Zaire.

Approximately 1,500 Burundian refugees now housed in a camp near Gikongoro in southwest Rwanda may be forced to return to Burundi in coming days. The Rwandan government originally gave January 15 as the date by which the refugees must leave the country, however, to date, Rwanda has not taken any steps to force them to leave. The Rwandan government has said it no longer wants any refugee camps on its territory. There are approximately 6,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda in three separate sites. Those near Gikongoro have been there since October 1993 and have been told by Rwandan authorities that they will be the first to go back. There are an additional 3,700 in Cyangugu who arrived from Cibitoke province in June, 1996 and 700 more in Butare who arrived via Goma in November.

Amnesty International has claimed that hundreds of refugees returning to Burundi from Tanzania and Zaire in recent weeks have been massacred. Former Canadian Foreign Minister Flora MacDonald led a high level delegation to Dar es Salaam to discuss the alleged killings with Tanzanian officials. In a statement released to the press, Amnesty said that the delegation would discuss "continued conflict and harassment in Burundi and people being forced back into that situation from the refugee camps." In a January 24 interview on the BBC, an Amnesty official added that UNHCR had violated its mandate and "aided and abetted the forced repatriation" of refugees from Tanzania. UNHCR has dismissed the charges.

Earlier this month, over 120 Burundian refugees were killed by the Burundian military when they were forced back to Burundi by the Tanzanian government. A spokesman for the Burundian Ministry of Defence told Burundi radio that those killed were members of the rebel Palipehutu group. The Tanzanian government has since expressed regret over the expulsion of

the refugees, and has said that their forced return was not authorized by the government. UNHCR has publicly said that it is not safe for Burundians in Tanzania to return home.

Although spokesmen for President Buyoya continue to promote the upcoming national debate, provisionally scheduled for the last week in January, the debate's framework and attendees are still unclear. Neither FRODEBU, UPRONA nor any of the other major political parties have confirmed that they will attend the debate. Sources indicate that a major source of concern is the insistence by the Office of the President that it has the right to decide who will attend from each of the political parties rather than the parties themselves.

Burundian officials continue in their two track approach to convince neighbouring countries to remove the economic embargo that they have imposed for the last six months. President Buyoya and members of his cabinet have travelled to regional capitals to quietly meet with political leaders to personally press their case for having sanctions removed. Defence Minister Firmin Sinzoyiheba met with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni the week of January 13. A spokesman for Museveni said that the Ugandan President understood that the sanctions were having certain detrimental effects on the country but insisted Uganda would continue to respect the embargo until there was a collective decision to lift it. Rwandan Vice President Paul Kagame has also reportedly met privately with Buyoya and, according to Rwandan state radio, is sympathetic to the idea of lifting the sanctions.

While meeting quietly with sympathetic regional leaders, Burundian officials have also publicly lashed out at the continued enforcement of sanctions. Burundi's Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama has alleged that some countries imposing sanctions on his country did so in order to prevent peace from ever returning to Burundi. Speaking on the BBC, he urged the international community to press for the revocation of sanctions. So far, Congo is the only nearby country to openly resume commercial ties with Burundi. Air Burundi now offers twice weekly commercial flights between Bujumbura and Brazzaville for 108,000 FrBu (\$338.00) each way.

Foreign Ministers of South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Congo, Zimbabwe and Cameroon, as well as the Assistant Secretary General of the OAU met in Pretoria January 28 to discuss the conflict in Burundi and other issues in the Great Lakes. The next Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss the sanctions may be held February 9 - 10 in Lusaka.

A spokesman for the Burundian army said on January 21 that it had killed scores of Hutu rebels and seized large numbers of weapons in a four day offensive in the Kibera forest in northwest Burundi. On January 20, Burundian national television showed an arsenal of seized weapons which a military spokesman said had been in the possession of rebels in the forest. The weapons included 200 antitank and antipersonnel mines as well as mortars, antitank rockets and grenades. However, according to some international observers, the mines shown by the government on television were not from the same stock as those that have been recently planted in the country. The forest, which extends through the provinces of Cibitoke, Kayanza and Muramvya, has served as a base for rebel activities in the country over the last three years.

On January 20, Burundi's intelligence service placed former president Jean-Baptiste Bagaza under house arrest accusing him of "subversion". More specific charges were not given. A government spokesman said that soldiers had found large quantities of grenades, ammunition and guns in a raid conducted on his house the previous day.

Bagaza, who was president of Burundi from 1976 until he was overthrown by Buyoya in a 1987 coup, is considered to be one of the more extremist of the country's Tutsi politicians. He has been an outspoken and persistent critic of the second Buyoya regime, and was rumoured to be attempting to organize a coup himself when Buyoya took power in July, 1996.

Two colonels and approximately 20 members of SOJEDEM (Youth Solidarity for the Defence of Minorities), a Tutsi youth extremist group with ties to Bagaza, were arrested January 17. Deo Niyonzima, who was formally a Dominican monk and is now the president of SOJEDEM,

was among those detained. No formal charges were delivered, and all but Niyonzima and Isidore Rufyikiri, another member of the organization, have since been released.

The CNDD charged January 15 that the Buyoya government had killed over 38,500 people since it seized power in July of last year. The CNDD repeated its claim that the government was waging a campaign of genocide against the country's Hutu population and pointed in particular to alleged army massacres of 3,283 people in Kayanza province between December 2, 1996 and January 10, 1997. According to the rebel group, the killings were orchestrated in the south of the province in the communes of Butaganzwa, Gatara and Rongo. On January 14, a church official told AFP that parishioners in Kayanza had reported massacres in those communes to the Bishop of Ngozi throughout December. "If you counted it up and checked the figures, I wouldn't be surprised if there were more than 3,000 dead," a diocesan official was quoted as saying. A military spokesman retorted that reports of massacres were "exaggerated," but said some 30 had been killed. There have been no independent confirmations of the killings, although the region has been the scene of heavy fighting in recent months.

2. SECURITY

Church officials told international wires services that over 400 people were shot or stabbed to death in Muramvya during the first week of January. A military spokesman denied the reports. UN Human Rights monitors are currently investigating.

Twenty two people, including women and children, were hacked to death and their homes burned in a Jan. 13 attack in Rugombo commune in Cibitoke province. Four other people were injured. Burundian authorities have accused the CNDD of being responsible for the killings and have claimed residents of the commune were killed for not providing sufficient support for CNDD activities. The CNDD has not publicly commented on the attack.

Although the Burundian military has increased its efforts to defeat the rebel insurgency in recent months, it has still not been able to secure all major roads. Ambushes continue regularly, for example on RN 3, the major lake-side road linking Bujumbura with the towns of Rumonge and Nyanza Lac in the south. A January 17 attack on the town of Gatete just south of Rumonge left 15 dead, while an ambush on a minibus on the Rumonge- Bujumbura road the same day claimed three more lives. Rebels often target minibuses and other vehicles that may be transporting market goods in order to discourage commerce or other economic activities

The curfew in Bujumbura is now midnight, the latest it has been in the more than two years that the government has imposed a curfew in the country. Observers note that the decision, announced January 25 by the Ministry of Interior, to raise the curfew from 10 pm marks increased confidence by military authorities that the city is now firmly under their control.

On the morning of January 26, the road from Bujumbura to the airport was cut by soldiers who had strung razor wire across the route. Military authorities have said the route was cut for security reasons but have not provided additional details.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The French NGO Equilibre has announced that it has received permission to improve water distribution and sanitation systems in 18 displaced camps in Bubanza province. The NGO estimates that its work will benefit 30,000 people. Equilibre will also rehabilitate sanitation systems in health centers in the area, where accessible, and is considering expanding its work to include the education sector in the province. Equilibre will be opening an office in the town of Bubanza next week.

Health authorities in Bubanza have asked Action Contre la Faim to provide assistance to approximately 1,000 severely malnourished people throughout the province. ACF is now examining the possibility of starting emergency feeding programs in Bubanza. ACF also reports that there are now some 1,500 people at the health center they support in Maramvya commune

in Bubanza province. The NGO reports that all of the new arrivals are in extremely poor health, and that many are malnourished and suffering from skin infections. Almost all of the individuals arriving at the health center are members of the dispersed population who have been forced to live in fields and forests without shelter or reliable sources of food. ACF is providing therapeutic feeding and other nutritional assistance, while MDM is providing medical care to the arrivals. WFP has also provided food assistance to the center. IRC has constructed additional shelter in the center.

WFP continues to provide assistance to displaced persons in Karuzi province. During the reporting period, the agency provided assistance to 15,335 people in seven sites in Gitaramuka commune and to 4,003 people in two sites in Buhiga commune.

WFP also distributed food to over 15,000 Burundians in the Rugombo and Buganda communes in Cibitoke province. Most of the beneficiaries are recent returnees from the former refugee camps in eastern Zaire, but other war affected individuals living in the same sites also received assistance. Given the continued insecurity in Cibitoke, the assistance was provided through special humanitarian convoys organized by UNHCR with heavy military escort.

Other agencies are also increasing their activities in Cibitoke province. Following a January 16 assessment mission to the province, UNICEF has said that it is ready to support social services in Cibitoke but is not able to have a permanent field presence in the province. The agency may propose that provincial authorities designate professionals in water and sanitation, health and education who UNICEF can train in Bujumbura and who can then return to the field.

CRS and Christian Aid are making final preparations to distribute a total of 526 mt of bean seeds to 224,000 people in Kirundo province. The province was afflicted with drought during the last planting season. The seeds will be distributed through local representatives of both the Catholic and Protestant Churches and with the cooperation of the Governor of Kirundo and local agricultural representatives.

CRS and Christian Aid are also jointly funding a seed research program. The program will be managed by the Institute of Agricultural Science in Burundi (ISABU).

Christian Aid will also distribute 150 mt of bean seeds, 75 mt of maize seeds and 300 mt of potatoes to 75,000 people in thirteen provinces. 50,000 other people throughout the country will also receive cassava plants. Those families receiving the seeds and agricultural implements will be selected by church coordinators and local officials based on their need and access to land. In addition, the NGO is also launching a seed multiplication project in Kwibuka in the province of Gitega.

Over the reporting period, CRS distributed soap, blankets and plastic sheeting to 4,147 of the most vulnerable residents of five displaced camps in Muyinga and Kirundo province. CRS also distributed food to an additional 4,500 vulnerable individuals and non-food items to an additional 7,200 vulnerable people in the provinces of Ngozi, Gitega and Bujumbura.

4. IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

The impasse over the importation of fuel may be at last finding a solution. Since the first fuel consignment arrived in Burundi in late October, international humanitarian organizations have made several joint requests for a new allocation of fuel to the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC). On January 27, Tanzania authorized a limited fuel delivery, in apparent accord with the RSCC. It is not yet known when the fuel will arrive.

The RSCC has indicated that it will consider fixing a monthly fuel quota for humanitarian organizations at its February 9 -10 meeting. In the meantime, lack of fuel stocks have severely hampered humanitarian operations.. Furthermore, internal UN flights are now threatened by the shortage of Jet A-1 aircraft fuel. The internal flight is the only secure method of travel to many parts of the country.

The embargo continues to make the importation of even exempted humanitarian goods extremely difficult. Tanzanian border authorities refused to allow seven trucks containing non-food relief items to cross the border into Burundi. The authorized goods, which have been stuck in Tanzania since early August, were being transported on behalf of Christian Aid and were for later distribution to vulnerable groups within Burundi.

Air Burundi, the national airline, has demanded that MSF-Belgium pay the company \$7,000 in "royalty" fees or be denied the right to bring medical supplies by air into Burundi. The four MSF chapters support health centers and hospitals in eight of the country's fifteen provinces. Since the sanctions were imposed, MSF International has brought in medical supplies from Nairobi on four charter flights in order to provide needed supplies to the country's health care system. MSF has issued a press statement protesting against the demand for royalties, and warned it would reconsider its support for the country's health care system if it does not receive an exoneration from the fees.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 11 Feb 1997 16:37:31 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

DECLARATION DU GOUVERNEMENT DU BURUNDI

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id QAA28806; Tue, 11 Feb 1997 16:37:31 +0300

DECLARATION DU GOUVERNEMENT DU BURUNDI

1. Le 3 fevrier 1997, le President de la Republique, S.E.M. le Major Pierre BUYOYA a participe a ARUSHA (Tanzanie) a une reunion de consultations sur le processus de paix au BURUNDI.

Cette presence du Chef de l'Etat en terre tanzaniene aux cotes de l'ex-President Julius NYERERE et des representants de la Communaute internationale impliquees dans la crise burundaise, est une preuve supplementaire de l'engagement du Gouvernement du Burundi a travailler pour la paix et la reconciliation nationale.

2. Depuis quelques mois, les Burundais assistent malheureus ement a une campagne de desinfor mation orchestree par certains milieux et acteurs internationaux qui disent qu'ils sont venus promouvoir la paix dans notre pays.

3. Aujourd'hui, certains representants des organisations internationales ont un comportement intrigant et inquietant. Vivant ou visitant regulierement le Burundi, ils disent a tout le monde qu'ils maitrisent les problemes du Burundi. Les organisations qui les ont mandatees y croient peut-etre. Ces memes representants font des confusions lorsqu'ils s'expriment au sujet de la crise burundaise et de la crise dans la region des Grands Lacs.

4. Certaines confusions sont deliberees. D'autres campagnes de desinformation s'inscrivent dans une logique de refus de voir la realite. Quand les Burundais reconnaissent et disent qu'il y a de l'amelioration sur le plan securitaire dans le pays, d'autres voix s'elevent pour dire qu'au Burundi tout va de mal en pis.

5. Les propos d'Aldo AYELO, Representant de l'Union Europeenne dans la region des Grands Lacs sur les ondes de la B.B.C. (Ce 4 fevrier 1997) obeissent a une logique defavorable au processus de paix au BURUNDI.

Le Gouvernement du Burundi est surpris par le ton et le caractere mensonger des propos de ce Representant d'une prestigieuse communaute. En ecoutant ses diversee analyses sur le Burundi, M. Aldo AYELO semble parler d'un pays qui n'est pas le Burundi.

6. Le Gouvernement du Burundi voudrait rappeler a l'opinion nationale et internationale que le processus de paix qui rassure les Burundais n'est pas celui impose par le blocus economique ou la contrainte.

Le Gouvernement du burundi constate avec un grand etonnement que certains acteurs internationaux ont decide de vendre aux medias les violences, les sinistres et les massacres, meme ceux qui sont imaginaires. En procedant ainsi, certains representants de la comunaute internationale ne favovrisent pas les conditions de dialogue dans notre pays.

7. Le Gouvernement du Burundi souhaite enfin voir des représentants de la communauté internationale qui n'attisent pas le feu dans un pays meurtri par trois ans de guerre. Le peuple Burundais leur en sera reconnaissant.

Fait a Bujumbura, le 4 fevrier 1997

LE MINISTRE DE LA COMMUNICATION
ET PORTE PAROLE DU GOUVERNEMENT

Ambassadeur Pierre Claver NDAYICARIYE

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 14 Feb 1997 14:34:11 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 5-12 Feb 97 97.2.13

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
>Received: (from majordom@localhost) by dha.unon.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) id
OAA04417; Fri, 14 Feb 1997 14:34:11 +0300

BURUNDI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 12

Over the past several weeks, the Buyoya government has compounded long standing efforts to convince the international community that it has been able to restore peace and the rule of law throughout most of the country. It is true that security has improved somewhat in many parts of the country. The UN now conducts regular assessment missions in northern Bubanza and Cibitoke, areas of the country that, until several months ago, the UN had made off-limits to its staff. However, it is also true that massacres by both sides of the conflict continue. As part of its campaign to convince both Burundians and the world at large that it has been able to restore order in Burundi, the government has issued separate statements aggressively criticizing both a recent human rights report claiming that 1,100 people had been killed in December and January in Burundi as well as more general comments on the situation in the country made by the European Community's special envoy.

The next meeting of Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC), originally scheduled for February 9-10, is now scheduled to be February 12. Although no new broad exemptions to the sanctions are expected until it is clear that negotiations between the warring factions in Burundi are moving forward, the RSCC is expected to clarify the procedures for the importation of fuel and other exempted supplies.

1. GENERAL

In what is the latest crackdown against high-ranking members of the Hutu dominated FRODEBU party, the organization's Secretary General Augustin Nzojibwami was taken into custody February 11. He had been under house arrest for the previous week. Prosecutors have accused Nzojibwami of subversive activities and inciting civil unrest, although the exact charges against him are still unclear. According to local journalists, he has also angered the government by publicly criticizing its policy of regrouping into special camps inhabitants of areas the government has deemed insecure. In November, prosecutors accused National Assembly Speaker Leonce Ngendakumana of having participated in massacres in Bujumbura Rural province in 1993.

The US State Department says that it has "ample evidence" that foreign troops have crossed into Zaire, but would not comment on which countries or groups were providing support, or to which side of the conflict support was being provided. The US has said that it wants to ensure the territorial integrity of Zaire but does not want to see the involvement of foreign troops fighting on either side of the conflict. In a February 6 statement, the French Foreign Ministry said it shared the US position on foreign intervention in the region. The Zairian government has repeatedly accused Burundi, as well as Uganda and Rwanda, of backing rebels in eastern Zaire. Burundian Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama, in Brussels to promote his government's policies, said that "Burundi has never sent troops into any neighbouring countries. "We have no interest to infiltrate troops into neighbouring countries," the minister told a press conference. He added

that Burundian troops were too busy at home dealing with "armed Hutu groups and killers" to be involved in Zaire. In a statement last week, Zairian army headquarters in Kinshasa said that Burundian troops were fighting along side rebels in the eastern part of the country. Later, however, an army spokesman said that Zaire had no concrete proof of Burundi's involvement in its domestic crisis.

The Burundian government has accused members of the international community of intentionally spreading disinformation about the conflict in the country. In a February 4 statement, government spokesman Pierre Claver Ndayicariye said that for the last several months, Burundi has been witness to "a disinformation campaign orchestrated by certain members of the international community who say they have come to promote peace in our country." The statement added that certain members of the community continued to maintain that the situation in Burundi was continuing to deteriorate while in reality security had improved throughout the country. The statement singled out European Union envoy Aldo Ajello for particular criticism. Following President Buyoya's meeting in Arusha with Ajello and other international mediators, Ajello told reporters that the behaviour of the authorities in Burundi had not encouraged the international community to remove the sanctions.

Maohamed Sahnoun, the special envoy to the Great Lakes for both the UN and the OAU, is expected to arrive in Burundi February 14. Sahnoun, who will also travel to Kinshasa and Kigali, is charged with restoring peace to the Great Lakes, with special reference to the conflicts in Burundi and Zaire. One of his initial tasks will be to prepare an international conference on the Great Lakes which has the backing of the Security Council. He is due to present his first report by the beginning of March. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, who has been travelling in the Great Lakes since February 6, arrived in Burundi February 10 for two days of meetings with representatives of the Burundian government and international community.

The Vatican announced February 9 that Simon Ntamwana, the Bishop of Bujumbura, would be the new Archbishop of Burundi. Burundi has been without an Archbishop since September, 1996 when Archbishop Joachin Ruhuna was assassinated in a road ambush near Giteaga. Sources say that Ntamwana has quietly worked for the past three years to facilitate contacts between both sides of the conflict. Over the past two years, several members of his family have been killed by Tutsi extremists. He also narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in March, 1995.

World Bank representatives recently visited Burundi to evaluate the status of Bank programs in Burundi. The Bank suspended credit to Burundi in October but continues to finance rehabilitation programs in the health and sanitation sectors.

2. SECURITY

Few security incidents have been reported in recent weeks, although this may partly be due to the government's attempt to ensure more positive coverage of the situation in the country. Over the reporting period, soldiers clashed with rebels in Gitabla commune, Rutana province. While rebels were based in eastern Zaire, Rutana, and other provinces on the boarder with Tanzania reported fewer security incidents than those provinces in western Burundi. It is unclear if that trend will continue with many of the Hutu rebels who had been in camps in Zaire now in Tanzania.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

NGOs and UN agencies involved in the agricultural sector, or those providing support to returnees or displaced populations, have begun coordinated distributions of seeds and agricultural tools to vulnerable groups throughout the country. The distributions, coordinated by FAO, will provide support to 136,000 families in all 17 provinces. Hoes, bean seeds and vegetable seeds will be distributed. Of those receiving aid, 40,000 of the recipients are displaced, 34,000 are regrouped, 15,000 are returnees, 5,000 are dispersed while the remaining

are members of other vulnerable groups. In addition to FAO, those organizations providing assistance in the agricultural sector include: UNHCR, WFP, IFRC, ActionAid, ACF, Care International, CRS, Christian Aid, Dorcas Aid, GTZ, INTERSOS, Oxfam Quebec and World Vision.

A committee, chaired by FAO, will manage all the participants stocks as a whole. Those organizations which have goods immediately available for distribution will have their goods distributed first.

UNICEF is working with displaced populations in Rukaramu in rural Bujumbura to examine the feasibility of using baked clay pots in place of jerry cans. With sanctions limiting the supply of imported jerry cans, substitutes for storing liquids may be increasingly necessary. UNICEF also announced that on February 7 it received 430,000 doses of tetanus vaccine.

The Ministry of Rehabilitation announced last week that it has prepared a plan of action for integrating displaced populations into their home communities. Provincial governors and others involved in implementing the plan have been briefed, however, details of the plan were not available.

Sources indicate that there are now over 100,000 displaced in Kayanza province spread among seven camps. Nyarurama, with 20,000 inhabitants is the largest and is in central Kayanza. Many of those displaced in the province were forced to flee their homes after heavy fighting in the province in early December. CRS has said it will consider providing food and non-food relief items to the displaced once they return to their communes of origin.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

Efforts are underway to improve the quality and quantity of data on existing displaced sites and of other vulnerable groups. FAO, UNICEF, WFP and DHA have agreed on a new data collection questionnaire which is now being tested at various sites. The form is being used to collect information including the location and date of establishment of site, the category, number and ethnic origin of affected people and the type and scope of assistance provided. The information will be updated as regularly as possible to ensure that trends and conditions of affected populations are monitored closely.

5. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON OPERATIONS

The Ministry of Transportation has announced that, effective February 1, humanitarian organizations would no longer have to pay royalties on humanitarian goods imported into Burundi. Air Burundi, the national airline, had demanded that MSF-Belgium pay the company \$7,000 in "royalty fees" or be denied the right to bring medical supplies by air into Burundi. The four MSF chapters support health centers and hospitals in eight of the country's fifteen provinces. MSF issued a press statement protesting against the demand for royalties, and warned it would reconsider its support for the country's health care system if it does not receive an exoneration from the fees.

An FAO study shows a wide variation in changes of prices of agricultural goods and other consumer items since July 1996. The study indicates that prices of most goods have increased, and the prices of some have more than doubled. Peas for example, have increased in price by 200% and salt 100%. Comparing their price at the pump in July and their current price on the parallel market, the price of diesel has increased by 233% while the price of petrol has gone up by 263%

DHA/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION UNIT

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Date: Sat, 15 Feb 1997 12:51:23 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 29 Jan - 4 Feb 97 97.2.5

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

[IRIN regrets the delay in distributing this item, caused by technical problems.]

BURUNDI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4

Although the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) is expected to meet next week to discuss the sanctions against Burundi, former Tanzania President Julius Nyerere, and other influential voices in the region have given few indications that they are prepared to recommend that the sanctions be removed. A request from the humanitarian community for a second allocation of fuel is expected to be one of the major topics of discussion. Since the imposition of the sanctions, international humanitarian organizations have only received one shipment of fuel. Those reserves have been depleted, and essential programs reduced. Agencies are now being forced to consider reducing their emergency relief operations even further. The Tanzanian National Sanctions Committee has given WFP permission to import a very limited quantity of fuel on behalf of the UN and NGO community, but the quantity agreed to is only a portion of the quantity needed. The Tanzanians gave permission to import the limited supplies as a stop gap measure until the February 9 RSCC meeting, but supplies must travel by road and their arrival is expected to be delayed.

1. GENERAL

With the next meeting of the RSCC under a week away, President Buyoya continues his efforts to convince those countries enforcing the sanctions to remove them. There are few indications, however, that his efforts will be successful. On January 29, President Buyoya met with Rwandan authorities in Kigali. On February 3, he met with international mediators in Arusha. It was in Arusha, just days after last July's coup, that east African leaders imposed sanctions. In a meeting organized by former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, Buyoya put his case to OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim, UN Special Representative to Burundi Marc Faguy, European Union envoy to the Great Lakes Aldo Ajello, US Special Envoy Howard Wolpe and a representative of South African President Nelson Mandela. Nyerere has been trying to broker an end to the conflict in Burundi for over a year. Following the meeting, Nyerere admitted to reporters that he had made little progress and added that he was "beginning to feel that he was providing an umbrella for the killings." Nyerere said that he favoured maintaining economic sanctions. "If you remove the pressure of sanctions what will be in place? Pressure is necessary," he told reporters. "The killings have not stopped. Conditions are worse in Burundi than they were in July," he added. Ajello told reporters that the behaviour of the authorities in Burundi had not encouraged the international community to back the lifting of sanctions.

Hutu rebels and the Burundi military have killed at least 1,100 people in Burundi over the last two months, according to a January 29 report published by the UN Human Rights office in Burundi. The report said that civilians had been the main victims in killings by both sides in the more than 50 reported incidents between December 1 and January 22. In one of the largest single incidents, the report claims that more than 700 people were killed in northwest Kayanza

province on December 2 and 3. It added that at least 150 people were killed in separate incidences in Bubanza, Bujumbura and Cibitoke provinces.

On February 3, some 2,250 male students from Bujumbura headed for military camps throughout the country for military training that became compulsory last month. The students were sent to four camps Mutukura, in the east, Mwaro and Muramvya in central Burundi and Mabanda camp in the south. Female conscripts are scheduled to begin training next week. The military service includes a three month training course, followed by nine months in the field. Approximately 3,000 first and second year university students are also expected to participate in the military service.

The trials of approximately 80 people accused of taking part in massacres that followed a failed military coup in 1993 could begin as early as next month. Interviewed by local journalists, Minister of Justice Gervais Rubashamuheto said February 3 that 13 suspects were already in prison in Burundi while many others had escaped abroad. The minister said that next week judicial authorities will issue arrest warrants against suspects still in country, or place them under house arrest. Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu, was murdered Oct. 21, 1993, three months after being elected President. The putsch attempt by Tutsi members of the military, sparked an upsurge of ethnic massacres by both sides which left tens of thousands dead.

A government organized four day conference, billed as a national debate, on the roots of the conflict in Burundi and ways to restore peace, ended January 31 with many of the 60 delegates from Tutsi political parties divided on how to stop the war. Excerpts of the debate have been broadcast nightly on local television. Hutu dominated political parties boycotted the debate while the FDD, the political arm of the CNDD, rebel movement was not invited. The Buyoya government had hoped that fulfilling its promise to organize a national conference on the conflict in Burundi would lead to a relaxation of economic sanctions. Referring to the debate, Nyerere said that it was a good idea but that it did not allow for open and honest dialogue. "He [Buyoya] is keeping other people out, there is tremendous harassment of the opposition. Under those circumstances, how do you conduct a useful national debate?"

According to AFP, unnamed religious sources have told UN officials that 1,500 civilians were massacred January 5 in Muramvya province. In a January 31 story filed from Geneva, the wire service said that human rights observers who visited the province last week were unable to confirm or refute the claims. The CNDD, the main Hutu rebel group, claimed last month that 275 people had been killed by the army in Rutegama province by the military on the same day.

Foreign Ministers from six African countries have pledged to Burundi to help work towards comprehensive peace in the Great Lakes region. In a January 27-28 meeting in Pretoria between Foreign Ministers of Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, the ministers called on all countries and foreign nationals to refrain from military involvement in Zaire which could lead to a further escalation of hostilities. The foreign ministers agreed to visit Zaire at the earliest opportunity, and that that visit should be followed by visits to Rwanda and Uganda as well as Burundi. All three countries have been accused by the Zairian government, and have denied it themselves, of supporting the rebels in eastern Zaire.

2. SECURITY

Few security incidents were reported over the past week, although the UN security team cautions that the lack of reports may reflect the paucity of reliable information as much as an improvement of security throughout the country. A January 30 interagency assessment mission to Mugina commune in Cibitoke province was able to get only as far as Rugombo, 20 km to the southwest. Reports indicate that there were on-going skirmishes within the commune between military forces and Hutu rebels. One report indicated that military forces attempting to repair the commune's water system came under rebel attack, leading to at least four casualties.

Reports of instability continue in Bubanza Province. In one recent attack, over 200 cattle were stolen and the health centre in Ninga ransacked. Four of those responsible for the attack were

killed by military forces. In this attack, as in others, it is unclear if it was perpetuated by Hutu rebels or a simple act of banditry.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Interagency assessment missions to Cibitoke continue with humanitarian agencies exploring the feasibility of resuming limited operations in the province. Following the assassination of 3 International Committee of the Red Cross delegates in the province in June, agencies stayed out of the province until limited assessments missions were restarted in November following the repatriation to the province of tens of thousands of Burundians formerly in refugee camps in eastern Zaire. WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, DHA, UNOPS, FAO, ECHO and Oxfam Quebec participated in a January 30 mission to the province.

The mission reported that the Ndava site in Buganda commune now is home to between 6,330 to 8,830 affected individuals. Out of that population, 3,327 are returnees from eastern Zaire while the remaining 3,000 to 5,000 are displaced. Apart from a one time distribution of food and non-food relief items by UNHCR, returnees have received limited assistance from international NGOs but are still in generally poor health. IHA is in the process of establishing a health center, and also plans to open a nutritional center. Signs of malnutrition were evident among the children, and residents of the site had no access to potable water.

UNHCR and WFP estimate that the number of affected people in Cibitoke province is up to 105,000 of which anywhere between 60,000 and 80,000 were returnees. Immediately following the mass exodus from Zaire, most returnees congregated in sites along the province's main road. Now three months later, many returnees have returned to their home communities. In an attempt to help returnees resume their lives in Cibitoke and to help other vulnerable individuals, Oxfam Quebec will distribute seeds to 10,000 families in Mugina, Rugombo and Buganda communes.

On February 4, DHA and WFP conducted a joint assessment of sites in Muramvya province. As the government pushes ahead with plans to regroup populations in war affected areas into designated sites, the mission visited the Rutegama regroupment site in western Muramvya. Administrators of the site told mission participants that 2,461 residents were currently at the site with approximately ten new people arriving each day. People are housed in empty, ramshackle administrative structures and sleep on mats on the floor. Men and women sleep in separate, but nearby buildings. The administrator spoke of a large scale government construction program with the aim of creating "villages" that would include the establishment of health centres and schools. Although the construction program may infer the government intends the site to have a semi-permanent status, the site administrator said inhabitants would be allowed to return as the security situation improves in the hills.

Mission participants reported that site inhabitants have access to land and leave the site in groups of ten to fifteen at 7 am each morning to work in their fields. The groups are accompanied by armed soldiers. Seeds were reported to be in short supply and fertilizer too expensive for most inhabitants of the site to afford. With most able bodied individuals in the fields, only the sick, the elderly and some children were at the site when the mission visited. The site has one water tap which is currently not working. Residents must fetch their water from a spring 600 metres away. There is a small health centre on the site with limited medical supplies. Military authorities have also created at least two additional regroupment sites in Muramvya, each containing between 6,000 to 9,000 people.

Mission participants in a January 29-31 joint ActionAid - DHA mission to Ruyigi province report that security in the Moso region of the province had improved dramatically since reports of heavy fighting in the area in late 1996. However, food security in the region has now become an issue. The production of certain crops in the most recent harvest was extremely low. Production of beans, a staple, has been particularly hard hit with the price of seeds in the local market now four times more than the price the previous season. Livestock herds have also suffered from the insecurity.

As the Burundian military forces pursued Hutu rebels who had crossed the country from camps in Zaire in November - December, 1996, at least 60,000 people were forced to flee the Moso and seek refuge in Tanzania. Approximately half of these are estimated to have returned since then, but with considerable difficulty and loss of possessions. Some returnees claim that soldiers in Tanzania tried to prevent them from returning, or relieved them of their belongings before allowing them to proceed.

ActionAid is using a housing reconstruction program to promote peace and reconciliation in the province, and to encourage people to leave displaced sites and return to their communes of origin. Through the program, which depends on community dialogue and cooperation, over 500 houses have either been rebuilt or rehabilitated.

4. IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

Tanzanian authorities have given humanitarian organizations operating in Burundi permission to import additional supplies of fuel. The supplies, which include 100,000 litres of diesel, 50,000 litres of petrol and 25,000 litres of kerosene. The fuel has yet to arrive, and quantity is only a portion of what was originally requested. The fuel may have to be transported by road, not barge, increasing the delays even further. Until adequate new supplies arrive, agencies's humanitarian activities will continue to be adversely affected. There are indications that the RSCC will stipulate monthly quotas for the next round of fuel supplies.

At the request of the UN InterAgency Standing Committee, and with the financial support of a number of UN agencies, consultants from Brown University, the University of Notre Dame and the Fourth Freedom Forum are preparing a report on the humanitarian impact of the economic sanctions in Burundi and are currently in Burundi gathering data.

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[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 1997 15:29:14 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 13 - 19 Feb 97 97.2.19

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

BURUNDI UN HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 19

1. GENERAL

Following her visit to the Great Lakes last week, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said that she felt security had improved in Burundi. "Our aim is to reach a stable situation where we can organize repatriation to all the provinces in Burundi. We're not there yet, but we may be soon." She told reporters that over 92,000 Burundians who had sought refuge in Zaire had already returned to Burundi since October, 1996. Over 72,000 of them have returned to their home province of Cibitoke. After meeting with Ms. Ogata in Ngozi, President Buyoya condemned the massacre of 122 Burundian refugees who were expelled from Tanzania last month, and said that the six soldiers and a customs officer who were charged with the massacre would be tried by a military court.

A military court in Bururi February 16 sentenced four Burundian soldiers to up to ten years in prison for their role in two separate massacres in the communities of Manana and Kizuka in Bururi province. Approximately 40 civilians were killed in Matana last November, while several dozen people were killed in Kizuka in December, a military spokesman said.

In a statement released to coincide with a scheduled February 13 meeting of the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC), the Burundian Foreign Ministry reiterated its appeal for the lifting of "suffocating" sanctions against the country. In a statement released as regional leaders gathered in Zambia to discuss the embargo, the Foreign Ministry said that Burundi had been "suffering from a total blockade for seven months that was imposed unjustly and illegally by neighbouring countries." The statement added that exemptions for selected humanitarian goods had not been respected and that the embargo was having "perverse effects" by hitting the most disadvantaged populations in the country hardest. Although representatives from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia, reportedly met in Lusaka for two days, no public statement was issued. There are indications that the RSCC has agreed to allow humanitarian organizations to import additional limited fuel supplies. However, no further details were available.

Meanwhile, the CNDD, the political wing of the FDD rebel movement, issued a statement from its Nairobi office saying that the sanctions had been repeatedly violated and should be tightened. It also called for financial, political, material and military support for the CNDD "because only the military actions of the CNDD will force the military junta to accept true negotiations."

The UN Center for Human Rights in Burundi is facing increasingly strident criticism of its operations and reporting by the Prime Minister and other top officials of the Buyoya government. On February 13, the Prime Minister's office issued a public statement accusing the Center of circulating unsubstantiated allegations of human rights abuses by the Burundian

government, and added that the reports contained partisan political opinions. The statement concluded that authors of the reports were being politically manipulated by forces hostile to the government. It added that the human rights mission would be held responsible for the "enormous prejudices resulting from the publication of reports containing non-verifiable allegations. "

Two days later, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued a second statement accusing the Center of violating its mandate, and working to discredit the government. In addition to a paragraph-by-paragraph refutation of alleged governmental human rights abuses contained in the Center's December human rights report, the statement repeated that the Center would be held responsible for any backlash that its reports might cause. The Center for Human Rights has temporarily suspended all fact-finding trips outside of Bujumbura and has taken additional security precautions in light of the government's reaction to the report. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso is expected to visit Burundi February 19 to seek confirmation of continued Burundian government support for the Center's activities.

2. SECURITY

Reports from both official and humanitarian sources indicate that security has improved in much of the country over the last month, enhancing humanitarian agencies access to vulnerable populations. However, engagements between rebel and military forces continue, especially in the vicinity of the Kibira forest.

Since last year's forced closure of the refugee camps in eastern Zaire, the rebel offensive has suffered major setbacks. Despite the apparent lull in rebel attacks, the Burundian military continues to draft thousands of new soldiers of both sexes. Drafted soldiers can be seen training daily on the streets of Bujumbura.

There are unconfirmed reports of sporadic fighting throughout the week near Isare in Bujumbura Rural. Military operations also continue east of Rugombo in Cibitoke province, preventing humanitarian organizations from reaching Mugina commune which has a large number of returnees. In Rugera Commune in Bubanza province, there were reports of gunfire throughout the night of February 14. The number of casualties is unknown.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Efforts by the Burundian government to set up regroupment centers continue. Over the past ten days, the government has announced that it is in the process of setting up new camps in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces. On February 12, a government spokesman on national radio announced the creation of a camp near Gitaza, 35 km south of Bujumbura. According to local press reports, military authorities have told those living in surrounding hills that if they failed to voluntarily register at the regroupment center, than they would be considered to be rebels and treated accordingly. Local administrators say that at least 50,000 people will be under their protection at the site. The area has been site of several confrontations between rebels and military units in recent weeks.

The Government has also announced the creation of two additional sites with a total population of 6,000 inhabitants near the communities of Buyengero and Burambi in Bururi. In addition to Bujumbura Rural and Bururi, the provinces of Muramvya, Kayanza and Karuzi all have known regroupment centers. Conditions in the centers vary from site to site and are somewhat dependent on policies of local administrators. Populations at some sites have regular access to health care facilities and other basic amenities as well as relative freedom to enter and leave the sites either to work in their fields or for other reasons. Populations at other sites, however, are under greater control and have access to only very limited facilities.

UNICEF reports that 94 cases of severe diarrhea were treated in health centers in the towns of Cibitoke and Rugombo in Cibitoke province between January 18 and February 8. Cholera is suspected but unconfirmed. There is a serious lack of potable water in the province , and

cholera epidemics were reported in Cibitoke in 1970 and 1991. To help prevent new cases, UNICEF has provided local officials in the province with water purification tablets to be distributed to the affected population.

Burundi's Ministry of Public Health is mobilizing teams to combat a typhus epidemic in Muramvya and Kayanza provinces. According to the World Health Organization office in Burundi, a total of 222 cases of the disease have been confirmed between January 16 and January 31 in displaced sites scattered throughout the two provinces. On average, there were roughly 118 cases over each two week period in 1996, roughly half the number of new cases now being recorded. With WHO support, the Ministry of Public Health is sending teams to distribute antibiotics and to educate members of the population on measures it can take to avoid contracting the disease.

A DHA assessment mission to Kayanza province, conducted in conjunction with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, visited the regroupment camps of Buraniro (pop. 14,000), Ninga (pop. 11,300) and Nyarurama (pop. 17,000). All three camps have a small number of old caseload Tutsi displaced, as well as a larger number of more recently arrived displaced Hutu. The mission found that living conditions in the three camps (out of the six regroupment centers known to exist in the province) varied considerably. There were no visible signs of acute malnutrition in any of the camp. In all three camps, fresh food was widely available and residents were observed bringing in produce from their fields. Local authorities indicated that the residents of all three camps lacked seeds, fertilizer and farm tools, but had access to their fields from two to five days a week.

According to UNICEF, approximately 3,000 Burundians are in Salukwango near Kalima in eastern Zaire. They are mixed in with a population of 10,000 refugees who are at the site, most of whom are Rwandans. UNICEF reports that the general condition of the refugees is very bad. UNICEF and UNHCR are both providing assistance to the site.

UNHCR reports that over the last five days, between 100 to 200 Burundians have returned to the country each day from camps in Tanzania. From February 1 to February 15, 1,928 Burundian refugees from Tanzania returned to the country, the majority from the Lumasi camp near Ngara. During the entire month of January, 974 refugees returned to Burundi from Zaire, with a similar number returning during the month of December. UNHCR officials say they are unsure why there has been a sudden upsurge in returnees from Tanzania. Burundians from the former camps in eastern Zaire also continue to return to the country but at a more constant level. For the past three weeks, approximately 450 per week have returned through the Gatumba transit Center northwest of Bujumbura..

World Vision reports that its emergency surgery clinic in Bujumbura is performing an average of 100 surgical operations per month. The staff routinely conducts abdominal, orthopaedic and other major operations. World Vision also operates a health clinic and medical laboratory in Bujumbura staffed by 20 professionals who conduct over 1,000 consultations per month. Among other activities, the NGO is also training social workers in three provinces and conducting tracing programs for recently unaccompanied children.

Oxfam-Quebec reports that it is continuing its efforts to train youth craft-making and other marketable skills in three training centers in Bujumbura. The NGO is also distributing seeds in Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke provinces, and distributing food and non-food relief items to both displaced and recent returnees.

The Italian Cooperation Agency provides \$2.5 million to UN agencies and NGOs in Burundi. Among other activities, the agency is supporting the rehabilitation of schools, the rehabilitation of health centers and the construction of sanitation systems.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

A joint WFP, FAO, UNICEF and DHA operation to evaluate populations and conditions in displaced camps in nine provinces began February 18. The information will be updated as regularly as possible to ensure that trends and conditions of affected populations are monitored closely.

[Correction: The February 5 - 12 Situation Report incorrectly stated that ethnic origin of affected populations would be included in the evaluation. This is not the case.]

5. EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS ON OPERATIONS

Supplies of Jet A-1 fuel at Bujumbura airport, used for WFP's internal flights, remain extremely limited. Those supplies that remain at the airport are not under the direct control of WFP and can be requisitioned by the government at any time.

With the Kigoma port closed to barge traffic to and from Burundi, road transport remains the only means of importing sanctions-exempted goods. WFP reports that it will increase truck convoys from Ngara, Tanzania to Ngozi from once to three times per week which will allow WFP to import the maximum 2,500 mt of food allowed by the RSCC. Over the past two weeks, goods for FAO, UNDP and Christian Aid were transported to Burundi as part of the WFP convoy.

DHA/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION UNIT P.B. 1490 Bujumbura, BURUNDI tel:
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[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 07 Mar 1997 18:20:09 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Press statement on sanctions in Burundi.

Sender: owner-irinlist@dha.unon.org
To: irinlist@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
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Department of Humanitarian Affairs
Integrated Regional Information Network

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Subject:

Press statement on sanctions in Burundi

The following is a press statement issued by the Office of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes:

P R E S S S T A T E M E N T
March 7, 1997

REGIONAL AID OFFICIAL RENEWS CALL FOR HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTIONS TO BURUNDI SANCTIONS

The United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region today renewed a call on behalf of aid agencies to exempt humanitarian assistance from sanctions imposed on Burundi by its neighboring states.

Mr. Martin Griffiths appealed to regional and local sanctions committees to act expediently on requests made by UN organisations for fuel and assistance after the economic measures were announced in response to the July 1996 coup.

"We are asking that the committees respect our petition and the very difficult nature of our work in Burundi," Griffiths said. "These supplies are indispensable simply to continue delivering aid".

Mr. Griffiths made the statement after consultations with the joint UN-OAU Special Representative to the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, in New York.

Despite an initial request made to the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee on 18 November for a monthly quota of 445,000 litres, no fuel has yet reached agencies in Burundi. An emergency shipment of 150,000 litres approved on 27 January is expected to arrive by mid-March, while 25,000 litres of kerosene accorded on the same date is not enough to fill a tanker, as required for safety reasons, and has not left Dar-es-Salaam.

Mr. Griffiths pointed out that in addition to delays on approved requirements, not all of the agencies' concerns have been addressed by the RSCC.

"Besides fuel and spare parts we have applied for exemptions for educational material and hand tools. This represents direct assistance to populations affected by the conflict in Burundi and there was no response after the most recent meeting of the RSCC in Lusaka", Griffiths said.

UN agencies and non-governmental organisations are hampered by the shortage of much-needed humanitarian goods while faced with increasing numbers of beneficiaries as a result of the ongoing conflict which is reported to have displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The delivery of aid has also been slowed by the duplication of administrative procedures and restrictions on the type of transport that may be used to the land-locked country.

For more information please contact:

Tel: 254-2-622893/622166
+212 963 4832/1608

Nairobi, 6 March 1997, 1:00 GMT

[ENDS]

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Date: Tue, 01 Apr 1997 10:43:16 +0300
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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 4-18 Mar 97 97.3.18

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
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X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MARCH 4 - 18

1. GENERAL

The Buyoya government has announced that Tutsi hard-liners, perhaps assisted by Hutu rebels, were responsible for a series of anti-tank mines which killed at least seven people in Bujumbura the night of March 12. "We have serious reason to believe that the mines were planted by PARENA," military spokesman Isaie Nibizi told reporters the following day. PARENA is the acronym for the political party led by former president Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President Buyoya's chief Tutsi rival. One mine was planted on the main road by the Ministry of Defence while two others were planted on streets in more residential areas of the city. In all three cases, the mines were planted on dirt roads or in sections of the road where the tarmac was broken.

The mine explosions came amid reports of a plot to kill Buyoya, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Interior. Army spokesman Isaie Nibizi said that six people, including two soldiers, had been arrested before they could launch the attack. One of the soldiers arrested is a corporal in a artillery regiment in Muramvya province, the other is a corporal from Bururi. The civilians arrested include, according to the government, several high ranking members of PARENA. An army officer, speaking anonymously, told the independent radio Studio Ijambo that the alleged plot had been backed by officers in military camps in Bujumbura, Mwaro, Gitega and Bururi, but that there were few supporters, with most officers remaining loyal to Buyoya. On March 18, radio Burundi reported that additional people had been arrested including a retired colonel, a captain and a corporal, as well as several other PARENA party members. A demonstration through the streets of Bujumbura to show support for the President was organized March 19.

Following a visit to Burundi, a UN official told a news conference in New York that the Burundian authorities had told him they were relocating Burundians "as a security measure to take them out of the areas of conflict." He added that while the government said that the measure was voluntary, "I think it's quite clear that the area of choice for those being regrouped is limited." During his visit, the official visited a regroupment camp near Gitaza and later told reporters that he had seen "disgraceful" signs of malnutrition in children in the camp.

Humanitarian agencies operating in Burundi have agreed to provide life-sustaining aid to those people living in the regroupment camps, as long as certain conditions are met. Those conditions include not providing assistance for the creation of permanent structures as well as providing

assistance only after independent assessments are made. Nonetheless, strong concerns remain with regard to the regroupment policy itself, the large size of some of the camps and their crowded and unsanitary conditions.

Extremists have reportedly threatened Burundi's Radio Umwizero, a European Union supported radio station that broadcasts a message of ethnic tolerance and reconciliation. Pierre Pradier, general secretary of the Paris-based Association for Humanitarian Action, said that the radio had been told to sack the radio's franchise holder for his alleged sympathies with Hutu rebels.

2. SECURITY

Following the mine attacks, the UN ordered international personnel to remain at home from dusk to dawn, and overnight field visits were suspended. Normal operations and the 10 pm curfew guideline were resumed March 18.

Attacks also continue to be reported on the outskirts of Bujumbura. Sources indicate that a number of bodies were found in Kanyosha, in Bujumbura Rural March 14. However neither the number, nor the identity of the victims is yet clear. One source indicates that the victims may have been killed by rebels operating in the area and publicly displayed to protest the inability of the military to protect the population.

A military spokesman confirmed that soldiers had recently engaged rebels south of the capital. The spokesman said that two soldiers and 50 rebels were killed in fighting March 14 in Muhuta commune. The military reportedly seized 13 light weapons during the fighting.

Rebel activity during the week was concentrated in southern Burundi, with attacks reported in the Songa and Kingwena zones in Bururi. Military sources indicate that rebels have increased their control of the Nyanza Lac area with some roads in the area considered to be too dangerous even for military traffic.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

According to UNHCR, the number of Burundian refugees arriving in Tanzania from Burundi has fallen significantly over the last month. Burundians also continue to return of their own accord to their home country from camps in western Tanzania. Some 2,800 returned during the month of February, compared to 1,102 who returned the previous month.

UNHCR reports that as of March 17, some 610 people were resident at the Gatumba transit center for returnees from Zaire. Over the last two weeks, an average of approximately 56 new arrivals have been registered at the site per day, the majority are from communes in Cibitoke, Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural and are being transferred by UNHCR to their home communities.

UNHCR reports that it helped facilitate the return to Burundi of 141 Adventists who had been living in camps in western Tanzania and insisted on returning home on religious grounds. The agency stresses, however, that it continues to maintain its policy of not facilitating the return of Burundian refugees living outside the country if security in the home commune does not permit it. The agency's office in Burundi says it's decision to help facilitate their return to Burundi was an exception, since they had already begun to walk towards the Burundian border and had made it clear that they were determined to go home.. According to agency staff, the refugees said that they were compelled to return since numbers on the ration cards added up to 666, a number they believed was the sign of the devil. UNHCR provided a food and non-food return package as well as transport to their home communes in Ruyigi province.

The typhus epidemic continues in Burundi. Although the epidemic appears to be stabilizing in Kayanza and Muramvya, there is evidence that the the situation may be getting worse elsewhere in the country. According to WHO, some 340,000 people are at risk throughout Burundi, with

residents of displaced and regroupment camps most at risk. According to the WHO office in Burundi, some 8,700 cases of the disease have been confirmed since October of last year, but that thousands more are being treated with the assumption that they have the disease.

WHO reports that the disease is now spreading in Gitega, Karuzi and Ngozi provinces. In February, for example, 1,793 cases of the disease were reported in Mutoyi health center in Gitega. One third of the number of cases was reported in the same center one month earlier. As of March 21, cases have been reported in 16 communes in five provinces in central Burundi. WHO officials say that they can help provide appropriate medical drugs, but for those at risk, adequate sanitation and changes of clothing are essential. Many of those afflicted with the disease only have one set of clothing. WHO says victims, if possible, must be able to regularly change their cloths to help avoid re-contracting the disease. Through the Ministry of Public Health, WHO is conducting a public information campaign to inform those at risk about measures they should take to avoid contacting the disease, and is helping to distribute doxycycline to treat the disease, as well as appropriate insecticides. In addition to WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR have also agreed to help finance the purchase of supplies needed to fight the epidemic.

A joint WFP-Equilibre assessment mission to Bubanza province the week of March 10 found an estimated 3,000 people congregated in the town of Bubanza. Many had been living with no shelter and limited access to food in the Kibira forest. Clashes between the military and rebels have reportedly driven some 16,000 people from the forest, with the majority settling in Musagati commune. Other WFP assessment missions in Bubanza have reported large population movements within the province. Local authorities recently directed residents of selected communes to move to designated regroupment sites..

A recent FAO/WFP study on food availability and crop conditions in Burundi estimates that severe drought in Kirundo province during the 1997A season reduced the amount of cultivated land in the province by at least 60 percent. A WFP assessment mission to Kirundo province reports that food is already in short supply in the communes of Busoni, Ntega and Bugabira which have suffered drought conditions for the past three seasons. The agency reports that large purchases by humanitarian agencies of beans for seed distributions elsewhere in the country have driven up bean prices in the province, decreasing their affordability for much of the local population. Approximately 50 percent of Burundi's bean crop is grown in Kirundo.

The FAO/WFP study estimated aggregate food production for the 1997 first season crop to be approximately 1.2 million tons, 7 percent below 1996 and 18 percent below the pre-crisis average for 1988-1993. Pulses, and to a lesser extent cereals, were the crops most affected.

UNICEF has announced that it has extended its agreement with CRS and CARITAS to provide drugs to a network of 55 health facilities managed by the two NGOs in eight provinces. The extension of the agreement runs from March 1 to August 31.

A joint UNICEF-UNHCR assessment mission to Bubanza province to examine the quality and availability of primary education found that the number of primary schools functioning in the Bubanza area has fallen from 28 to 5 and in the Gihanga area from 28 to 7. Since the 1993-94 school year, the number of registered students in Bubanza area schools has dropped from 13,852 to 1,334 and in the Gihanga area from 8,269 to 2,454. The number of teachers working at the schools has also dropped significantly.

UNICEF reports that it is supporting efforts by the NGO Initiative Humanitaire Africain (IHA) efforts to provide potable water to health centers in Cibitoke province. A UNICEF water truck

has been supplying health centers in the communities of Ndava and Gasenyi with 5,000 liters/week of water since March 6, and will soon be performing similar services in for the health center in Rukana.

5. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

The first shipment of 114,000 liters of fuel designated for humanitarian agencies has now arrived in Bujumbura. One truck, carrying some 35,000 liters from this shipment, is still en route. Tax exemption formalities must be completed before the fuel can be distributed.

Aviation fuel remains in extremely short supply. Although WFP has been able to obtain a small quantity of aviation fuel locally, the agency has been forced to limit internal flights to only three days per week. Earlier in the year, as a contingency, WFP deposited 18 drums of aviation fuel in Kigoma. WFP is now obtaining permission to import that fuel to Burundi by air as a stop-gap measure until additional supplies arrive.

[ENDS]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 19-31 Mar 1997 97.3.31

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MARCH 19 - MARCH 31

1. GENERAL

In his latest report (February 10, 1997), UN Special Reporter for Human Rights Paulo Sergio Pinheiro said that there is "no sign of the beginnings of a Burundi strategy for peace and reconciliation." The report said that despite the government's stated intention to hold talks between all parties to the conflict, "it's actual political decisions seem, on the contrary to be war-oriented." The report, which has been widely quoted by international wire services, criticizes the government's regroupment policy and cites reports that persons refusing to submit to the policy "find themselves rapidly accused of complicity with the rebels and treated as enemies." Christine Ruhaza, Burundi's Minister for Human Rights, Social Action and the Promotion of Women, speaking March 21 at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, rejected Pinheiro's conclusions and called the report biased. "The rapporteur should submit vigorously verified information to the commission and above all visit the terrain himself", she told AFP. The report points out that Hutu rebels have also been guilty of atrocities.

Amnesty International has charged that nine of the individuals accused of involvement in a plot to assassinate President Buyoya may have been tortured by members of the security services and are at further risk of torture. In a March 19 press release, the human rights organization said that the nine were arrested March 8 and 9 and have also been accused of being responsible for a series of mine explosions in Bujumbura on March 12. Amnesty said it was investigating reports that the arrests may be politically motivated and may relate to their membership or association with PARENA, the political party led by Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President Buyoya's chief Tutsi rival. In the press release, Amnesty says that "critics and opponents of the government have also been harassed, arrested and tortured in a pattern of attacks on political opponents of the current government, aiming to eliminate effective political opposition."

Burundi's Supreme Court delayed until May 16 proceedings against those individuals charged with participating in 1993's abortive coup. The proceedings had been scheduled to begin March 21. Chief Justice Slavator Seromba said he was delaying the proceedings for "procedural reasons." The state has charged 79 people, including a number of high ranking officers, of being involved in the attempted coup, but Seromba says that 13 of them are still at large.

The continuation of sanctions against Burundi by neighbouring states will be discussed at an April 8 summit in Arusha. An official from Tanzania's foreign ministry told AFP that representatives from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zaire would attend the so-called "Arusha IV" summit. At the July 31 Arusha II summit, countries imposing sanctions demanded the restoration of parliament, the unbanning of political parties and unconditional negotiations with all parties.

Speaking March 27 in Togo where he was attending a summit on the crisis in Zaire, President Buyoya rejected charges that his government supported the rebel alliance and said that his government was interested in seeing stability return to Zaire. Buyoya repeated his appeal for sanctions to be lifted during the upcoming Arusha summit, saying that the continued imposition of the sanctions "killed peace."

2. Security

A March 20 attack on three camps in Buganda commune in Cibitoke province left at least 135 people dead and a further 144 wounded. The overnight attack on Gasenyi, Ruhagarika and Kaburantwa camps, in which some 300 shelters were reported burned, was one of the largest single attacks against displaced populations since President Buyoya took power in July, 1996. The three camps, established in late 1996, house approximately 30,000 IDPs, including many Burundians who had recently returned from refugee camps in eastern Zaire. A military spokesman accused Hutu rebels of being responsible for the attack against the camps which contained both Hutu and Tutsi populations. The Ministry of Interior has said that it is launching an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the attack. Over 500,000 people are now living in displaced camps or regrouped camps throughout the country.

At least three people were killed and six others seriously injured when two antitank mines exploded March 25 in Bujumbura. One mine was set off by a bus transporting workers around 6am in the Jabe neighbourhood in a northern suburb of the city. The second mine exploded in front of the beer factory just off the main road to the airport. Seven people were killed in a similar incident March 12 when three other mines were detonated on the streets of the capital. Following the second mine attack, the UN re-instated a curfew from 6:30 pm to 7 am for staff. The Buyoya government has said it will name a crisis committee to investigate recent acts destabilizing activities in Bujumbura.

Hutu rebel activities continue to be concentrated in southern Burundi. Military sources now consider some roads near Nyanza Lac dangerous even for military traffic. Off the coast of Rumonge, a barge carrying 100mt of coffee and tea to Zambia was attacked. One crew member was killed and several others injured, forcing the barge to return to Bujumbura. Coffee and tea exports provide essential income for the state, allowing it to continue to pay civil service and military salaries and purchase essential commodities. On March 19, rebels attacked an agricultural project in Bururi's Burambi and Buyengerero communes, killing several guards. The attackers burnt the project's sorghum, maize and wheat stocks and reportedly stole several hundred goats and sheep.

Sporadic gunfire and grenade explosions have recently been heard in Kamenge and other outlying neighbourhoods of Bujumbura. On the night of March 25, residents of the Mutanga North neighbourhood reported periodic gunfire and grenade explosions throughout the night. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

3. Affected Populations

A joint WFP-FAO assessment mission to the Canzikiro, Bugenyuzi and Gihogazi regroupment camps in Karuzi province found thousands of camp residents living in dangerously unsanitary conditions, with limited or no access to shelter or clean water. Residents of the camps, which were created in March 1996, have depleted all their resources and received extremely limited relief supplies since then. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator has named WFP as the lead

agency in mobilizing a response to what WFP has called a "catastrophic" situation in the Karuzi camps. There are 16 regroupment camps in Karuzi province with a total population of approximately 98,000.

Many of the residents of the camps visited arrived with little more than the cloths on their backs and have no, or extremely limited, food stocks or supplies of basic relief items such as blankets or plastic sheeting. Although camp residents have limited access to cultivable land, the distance may be as much as a two hour journey on foot leaving little time to work in the fields since residents must return by nightfall.

Recent nutritional surveys by MSF-Belgium indicates that the nutritional status of residents in the Myogoro (pop. approx. 15,400) and Gihogazi (pop. approx. 14,000) camps in Karuzi is also deteriorating. The survey, conducted February 25-26, found global malnutrition at 18.7 percent and severe malnutrition at 4.9 percent. These figures had increased from 14 percent and 3.7 percent respectively in August, 1996.

On March 27, WFP, FAO and DHA conducted an assessment mission to Ruhinga regroupment camp (pop. approx. 19,000) in Kayanza province. Although camp residents have slightly more resources than those in the Karuzi camps, the situation there is also precarious. Conditions in the camps could rapidly deteriorate, given the size of the camps, the limited facilities and the limited availability of cultivatable land. Camp residents had extremely limited supplies of plastic sheeting and almost all shelters were constructed solely of branches and leaves providing little protection in the rain. Less than half a meter separated most shelters from each other, facilitating even further the transmission of illnesses. Water and sanitation facilities were scattered throughout the camp but appeared to be inadequate for the size of the camp. WFP is distributing 15 day rations and FAO-provided bean seeds.

UNHCR reports that as of March 26, approximately 3,400 Burundian refugees had returned home of their own accord in March from camps in Tanzania, some 600 more than the number who returned home the previous month. According to the refugee agency, as of mid-March, there were some 334,000 Burundian refugees still in neighbouring countries. Of those, the majority (281,000) were in Tanzania, 9,000 were in Rwanda and 44,000 remained in Zaire.

UNICEF reports that it is preparing to launch a training course next month to promote better hygiene practices and water purification in displaced camps in Cibitoke. Leaders from the Ndava and Gasenyi camps have selected five people who will participate in the training course and pass the information to others. Earlier in the year, local health officials in the province reported an outbreak of severe diarrhea in the camps that may have been preventable if camp residents had had better access to clean water.

UNICEF has recently signed an agreement with Save the Children Fund to construct rainwater catchment systems at health centers in Nyakararo and Gisozi in Muramvya province. Through the agreement, UNICEF will furnish the two centers with disinfectant to use in their reservoirs and cover travel expenses of government-provided technicians. SCF will help supervise the project and furnish locally-available construction supplies and cement.

4. Coordination of Humanitarian Activities

During a March 19 presentation by the Prime Minister of Burundi, international humanitarian organizations operating in the country were reminded that they had an obligation to provide assistance to all affected populations, the implication being that UN agencies and NGOs should provide assistance to regroupment camps. Humanitarian agencies operating in Burundi have agreed to provide life-sustaining aid to all groups living in regroupment camps, as long as certain conditions are met. Those conditions include not providing assistance for the creation of permanent structures as well as providing assistance only after independent assessments are made.

In a March 20 letter to the Prime Minister, The UN Humanitarian Coordinator formally presented to the government the UN policy on regroupment, as well as the serious concerns UN agencies continue to have towards the regroupment policy. The letter stressed that the humanitarian community would continue its policy of impartiality in the delivery of aid.

During his presentation, the Prime Minister also told aid organizations that henceforth the Burundian government would play a stronger role in determining where and how NGOs operate. Following the Prime Minister's statements, the Ministry of Interior and Public Security released a summary of new measures the government was taking. NGOs will be required to register with the Ministry of Interior. In the past, NGOs worked closest with the Ministry of Rehabilitation. After consultations with the NGOs, the Ministry of Interior will determine which NGOs will manage particular programs in particular provinces. The government has occasionally complained that NGO activities are too heavily concentrated in certain provinces at the expense of others such as Cibitoke. The document also said that the government would conduct a "precise inventory" of needs throughout the country. It did not indicate when this inventory would be carried out.

5. Effect of Sanctions on Humanitarian Activities

With the arrival of a truck carrying 36,000 liters of fuel which had broken down en route to Bujumbura from Tanzania, the entire 150,000 liters of fuel approved by the Regional Sanctions Committee permitted for the first 1997 delivery has now arrived. WFP is now in the process of distributing the fuel.

Supplies of aviation fuel remain extremely critical. WFP has been forced to limit the frequency of internal flights until additional supplies arrive. Meanwhile, the agency transferred 3,600 liters of aviation fuel that was being stored in Kigoma to be kept as an emergency reserve should an evacuation become necessary.

[ENDS]

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Date: Mon, 14 Apr 1997 09:38:19 +0300
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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 1-9 Apr 97 97.4.11

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
APRIL 1 - APRIL 9

1. GENERAL

African heads of state have postponed a summit on the political situation in Burundi and the impact of regionally imposed economic sanctions against the country. Tanzanian officials told reporters that the meeting, originally scheduled for April 8 in Arusha, had been postponed because it would conflict with a previously planned summit on Common Market of East and Southern Africa. The summit has been provisionally rescheduled for April 16. Reports last week suggested that President Buyoya had already been invited to the summit, but the Tanzanian foreign ministry said April 8 that no decision had been reached on whether to grant him an invitation. The summit will be the fourth on Burundi since President Buyoya took power last July. According to press reports, the summit will be preceded by three days of talks between representatives of Burundi's main political parties. The talks will be chaired by former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

A military court in Burundi has convicted 10 soldiers in connection with the killings of 122 Burundian refugees expelled from Tanzania in mid-January. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 years to five months.

Relations between Burundi and Rwanda are increasingly strained. Although officially Rwanda has backed the imposition of sanctions against Burundi since they were imposed last year, Rwandan border officials had, until recently, been lax in enforcing the ban on commercial transport across the Rwandan border into Burundi. According to local press reports, Rwandan officials in recent weeks have become more strict in enforcing the sanctions. Rwandan officials have complained that police at roadblocks in Bujumbura have violated diplomatic conventions by searching cars belonging to Rwandan diplomats.

Two local human rights groups have issued reports defending aspects of the Burundian government's regroupment policy. The Burundian Human Rights League (ITEKA) said that the regroupment policy had generally led to improved security for the country's population against rebel attacks. However, the group also recognized that there were instances in which the military itself had attacked members of the country's civilian population. The group added that the government had an obligation to ensure that regrouped populations have access to adequate shelter, food, hygiene and health care. The report added that the regroupment policy should not

be considered an end in itself and that, among other measures, fundamental questions on the distribution of power, the rule of law and human rights remained to be addressed.

In a reference to international criticism of the regroupment policy, the Burundian human rights group SONERA said, according to local press reports, that the only reliable view on regroupment is that of those who have been regrouped, who know exactly where they are most secure.

2. SECURITY

Over the past two weeks, there has been a marked increase in insecurity throughout the country, and particularly in the Bujumbura area. Bujumbura remains tense with the detonation of three anti-personnel mines and an anti-tank mine between the night of April 5 and the morning of April 6. The explosions bring to ten the number of confirmed mine blasts in the city since March 12. In the latest wave of attacks at least two people were seriously injured. One of the anti-personnel mines was detonated by a jogger on the grounds of the golf club/horse riding center, while the antitank mine was detonated by a police car on the club's grounds. The most recent wave of attacks point to an expansion of the campaign to destabilize the current government by targeting areas frequented by expatriates and upper class Burundians. All of the other attacks have either been in the city center or in the popular districts of Bwiza, Jabe, Buyenzi or Nyakabiga. Soldiers and city residents have also found both anti-tank and anti-personnel mines that had been planted but not yet detonated. After dark, security forces now search passing vehicles at road blocks manned throughout the city. UN staff are observing 7pm to 7:30 am curfew while the official government imposed curfew remains midnight.

On the morning of April 9, Burundian state radio announced that security forces had detained "certain persons" accused of "disturbing the security" in Bujumbura. The radio reported that two anti-tank mines, three anti-personnel mines and a number of grenades and other arms were found. State radio has not provided any additional details on the arrests.

In addition to the mine incidents, grenade attacks and other incidents were reported in the Mutanga North, Kamenge, Gihosha, Bwiza and other neighbourhoods of Bujumbura. These other attacks in the city reflect a general upswing in insecurity and are not necessarily related to the mine incidents. Rebel attacks were reported April 2 in Kayanza's Muruta commune. Further details on the attack are not yet available. Kayanza has been relatively calm in recent months, but the area was the site of heavy fighting between military forces and rebels late last year.

Intense fighting continues in Rumonge commune in Bururi province. On April 6 in Kigwena, Bururi province, military forces killed 12 rebels in an ambush and reportedly seized an arms stash. An army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity to AFP, said 147 people were killed in a March 27 engagement with rebels near the village of Mitondo. He gave no additional information on the identity of those killed or who initiated the fighting. Other sources put the number killed between 50 and several hundred. Hutu rebels have also reportedly attacked displaced camps in the region. An April 5 attack against Burambi camp in Bururi province left several residents of the camp dead and some 20 injured.

State radio has reported heavy fighting south of Makamba and that members of the civilian population have fled. Insecurity in the region has prevented an independent UN assessment of the situation. There are indications that some Hutu rebels who had been forced to flee from eastern Zaire to the Kigoma region of western Tanzania late last year have since returned to eastern Zaire and are launching attacks against communities in southern Burundi by boat.

A March 31 fire in the Nyarurama regroupment camp in Kayanza left at least 14 dead and 1,400 shelters destroyed. It is not yet clear what caused the blaze, although shelters in the camp are constructed out of leaves and branches and are extremely close together. The camp has a population of approximately 14,400 people.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

UNHCR reports that some 4,140 spontaneous returnees from Tanzania were registered at the Giteranyi Muyinga passage point during the month of March. During the same period, approximately 1,430 Burundians passed through the Gatumba transit center from Zaire before being transported back to their home communes. Since the transit center opened last year, approximately 23,000 Burundians have returned home via the Gatumba center.

Following the directives of the US government, WFP on April 5 suspended all planned distributions of US-provided food to regroupment centers. The United States supplies the majority of commodities WFP planned to use for its emergency distributions in the Karuzi camps. Although the US government policy on providing aid to regroupment centers is similar to the United Nations' in its insistence that aid be restricted to temporary emergency activities, further distributions are suspended until WFP and the US government reach agreement on, among other issues, the targeting of beneficiaries and pre-distribution needs assessments.

In response to a WFP appeal for a coordinated response to the crisis, DHA hosted a meeting April 1 to initiate activities to respond to the potential humanitarian crisis in the Karuzi regroupment camps. WFP had initially planned to begin food distributions April 9, distributing approximately 1,500 mt of food to some 98,000 people. FAO is also planning to distribute 200 kg of vegetable seeds to the affected population. Distributions of food and other commodities, however, are on hold pending an agreement between the US and WFP. Participants in the meeting stressed their fear the situation in camps in Muramvya, Kayanza and Rural Bujumbura could deteriorate rapidly and hence there was a need for a sufficient quantity of stocks to be held in reserve.

WFP reports that an assessment of conditions at the Nyamitanga IV site in Cibitoke's Buganda commune (pop. 4,400) found some signs of malnutrition among children living in the camp. Household food reserves at the site were limited mainly to small quantities of sweet potatoes, maize and manioc which people received in exchange for day labour on nearby farms. Due to continued insecurity in the area, camp residents do not have access to their own land but local officials have said they are allocating about half an acre of land to each family for cultivation, although no farming tools were available. Representatives from UNHCR, FAO and Oxfam-Quebec also participated in the mission. WFP is suggesting that immediate food assistance to the camp be provided. The agency will reassess the situation in 6 to 8 weeks to determine if further assistance will be required before the next harvest.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Great Lakes Humanitarian Coordinator Pierce Gerety arrived in Burundi April 7 for a four day visit. While in Burundi, he met with government officials, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss the government's regroupment policy, security developments and other issues concerning international humanitarian activities in the country. While in the country, he travelled to Karuzi province with representatives of the US government and WFP to visit three regroupment sites created last year.

Follow up on the Journées de Reflexion continues, working towards the eventual reintegration of displaced and dispersed populations. UNDP is in the process of organizing working groups and sectoral committees to put the report's conclusions into practice. Provincial authorities will be involved as closely as possible.

UNICEF has signed three agreements, worth a total of \$6.45 million, with the ministry of health to improve health services in the country. UNICEF has agreed to provide logistical and technical support to help the ministry decentralize its activities and administration. The agency is also supporting an immunization and maternal health program, with special attention to the needs in the provinces of Bubanza, Cibitoke and Karuzi and is continuing its nutritional education programs in health and supplementary feeding centers.

5. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Although procedures for the import of sanctions-exempted goods have now been firmly established, the international humanitarian community still does not have blanket authorization to conduct emergency medical evacuations by air should that ever be necessary. Shortages of available Jet A-1 fuel continue to limit internal flights to three days per week. However, 40,000 liters of aviation fuel that arrived last week is now being analysed to ensure it is of adequate quality and should be available shortly. An additional 40,000 liters of aviation fuel arrived this week, as did 110,000 liters of diesel, 100,000 liters of petrol and 18,000 liters of kerosene. WFP will distribute the additional fuel supplies as soon as final authorization from customs is received.

UNICEF reports that it now has only very limited supplies of UNIMIX due to logistical difficulties associated with importing sanctions-exempted supplies by road from Tanzania. The last UNIMIX shipment UNICEF received was in February, and the supply has already been allocated to an NGO partner. The agency is waiting for a shipment from Tanzania of another 90 mt. When mixed with oil, 1 mt provides a full course of supplementary feeding for 200 children.

[ENDS]

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Date: Thu, 17 Apr 1997 13:08:36 +0300
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Precedence: list
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
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JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH ARUSHA REGIONAL SUMMIT ON THE BURUNDI CONFLICT

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Presidents Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, and Prime Ministers Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Celestin Rwigyema of Rwanda on 16th April 1997 in Arusha, Tanzania, held their fourth Summit on the Great Lakes Region to take stock of the recent developments in the Burundi conflict in particular. The President of Burundi, Major Pierre Buyoya was also invited to attend.
2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the OAU Secretary General, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and the Facilitator of the Peace Process, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.
3. The Regional Summit reviewed the situation and developments in Burundi, since its last meeting on 12th October 1996. The summit also heard the presentation of President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi on the actions he had taken so far in response to the demands of the regional leaders for the restoration of normalcy and a negotiated end to the current conflict in Burundi.
4. The Regional Summit underscored the importance of negotiations to bring about a political solution to the problems in Burundi. The Summit welcomed the continuing efforts being made by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere as Facilitator of the Arusha and Mwanza Peace Process. It reiterated its full support for Mwalimu Nyerere and encouraged him to continue with those efforts.
5. The Regional Summit underscored the fact that as far as Burundi is concerned, its objectives and those of the African continent as well as the wider international community converge on the need to end the cycle of violence in Burundi and a negotiated settlement to the conflict in that country. In order to facilitate the early attainment of these common objectives, the Regional Summit appeals to the rest of the Continent and especially, the international community, to exert full political, economic and diplomatic pressures on all the parties in Burundi to pursue a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Such pressures should include an arms embargo, as well as the denial of visas to those who are deemed to obstruct the peace process. The summit stresses that no one should arm any of the protagonists and called for the immediate cessation of hostilities.
6. The Regional Summit called on the Government of Burundi and all the parties to the conflict to urgently take steps to create the necessary environment that is propitious for negotiations and national reconciliation to take place. In particular, the Summit calls on the Government to disband the "regroupment" camps and allow the people to resume their normal activities without any hindrance.

7. The Summit considers that for the creation of a conducive spirit for national reconciliation and negotiations to take place, the Government of Burundi is urged to restore the freedom of the Speaker of the National Assembly and facilitate his work. The Summit considers him as an important interlocutor in the process of negotiations.

8. The Regional Summit decided also to expand with immediate effect the easing of sanctions to include: all food and food products, all items relating to education and construction materials as well as all types of medicines, and all agricultural items and inputs in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Burundi.

9. The Regional Summit decided to designate immediately focal points in every country to facilitate smooth and efficient implementation of this decision. In the meantime, the summit called for the speedy and efficient implementation of the exemptions already agreed upon so as to ensure an uninterrupted flow of humanitarian assistance.

10. The summit declared its readiness to suspend all sanctions with the exemption of the arms embargo once there is movement in the negotiations.

11. The Regional Summit expressed its gratitude to President Benjamin William Mkapa, the people and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the Summit and for the hospitality accorded to the Heads of delegation.

Done at Arusha, Tanzania, on 16th April 1997

[ENDS]

[Transcribed by UN DHA IRIN Nairobi.]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 10 - 24 April 1997 97.4.24

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X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
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BURUNDI
Humanitarian Situation Report
April 10 - 24

1. GENERAL

The fourth regional summit on Burundi held in Arusha, Tanzania on April 16 has resulted in an easing of the sanctions imposed on Burundi by several African countries since July 31 of last year, one week after Major Pierre Buyoya seized power in a coup d'etat. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigema, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere in his role as mediator and OAU Secretary General Ahmed Salim Salim.

The regional leaders agreed during the one day meeting to allow the importation of food and agricultural products, medicine and education and construction materials. The official communique stated that there would be focal points designated in each country arms, would be ended once there was evidence that talks between the opposing parties was underway. The communique also called on the government of Burundi to disband the controversial regroupment camps and restore the freedom of the Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly. It called for an end to the hostilities and a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Separate talks at Arusha had been convened by President Nyerere among the various Burundian parties starting April 11. However, little information has been received about the outcome and no official statement was issued. The talks were attended by a Burundian government delegation headed by Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama as well as an additional UPRONA delegation headed by former Ambassador Libere Bararunyeretse. A FRODEBU delegation and representatives of the National Assembly were also present. Observers included the UN Secretary General's interim Special Representative in Burundi, Mr. Tidiane Sy.

In reaction to the outcome, President Buyoya noted that although expectations had been higher, the results were a "very important step", in particular towards the normalisation of relations with neighbouring countries. In contrast, the spokesman for the CNDD, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy, which initially had noted regret over Buyoya's invitation to the summit, expressed complete "disappointment" and reiterated its commitment to fight the government of Major Buyoya.

The Arusha meeting marked the first occasion to which Major Buyoya was officially invited to a regional summit. He was greeted as a head of state by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and was referred to as "the President of Burundi" in the joint communique issued after the April 16 meeting. Buyoya had previously been received as head of state at a Franco-African summit in Ouagadougou and at a summit on Zaire in Lome in March.

2. SECURITY

A second anti-personnel mine exploded on the golf course on April 17 when it was hit by a tractor/lawn mower. No deaths or injuries were reported. The first incident had severely injured a Zairian on April 6. Since the beginning of April there have been nine mine incidents in the capital, four involving anti-personnel mines and five involving anti-vehicle mines. In five of the incidents the mines exploded bringing to eleven the number of mine blasts since the first explosions occurred March 12. On the afternoon of April 13 a shooting incident stemming from an argument between a gendarme and three other people in the central market area left four people dead. The strictly enforced UN curfew remains in effect from 19h00 to 07h30.

Fighting between military forces and rebels continued to be reported from the south-western province of Makamba where a military post near the border to Tanzania was attacked during the first week of the month... Most of the fighting has occurred in the communes of Vugizo and Mabanda. A CNDD spokesman stated that 140 rebels reported killed in Makamba by Burundi's defense ministry had in fact been civilians. According to information obtained during a joint WFP/CRS/DHA/UN Security Cell mission to Makamba on April 22 and 23, at least some 12,000 people have been displaced in the area, of which 10,000 are in four sites in Vugizo commune alone. (See Coordination of Humanitarian Activities section for more details). An AFP report stated that the Burundian army reported 100 civilians killed by rebels in Kayogoro in the commune of Vugizo. Locally the figure was reported as 70 killed.

Unrest also continued in the province of Bururi, just north of Makamba. Burundi state radio announced that two army battalions had been despatched from the north-western province of Cibitoke to assist in quelling the rebellion in Bururi. Heightened insecurity also continued in Cibitoke. On April 5 a military vehicle was ambushed on RN5 between the town of Rugumbo and the Rwandan border which left five soldiers dead. On April 2 two soldiers were injured in two separate anti-personnel mine incidents in Cibitoke village. On April 9, two villagers were allegedly killed by rebels near Ndava; a follow-up operation by the army resulted in the deaths of eight people.

On April 14, rebels attacked an IDP camp in Gasenyi in the province of Muyinga. Three people were killed and four injured. On April 10, a village in Mutambu commune in Bujumbura rural was attacked. Thirteen houses were burned and a number of cattle were stolen.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The temporary suspension of WFP food distributions by the US government on April 5 has been lifted and plans are now underway to resume despatches. First sites targeted include six camps in Karuzi province. Before the halt in distribution activities, WFP had been intending to assist some 98,000 people in Karuzi through distribution of 1,500 mt of food. The distribution will coincide with a FAO despatch of 200 kg of vegetable seeds.

In Kirundo province, WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock, distributed ten day seed protection rations to over 170,000 beneficiaries affected by the recent drought. The distribution will help carry the farmers over until the next harvest. WFP also distributed emergency rations to 8,410 people who had been victims of the recent March 31 fire in the site of Nyarurama in Kayanza province. The fire had killed 14 people and had destroyed 1,400 shelters.

Since the beginning of April, CRS, in close collaboration with Caritas assisted some 28,000 people of which 15,000 were in the sites Busaga, Buyengero, Maramvya, Martyazo, Murago

and Muyange in Bururi. The displaced received an emergency food ration as well as non-food items such as plates, cloth and soap. In Bujumbura rural, a total of 7,975 vulnerable people benefited from a food distribution. In Ngozi, 2,765 people were assisted. Other areas of distribution included Bubanza, Gitega and Ruyigi (2,113 people).

In its continued effort to combat the typhus epidemic, WHO has visited the provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Gitega and Muramvya. In the northern part of Gitega, six health centers were visited. Meetings were held with provincial doctors and coordinators from MSF Belgium in Ngozi and Karuzi. The number of cases is still on the rise. By the end of March, a total of 22,646 cases of typhus had been reported in the five provinces visited. Of these 9,523 cases were reported in Muramvya, 7,460 in Kayanza, 4,568 in Gitega, 574 in Ngozi and 521 in Karuzi. WHO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, Caritas and other NGO partners to ensure that sufficient medicine for treatment is despatched. Caritas is supplying 200,000 tablets of Doxycycline, WHO is providing 57,000 tablets and the Ministry of Health 120,000. The medication will be used in the five affected provinces where the need is the greatest. WHO in conjunction with the Ministry plans to purchase 18 tonnes of Propoxur insecticide powder used for disinfection purposes but funding has not yet been assured.

According to UNHCR, Burundian refugees continue to return of their own will from the Ngara region in north-western Tanzania. 4,136 people returned in March and 1,889 had so far returned in April. According to a recent update compiled by DHA/IRIN in Nairobi, a total of 278,000 Burundian refugees are currently still in Tanzania. UNHCR has voiced concern over the repatriation of 1,200 Burundian refugees from Kabangira camp in south-western Rwanda. The camp had housed a total of 2,600 refugees who were told to leave by April 6 by Rwandan officials. In Kigali, however, UNHCR was assured that Rwandan authorities were not forcing the return of the refugees. UNHCR reiterated that due to the continued volatility of the security situation in Burundi, they were not facilitating or encouraging the return of the refugees but were prepared to assist the returnees once they were back in Burundi.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Following reports from Makamba province of the displacement of several thousand people, WFP, CRS and DHA/HCU undertook a joint mission to assess the situation first-hand. The assessment entailed a meeting with the local authorities and MSF France, which has a field office in the town of Makamba. The mission was informed that most of the fighting was taking place in the commune of Vugizo where four displaced sites had been created housing a total of 10,000 people. Unfortunately, the area could not be visited as staff safety could not be guaranteed. The mission visited the displaced site in the town of Makamba itself that had registered 1,900 people. The mission also visited two smaller sites in Mabanda with about 600 people in total. All the sites were only created very recently, on or around April 18. Therefore, the people were still in relatively good condition and had been able to bring some food stocks. However, the situation warrants close monitoring, particularly if the displaced are not able to return soon. WFP intends to return within a week to obtain official lists for all the sites and to visit the areas which were inaccessible at the time of the visit. The mission was accompanied by a UN security officer.

A two day preliminary joint UN/NGO needs assessment mission to Karuzi departed on April 24. Mission participants included DHA, CRS and UNICEF. A meeting will be held with MSF Belgium, which is assisting the camps in the health and nutrition sector. Camps to be visited include Gihogazi, Mugogo and Bugenyuzi.

5. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

The easing of the sanctions immediately affected the black-market exchange rate in Bujumbura which dropped from 530 FrBu to the dollar to FrBu 450.

The Humanitarianism and War project by Brown University is preparing a report for DHA on the effectiveness of sanctions as a policy tool and the impact the economic sanctions had on the

civilian population in Burundi. It will be presented to the UN Interagency Standing Committee in New York in September. The report was compiled from information obtained through over 50 interviews with UN, NGO, and diplomatic officials in Burundi and Nairobi.

[ENDS]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 25 Apr - 5 May 97.5.8

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
APRIL 25 - MAY 5, 1997

1. GENERAL

President Buyoya announced a cabinet reshuffle May 4. Those who have left the cabinet include: the Minister of Justice, Minister of Energy and Mines, Minister of Education, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Transport and Minister of Reinstallation Reinsertion Repatriation and Minister of Public Works. Among those ministers who retained their posts were the Prime Minister as well as the ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Constitutional Reform. (List of new cabinet appended).

2. SECURITY

With the level of political tension in Bujumbura somewhat lower since the relaxation of regional economic sanctions on April 16, the curfew for UN staff has been raised from 19:00 to 22:00. The government curfew remains midnight.

The upswing in rebel attacks and Burundian military activity that began in southern Burundi in early April continues. Rebels, believed to be affiliated with the FDD, attacked a seminary in Buta, southeast of the town of Bururi on April 30, leaving over 40 students and teachers dead and another 34 seriously injured. According to eyewitnesses, the attack was carried out by several hundred individuals who launched grenades on to the campus from surrounding hills before entering the seminary and shooting students and teachers in their dormitories at point blank range.

The same night, at least seven more people were killed when individuals, said by local residents to be rebels, attacked and burned several homes, the offices of the local government administrator and the health clinic in the nearby town of Kiremba. Skirmishes have also been reported near the town of Munini.

Rebel attacks have also been reported in Rutana province. On May 3, rebels attacked a secondary school in Rutana town... The following day, an attack was reported near the town's market. There have been no reports on casualties in either attack. International Medical Corps, the American NGO which manages medical and nutritional programs in the province, is temporarily suspending its operations in the province.

Fighting continues to be reported from Makamba province. Military sources reported an attack on the civilian population in Kayogoro on April 27 during which houses in the town were set on fire. The number of casualties is unknown.

A Swiss nun, Claudine Buchwalder from Sisters of Schoenstadt, and her driver were killed May 1 when their vehicle hit an antitank mine on a dirt road near Kabezi about 15 km south of Bujumbura. The incident was the 12th confirmed mine explosion in or near the capital since March and the first incident in which a westerner has been killed.

There are new indications that Burundian Hutu rebels are attempting to re-establish bases in eastern Zaire. An ADFL official, speaking on ADFL radio on April 26, said that an attack by

FDD rebels had been repulsed. He did not say when the attack occurred but noted that the Fizi area was now peaceful.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

UNHCR has noted a drop in the numbers of Burundians returning spontaneously from camps in western Tanzania to northern Burundi. In March, an average of approximately 135 Burundians returned each day through border crossing points in Muyinga province. In April, fewer than 90 a day crossed into Burundi. The agency says there appears to be a direct correlation between the number of returnees and security incidents in Muyinga. For example on April 16, the Buhangara returnee site was attacked leaving over 30 shelters burned and at least 2 returnees dead. Between April 1 and 15, 1,756 returnees crossed into Muyinga from Tanzania. However, between April 16 and 30, only 656 returnees crossed into Muyinga. Humanitarian agencies suspect that rebel groups or sympathizers in camps in Tanzania may be launching attacks across the border as part of an active campaign to discourage Burundian refugees in Tanzania from returning to Burundi.

DHA participated in an inter-agency mission to Bubanza April 29 to assess the general situation in the province, and identify specific sectoral needs. The mission found a general need for food, non-food items (including clothes) and agricultural inputs. Other agencies participating in the mission were: WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, CRS and Austrian Relief Program (ARP) The mission met with the governor, visited Bubanza hospital, Mugongo 1 displaced site and the Gishanga regroupment camp. According to the governor, there are 36 displaced and regroupment camps in the province with a total population of approximately 86,000. He added that some of the original regroupment camps in the province are being broken up with the populations being moved to smaller existing sites or newly created sites.

Although 11 out of the 14 health centers which existed in the province prior to the crisis are still functioning, the treatment of malnutrition remains a severe problem. Health centers in the province have recently treated large numbers of severely vulnerable individuals, many of whom had formally been living with little or no shelter. Admitted hospital cases of severe malnutrition have required so many beds that admissions of standard patient categories have nearly been suspended. Of the severely malnourished, up to 20 percent of recently admitted cases have been adults. The adults have come out of the forest and marshes where many have been scavenging to survive for up to three years.

The educational infrastructure has also been hard hit by the crisis. Out of the 10 secondary schools which existed before 1993, 8 are functional and of the 56 primary schools, only 14 are functional. Over the past two years, UNICEF has been assisting in the educational sector. Equilibre has said it may become involved in school reconstruction. Local Catholic Church development offices have said they will provide assistance to some specified schools once the population has returned to the area.

A joint WFP-DHA May 2 mission to the towns of Kiremba and Buta in Bururi province found approximately 2,500 recently displaced individuals from among the total population. Displaced were congregated on the grounds of Kiremba parish church (approx. 800), on the grounds of Kiremba secondary school (approx. 1,000) and grounds of Kiremba orphanage (approx. 500). Displaced at all three sites come from communities in the vicinity of Buta and Kiremba who have left their homes following increased rebel attacks and instability in the area. The sites also house individuals who have fled unrest in Vugizo commune in Makamba province. Local officials have not yet prepared lists of the exact numbers or origins of the displaced. The sites visited have adequate shelter facilities and potable water, although sanitation facilities will not be adequate if large numbers of displaced continue to arrive. Given that the residents of these sites have only been displaced for a very short period (most for several days, others for up to two weeks) their immediate need for food and non-food assistance is limited. However, if they are unable to return to their homes soon, their situation could deteriorate and further assistance will be required. CRS, using transport provided by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, has said it will provide additional stocks of corn and beans.

UNICEF, CRS and DHA conducted a joint mission to Gihogazi (approx. pop. 15,000) and Mugogo (approx. pop. 14,000) regroupment camps in Karuzi province on May 24-25 to evaluate non-food item needs in the camps. With the exception of a limited distribution to Gihogazi camp in June, 1996 by MSF- Belgium, the residents of the camps have never received basic emergency relief supplies such as blankets. Camp residents are living in shelters constructed of branches and banana leaves. With the camps situated at an altitude of 2,000 meters where rain and wind storms are common, residents are in urgent need of plastic sheeting for their shelters and blankets to keep warm.

CRS will transport to the camps blankets, soap, jerry cans, buckets and cooking sets. The supplies have been provided by CRS, World Vision and UNICEF and will be distributed by MSF-Belgium. Urgent attempts are being made to locate additional supplies of plastic sheeting.

WFP continues food distributions to approximately 74,000 beneficiaries in six regroupment camps in Karuzi province. The governor of Karuzi has accepted that distributions will be based strictly on need after thorough assessments and that not all sites with affected populations will receive food.

According to preliminary reports from UNHCR in Kigoma, approximately 7,000 Burundians have fled across the Tanzanian border from Makamba. The agency says the arrivals will be housed in the existing Mtabila refugee camp and that UNHCR has sufficient resources to receive them.

WHO has completed its analyses of the recent typhus outbreak in Ngozi, Muramvya and Kayanza provinces. According to WHO, more than 20,000 cases of the disease were reported between January and March 1997. The WHO report says that it has been difficult to establish the mortality rate but estimates that it is between one and twenty percent. WHO says it has now detected the disease in Mutambu commune in Bujumbura Rural. The communities of Karama, Burina, Gifugwe, Gasi, Rutovu, Ntaba and Kabezi have been particularly hard hit. From April 22 to April 29, 137 cases of the disease have been reported by the health center in the parish of Karinzi. The agency says the outbreak of the disease in Burundi the most severe typhus epidemic in the world since the Second World War. Between April 23 and 28, WHO conducted a training seminar for public health workers from all 15 provinces on detecting potential epidemics and monitoring the spread of a particular disease.

World Vision reports that it will be expanding its unaccompanied children's program to Ngozi province where up to 4,000 children are not being provided for. World Vision will launch tracing programs to find their parents, identify foster families for the children, and provide the families with school and medical materials as well as non-food items necessary for their support. With support from UNICEF, the NGO currently runs unaccompanied children programs in Gitega, Karuzi and Kayanza provinces.

Africare is finalizing plans to launch new democratization and governance programs in Burundi. The programs will include projects which attempt to address reconciliation issues through community reconstruction and rehabilitation. Africare will also organize a series of training classes late this summer to teach community leaders on the principles, mechanisms and structures of grass-roots democracy. In addition, Africare is hoping to continue programs in water and sanitation, adult literacy and reforestation.

4. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

Tanzania is now officially allowing cargo to be exported to Burundi from its port facilities on Lake Tanganyika. A total of several thousand tons of building material, fertilizer, wheat and salt currently in the port town of Kigoma are being prepared for transport to Burundi. However, in comments to the press, local officials in Tanzania have made it clear that they will continue to strictly monitor the shipment of goods to Burundi and will only allow the transport of goods that have been expressly permitted by region countries during the Arusha summit. As of April 29, goods remained blocked at the border crossing in the northwest Ngara district. Local officials in Ngara said they had not yet received official the official go-ahead from authorities in Dar es Salaam. Humanitarian organizations are still waiting for clarification regarding procedures for importing goods for which the embargo has been recently lifted.

[ENDS]

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 6-13 May 97 97.5.13

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MAY 6 - 13, 1997

1. GENERAL

In a May 13 televised press conference, President Buyoya confirmed that representatives of his government had been quietly meeting for the last four weeks with representatives of the CNDD in Rome. He added that agreement had been reached on steps necessary for peace talks but provided no additional details. Following Buyoya's announcement that talks were underway, the President of UPRONA Charles Mukasi issued a statement criticizing the government for talking with the CNDD. Earlier in the week, a member of President Buyoya's cabinet had publicly denied knowledge that government representatives were talking to representatives of rebel groups.

Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere chaired a May 8 meeting in Dar es Saalam between representatives of the main Hutu dominated political party FRODEBU and the more radical CNDD. Details of the meeting have not been disclosed. Nyerere was expected to emphasise that both FRODEBU and the CNDD had the same obligations to work towards peace as the Buyoya government.

Burundian Presidential spokesman Jean-Luc Ndizeye resigned from his post May 7 following allegations that he had described the Rwandan government "as puppets of [Ugandan president] Museveni." Ndizeye denied the allegations, but said he was resigning in the interests of the nation. No replacement has been named. Relations between Burundi and Rwanda have been tense in recent months.

2.. SECURITY

At least 16 sites in Bururi and Makamba provinces were attacked by heavily armed individuals between April 30 and May 9. There are indications that those responsible for the attacks are a combination of former Zaireian soldiers, soldiers from the former Rwandan army (ex-FAR) and members of Burundian rebel groups. Many of the attackers are reportedly armed with both grenades and powerful South African manufactured R4 assault rifles.

A spokesman for the Burundian military told reporters May 12 that Burundian soldiers had killed 18 ex-FAR and Interhamwe soldiers as they headed for Rwanda via northwestern Burundi. Burundian military sources say that ex-FAR have been reported in Rugombo commune in Cibitoke province. Northern communes of Cibitoke are now reported to be very tense.

During the night of May 12, unknown individuals seriously injured 13 civilians in an attack in Cibitoke's Mugina commune. The injured are being treated in a Bujumbura hospital for burns as well as bullet, grenade and machete wounds.

A planned interagency assessment of humanitarian needs in Bubanza's Musigati commune, which borders with Cibitoke province, has been delayed given concerns by local officials about deteriorating security in the commune. The assessment had been planned for either May 14 or May 15.

On May 7, armed rebels attacked the communal office, the health center and destroyed the market in Bururi's Songa commune. According to military and other sources in Bururi, the rebels have since moved northwest toward Buyengero and Burambi communes.

Tension remains high in the southern parts of the country, and some areas in Makamba province remain completely inaccessible. However, security in some of the areas of Makamba and Bururi that had been attacked has improved sufficiently to allow limited humanitarian assessment missions. Electricity in Bururi town, which had been cut April 29, has since been restored.

Access to the far south of Makamba province remains impossible. Insufficient security continues to prevent a joint UN agency assessment of humanitarian conditions in the Nyanza Lac region. The Nyanza Lac area has now been inaccessible to international humanitarian agencies for several months.

In contrast to instability in the south, Bujumbura remains calm. Tension in the city, however, was raised by a yet to be explained large explosion May 5 at or near the University.

Ninety-five people who were arrested in late April on charges of collaborating with rebels are being held in a military camp in Kamenge in Bujumbura, a justice ministry spokesman told reporters May 5. Some of those being held are said to have come from the Johnson Center compound.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

A mission by the Humanitarian Coordinator and the FAO Representative, and with the participation of representatives of the UNDP Continuum program and Burundi government officials, visited Karuzi province May 8. The mission met with the governor and visited the Karuzi displaced camp on the edge of town (pop. approx. 7,000) as well as the Canzikiro (pop. approx. 6,500) and Bugenyuzi (pop. approx. 20,000) camps. The governor indicated to mission participants that he planned to reduce the size of existing camps by opening an additional camp in Masabo, in the southern part of Karuzi, and transferring some residents of existing regroupment camps to the new site.

During the reporting period, WFP conducted assessments at the Mpira (pop. approx. 2,000) and Kirihe (pop. approx. 3,500) regroupment camps in Muramvya province. The mission found that the majority of camp residents have adequate access to their land and no WFP assistance is anticipated at this time.

On April 29, Burundian authorities expelled the last of the remaining 134 remaining Rwandan asylum seekers in Burundi. UNHCR had earlier determined that they did not qualify as refugees. The individuals had been living in a camp in Magara in Ngozi province since 1994. In

July of 1996, the Burundian government forced several thousand Rwandans living in camps in Ngozi to return home.

A joint DHA, UNICEF and CRS mission to Matana and Rutovu communes in Bururi on May 12 found that the area remained tense but was now calm. Although the vast majority of the thousands who were reported displaced by a series of attacks in early May - and had been living in known displaced sites - have since returned to their homes, there is a risk that new permanent displaced camps may be created if the current high level of instability in southern Burundi continues. Survivors of a May 5 attack in Ruzira in Bururi's Matana commune told the mission that they had fled the night before after hearing shooting nearby. When they returned two days later they found their houses, and any other belongings that could not be carried away, burned.

Four separate known new displaced sites in Rutovu commune now exist, each reported to have a maximum of several hundred residents. Populations of these sites appear to be decreasing on a daily basis as residents decide it is sufficiently safe to return home. At this point, there is no apparent need for distributions of either food or non-food items at the sites.

A joint DHA-UNICEF mission to Ruyigi province on May 6 and 7 estimated the number of old caseload displaced in the province to be approximately 4,000. At the time of the mission there were no displaced seeking refuge from the unrest in neighbouring provinces to the south. Due to recent attacks in southern Burundi, there are only limited expectations in the province that many of the estimated 170,000 Burundians who had sought refuge in Tanzania in late 1993 will return to the province in the near future. Forty percent of these 170,000 are from Ruyigi. According to UNHCR, it is unclear how many of these 170,000 have already returned since many continue to shuttle back and forth across the border.

UNHCR reports that during the month of April, a total of 2,412 Burundians returned from Tanzania through the Kobera crossing point in Muyinga province. According to preliminary calculations by UNHCR, during the first 10 days of May, 1,156 Burundians returned. This compares with 530 who returned during the last ten days of April.

WHO reports that it is helping to treat an outbreak of scabies among 388 prisoners in Ruyigi prison. The agency also says that it believes that the typhus outbreak in Kayanza and Ngozi is now fully stabilized.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Preparations are underway to update the existing Interagency Operational Plan. It is anticipated that a first draft of the update will be ready in August.

5. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

The fifth meeting of the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) was held Saturday May 10 in Kampala to refine decisions taken during the April 16 Arusha summit on Burundi which relaxed the regional embargo. No public statement from the May 10 meeting has been issued. However, in a May 7 meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, the chairman of RSCC, Maj. Gen. Sarakikya, clarified that there are currently no plans to dissolve the RSCC.

The chairman of the RSCC also said that there would be no changes in the clearance procedures for the shipment of humanitarian goods to Burundi and that new exemptions agreed to do not apply to Burundian exports. Maj. Gen. Sarakikya added that certain points on the Rwanda-Burundi border will be officially opened for lorry convoys into Burundi.

Humanitarian organizations are facing a severe shortage of nearly all non-food emergency relief items (NFI) such as blankets, cooking sets and plastic sheeting. There are currently insufficient stocks of these items either in country or in the pipeline, due to inadequate financial resources rather than the effect of the sanctions.

As a result of pipeline problems, WFP reports that its food stocks in Burundi are critically low with only 1,261 mt of cereal, 104 mt of pulses and 64 mt of oil. The problems are currently being resolved.

[ENDS]

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MAY 14 - 20

1. GENERAL

President Buyoya continues to face vigorous criticism from leaders in the Tutsi political community following the May 13 public acknowledgement by his government that representatives of the government and the CNDD had been meeting secretly in Rome to discuss the possibility of a cease fire. University students refused a request by the prime minister to address the student body on the substance of the talks and the intended outcome. Other meetings between high level members of the Buyoya government and regional military and administrative leaders were reportedly highly charged. According to some observers, participants were at times openly critical of the government for participating in the talks.

RADDES, a predominantly Tutsi political party, called for the government to clarify the goal of the talks. In a May 14 statement, UPRONA President Charles Mukasi went as far as calling the negotiations an act of high treason by the President. However, it is not clear if Mukasi's statements represent the majority opinion in UPRONA. Following publication of his statement, other influential members of the UPRONA party, including former Prime Minister Adrien Sibomana, published a more moderate statement endorsing a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The primarily Hutu FRODEBU party has given a qualified endorsement of the talks.

The trials of 53 military officers accused of participating in the 1993 attempted coup began May 16 in Bujumbura. Some 20 others accused of participating in the attempted coup have reportedly fled the country. Those to stand trial include: former defence minister Colonel Charles Ntakije, former chief of staff Colonel Jean Bikomagu and former member of parliament Françoise Ngeze. Additional proceedings have been postponed until July 4 to give lawyers involved in the cases additional time to prepare.

Members of the Buyoya government continue their efforts to use personal visits to lobby the governments of other countries in the region to relax the economic embargo against Burundi. On May 16, Leonidas Havyarimana, secretary of state for cooperation met with the Ugandan minister of foreign affairs in Kampala. According to Radio Uganda, among the issues discussed was a request from Burundi to implement measures to ease the sanctions agreed to in Arusha last month. The Ugandan foreign minister stressed that sanctions against Burundi

would not be completely lifted under the present circumstances, but that this would be done gradually according to progress in the peace process.

President Buyoya also pressed for the easing of sanctions with Tanzanian President Mkapa during a May 14 meeting in Dar es Salaam. Following the meeting, President Mpaka stressed that the relaxation of sanctions did not mean a resumption of normal trade. Normal trade, he said, would only be permitted once the conditions imposed last year by leaders of Tanzania and other countries in the Great Lakes area were met. Those conditions include a cease-fire and the reinstatement of parliament. The Tanzanian president insisted that sales of fuel to Burundi would be among the items that continue to be banned. Fuel continues to be in short supply in the country.

Following his return to Bujumbura from Tanzania, President Buyoya said on Radio Burundi that Burundi's diplomatic representatives in Dar es Salaam would serve as a focal point for discussions on the movement of goods between Tanzania and Burundi. The president also said that he had told his Tanzanian hosts that Burundi is ready to start a political dialogue "open to all the political protagonists, including armed actors." He added that Tanzanian authorities had admitted that there had been incursions into Burundi from Tanzania but that Tanzanian authorities affirmed that they supported the peace process, not the rebellion.

During a May 14 meeting with President Buyoya in Bujumbura, Aldo Ayello, the European Union's envoy to the Great Lakes voiced support for the talks in Rome. He added that a peaceful settlement would be the only durable settlement for the crisis in the country. The President of the National Assembly, Leonce Ngendakumana, has announced his support for the negotiations as have the ambassadors of the United States and France.

Col. Pascal Ntako, a close associate of former president Jean-Baptiste Bagaza died in prison in Muyinga last week. Ntako was among the supporters of Bagaza arrested in January amid rumours of an attempted coup. Sources indicate that Ntako had been ill but had been refused adequate medical treatment.

2. SECURITY

Armed groups killed over 60 people and wounded 12 others in a series of attacks May 19 in Cibitoke province. It is unclear who was responsible for the attacks although the government has blamed members of the former Rwandan army (ex-FAR) and Interhamwe militia. In nearly simultaneous attacks in the early hours of Monday morning, heavily armed individuals attacked Murwi commune headquarters and the nearby community of Kigazi. According to Radio Burundi, 39 people were killed, including one soldier, in the Murwi attack and 36 others were injured. The attack in Kigazi reportedly killed 10 people and wounded 12 others. The attack at the Ndava displaced camp in Buganda commune reportedly left 14 people dead and wounded 12 others.

On May 16 and May 19, up to several hundred university and secondary school students held demonstrations in the streets of Bujumbura criticising President Buyoya for negotiating with Hutu rebel groups. Before the demonstrations began, government officials had made it clear that they would not allow them to take place. The demonstrations were peaceful but were quickly broken up by police with a number of students arrested. The demonstrations criticising the government were the first of their kind since President Buyoya took power last year. A heavy police presence has recently been reported in the university area.

Insecurity also continues to be reported in rural Bujumbura with reports of sporadic shooting nearly every night.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

WHO is monitoring an outbreak of cholera at the Maramvya rehabilitation center for severely malnourished in Mutimbuzi commune in Bujumbura Rural. Between April 8 and May 14, 56

cases of cholera have been reported at the center. Twenty-six of those who contracted the disease have since died. The center, run by ACF, has a case load of approximately 400 severely malnourished patients under permanent care. The severe malnutrition of the center's patients makes them highly vulnerable to the disease. WHO says that almost all the reported cases of the disease have been at the center, although cholera is endemic in the area and sporadic cases of suspected cholera have been reported elsewhere in the commune. Those patients diagnosed with the disease will be isolated at a separate site and put under 24 hour observation by medical professionals. It is not yet clear where the site will be located, or who will construct it.

WHO reports that a total of 4,616 cases of typhus were reported in Burundi during the month of April. Of those, 2,699 were in Muramvya province, 1,678 in Gitega province, 200 in Cibitoke province, 18 in Muyinga province, 18 in Kirundo province and 3 cases in Bururi. WHO is also providing support for a mobile clinic in Kibogoye commune in Muramvya province and for improved facilities for a health center in Bukeye commune serving war-affected populations.

UNICEF reports that it has provided Caritas with 60 health kits containing essential drugs. The kits are to be distributed to 150 health centers throughout Burundi. Each kit contains sufficient quantities of medical supplies for consultations for 1,000 people. In addition, UNICEF reports that it has provided MSF-France with one metric ton of cooking oil for feeding programs the agency runs in Kirundo province.

UNICEF has announced plans to vaccinate 20,000 children in Cibitoke province against measles, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis and whooping cough. The vaccination program will be conducted in collaboration with Burundian health authorities and the NGO Initiative Humanitaire Africaine.

WFP continues to conduct assessments in Karuzi province to determine food needs at displaced and regroupment sites in Karuzi that were not targeted for emergency food distribution in April and early May. A WFP assessment of 11 sites in the province found that security had improved since earlier this year. In addition to inadequate access to land, a lack of seeds, tools and other agricultural inputs will likely limit agricultural production.

A WFP assessment of conditions in Rutana, Makamba and Bururi provinces in the south found that security had improved in many areas since late last month, and that most of the individuals who had been displaced by the fighting have returned to their homes. WFP estimates that, in communes in which the international humanitarian community currently has access, there are over 20,000 people in Makamba province and approximately 3,000 people in Bururi province who remain displaced from recent fighting. WFP will conduct food distributions to affected sites. Communes bordering on the lake in Makamba and Bururi remain too insecure to ascertain humanitarian conditions.

According to figures provided by UNHCR, as of May 13 approximately 276,000 Burundian refugees remain in Tanzania of which 100,000 are in Ngara and 176,000 are in the Kigoma area. Seven thousand Burundian refugees remain in Rwanda. It is unclear how many Burundian refugees remain in Zaire, but the agency believes that there are fewer than 40,000.

4. EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

WFP Tanzania has confirmed that it has obtained oral authorization from Tanzanian authorities to restart transport of food commodities from Kigoma to Bujumbura by lake. WFP awaits details on procedures for transporting the goods. Lake transport provides a more economical and safer route than road for the transport of large quantities of food from warehouses in Tanzania.

According to commercial aviation sources, the relaxation of the sanctions will not immediately lead to the resumption of commercial passenger flights to Europe. There had been expectations in the capital that flights that suspended last year following the coup might soon resume.

[ENDS]

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EXTERNAL AI Index: AFR 16/16/97

23 May 1997

EXTRA 76/97Torture/Fear of torture

BURUNDI

NSABIMANA Djamali, footballer

NZEYIMANA Djamali, footballer

KAMWENUBUSA Joseph, farmer from Gitega

Roger (family name unknown), civil servant

Younger brother of Roger, name and age unknown,
pupil

at primary school

NYANKAWINDEMERA Arthur, civil servant

Haruna, younger brother of Arthur Nyankawindemera,

pupil at ecole primaire, age unknown

Leonard (family name unknown)

RAMAZANI Hamisi, works in a butcher's shop

VYANKANDONDERA Faidi, shop keeper

HAMISI Yahya, footballer

HAMADI Haruna, civil servant

BUYOYA (first name unknown), married, two children,

HABONIMANA Saido, aged 16, student

Amnesty International has just received reports that four detainees

- Djamali Nsabimana, Faidi Vyankandondera, Roger (family name not known) and his younger brother - are being tortured in incommunicado detention at Camp Buyenzi in the capital, Bujumbura. Their families have not been allowed to visit them, or to leave food for them. The reports have raised serious fears for the safety of all the detainees named above.

Djamali Nzeyimana, Joseph Kamwenubusa, Arthur Nyankawindemera and his younger brother Haruna, Leonard (family name unknown), Hamisi Ramazani, Buyoya and Saido Habonimana are being held at the Brigade speciale de recherches (BSR), Special Investigation Brigade, in Bujumbura. Detainees are routinely ill-treated and tortured at the BSR.

Yahya Hamisi and Hamadi Haruna are both reported to be in the custody of the Police de securite routiere (PSR), traffic police.

Djamali Nsabimana, Djamali Nzeyimana, Joseph Kamwenubusa, Roger and his brother, Arthur Nyankawindemera and his brother, Leonard, Hamisi Ramazani, and Faidi Vyankandondera were arrested on 8 April. Yahya Hamisi was arrested on 9 April, Haruna Hamnadi on 10 April and Buyoya and Saido Habonimana on 26 April 1997. All of them, apart from Faidi Vyankandondera who was arrested in Nyakabiga district of Bujumbura, were arrested in Buyenzi district. They are believed to have been detained on suspicion of involvement in a series of mine explosions in Bujumbura. They are not thought to have been officially charged, although their cases have now gone to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Although Major Pierre Buyoya promised to end human rights violations when he came to power after a coup d'etat in July 1996, Amnesty International has documented thousands of cases of extrajudicial execution, "disappearance", arbitrary arrest and torture since that date. Critics and opponents of the government have also been harassed, arrested and tortured in a pattern of attacks on political opponents, aiming to eliminate effective political opposition. More than 100, and possibly as many as 150 arrests have taken place over the course of the last few weeks in Bujumbura. Those arrested are predominantly young men, mostly members of the Hutu ethnic group. None are known to have been charged and at least two men have died as a result of torture and ill-treatment.

More than 6,500 civilians, mostly Hutu, including at least 2,600 accused of involvement in massacres in Burundi, are held in various prisons and detention centres around the country. The majority are held without charge or trial. Torture by members of the security forces is reported to be carried out systematically, and with impunity. Deaths in custody are often reported.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Burundi authorities to investigate human rights violations, including extrajudicial execution, "disappearance", torture and ill-treatment and arbitrary arrest, committed by members of the Burundi security forces who continue to act with complete impunity.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes (currently no post to Burundi) in French or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of all the detainees named above, particularly those held incommunicado at Camp Buyenzi following reports that they are being tortured;

- urging that these reports be immediately investigated and, if confirmed, that those responsible be brought to justice in accordance with international standards for fair trial;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to guarantee the safety and humane treatment in custody of all the detainees named above;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for their arrest and continued detention and calling for them to be released if they are not to be promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences, in accordance with proper legal procedures;
- calling on the authorities to allow the detainees immediate access to their families, legal counsel, medical care and representatives of humanitarian organisations.

APPEALS TO:

Minister for Internal Affairs and Public Security:

Lt-Col. Epitace BAYAGANAKANDI

[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]

Ministre de l'Interieur et de la Securite Publique

Ministere de l'Interieur

Telegram: Ministre Interieur, Bujumbura, Burundi

Fax: 00257 22 21 48/257 21 30 55

Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Terence SINUNGURUZA

[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux

Ministere de la Justice

Fax: 00257 22 21 48

Telegram: Ministre Justice, Bujumbura, Burundi

Minister of Defence:

Lieutenant-Col. Firmin SINZOYIHEBA

[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre]

Ministre de la Defense Nationale

Ministere de la Defense

Fax: 00257 22 39 59

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Bujumbura, Burundi

Procureur general

[Salutation: Monsieur le procureur general]

Fax: 00257 222148

Telegrams: Procureur General, Bujumbura, Burundi

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: Embassy of the Republic of
Burundi, Square Marie Louise 46, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

President:

Major Pierre Buyoya

President de la Republique

Presidence de la Republique

Fax: 00257 22 7490

Gendarmerie Chief of Staff:

Colonel George MUKORAKO

Chef de l'Etat-major general de la gendarmerie

Etat-major general de la gendarmerie

Ministere de la Defense nationale

Fax: 00257 22 39 59

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please do not send appeals after
25 June 1997.

+-----+

+ If you have any queries about this Urgent Action or about +

+ the UA scheme in general, please contact: +

+ Ray Mitchell / Becky Hess +

+ Amnesty International UK Section+

+ 99 - 119 Rosebery Avenue +

+ London EC1R 4REemail: ua@amnesty.org.uk +

+-----+

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 30 May 1997 11:25:40 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 21-27 May 97 97.5.30

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DHA/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION UNIT
P.B. 1490
BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI
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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MAY 21-27

1. GENERAL

The Buyoya government continues to face strong criticism from leading political and economic institutions within the country for the government's participation in talks with the CNDD on the framework for a possible peace plan. In a May 21 press release, UPRONA President Charles Mukasi called for Burundians to "firmly resist" the talks which he called a new attempt to absolve the crime of genocide in Burundi. In a more moderate statement, the opposition Independent Workers Party (PIT) also raised questions about the government's role in the peace talks. Last week, representatives of 23 unions signed a joint statement of opposition to the talks.

For its part, the CNDD has stated its unwillingness to attend all-party peace discussions that are due to take place in Geneva next month. On May 23, Leonce Ndarubagiye, a CNDD spokesman, told reporters that his organization would not attend the discussions, that are to be held under the auspices of UNESCO.

He said the CNDD opposed the talks being expanded to include political parties. The CNDD spokesman said, however, that his organization would have no problem with economic sanctions against Burundi being removed since he said that they had never worked. In the past, the CNDD had energetically supported the sanctions.

In a joint statement, USAID Administrator Brian Atwood and European Union Commissioner Emma Bonino said their organizations "deplore the current policies of regroupment being enforced in Burundi, and the ensuing disruption of rural life." The agencies added that they would not provide assistance unless a verified assessment found that an emergency situation had arisen. If such assistance becomes appropriate, the agencies said they would provide assistance to meet the emergency, but would not provide any assistance to regularize life in the regroupment areas. The policy is similar to one already embraced by UN humanitarian agencies in Burundi.

During a May 23 meeting with Ugandan President Museveni in Kampala, President Buyoya called on the East African Community to accept Burundi as a new member. The EAC's members are currently Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. President Buyoya told reporters that while in Kampala he had outlined his "peace plan" for Burundi and called for a total lifting of the embargo against his country.

2. SECURITY

Mine explosions continue. On May 19, an anti-tank mine exploded in the Mpanda cemetery in Bubanza province, just north of Bujumbura. At least two deaths and two injuries were reported. The following day, at least two soldiers were killed when their truck passed over an anti-tank mine on small road near the Kivoga secondary school which is also in Bubanza province.

On the night of May 21, sustained automatic weapons fire and grenade explosions occurred in Bujumbura's northern neighbourhoods of Kinama and Cibitoke, leaving four persons seriously injured. Heavy mortar fire was also heard throughout most of the afternoon of May 27 in the hills overlooking the city.

On the afternoon of May 22, rebels reportedly attacked a group of people working in their fields in Cibitoke's Ndava commune. There are indications that the attackers attempted unsuccessfully to take several hostages. On May 19, over 60 people were killed in a series of attacks in Cibitoke. Military authorities have reportedly sent large numbers of reinforcements to the area.

NGO's have also received a spate of death threats. CRS was forced to evacuate two staff members, one permanently, after they received written threats. The NGO is investigating the threats, but currently does not believe they are related to any political developments. Two weeks ago, Population Services International was forced to evacuate a staff member after learning of threats against the employee.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Suspected new cases of cholera continue to be reported by local health officials in Nyanza Lac. According to MSF-France, 319 cases of cholera and 28 deaths from the disease have been reported since March 17. WHO, UNICEF and MSF-France have provided medical supplies to combat the disease. Rebels have reportedly destroyed the pipeline supplying the town with fresh water and residents of the town have reportedly been reduced to drinking directly from the lake. To date, insecurity near the town has prevented international aid agencies from trucking in water or providing other direct aid.

WFP reports that it has sent 60 mt of maize meal and 20 mt of pulses to displaced populations in Vugizo commune in Makamba province. The food is sufficient for 10 day rations for 20,000 people. Numbers of displaced in Vugizo commune continue to grow. A joint WFP, DHA and CRS assessment of conditions in the commune on April 22-23 found nearly 10,000 displaced in the commune from recent fighting. However, WFP was told by local officials during an assessment mission the agency was conducting in Makamba province last week that the number of displaced was now closer to 21,000. The majority of the displaced reportedly work in the fields during the day, but return to the sites at night for further protection. The WFP mission also assessed conditions in Bururi and Rutana provinces and found that the majority of those displaced in these provinces during recent fighting have returned to their communes

WFP says that, based on a recent mission to Bururi and interviews with local officials, approximately 50,000 people are now living in designated sites in Bururi and Makamba provinces. Local officials told the agency that new sites are around the towns of Rumonge, Kigwena and Nyanza Lac. However, security concerns prevented the agency from independently verifying this information.

A massive mosquito infestation in northern Kirundo province has made some communities in the province practically inhabitable, and may be connected to the outbreak of an unknown illness affecting both humans and livestock, WHO says. The infestation has hit the commune of Bugabira hardest, but the communes of Kirundo, Busone, Ntega, and Vumbi have also been affected. A joint team from the Ministry of Health and WHO are currently investigating the outbreak. Local officials have told the health agency that out of a total population of 63,000,

4,039 people in Bugabira have fallen ill over the last month and 34 of them have since died. Livestock, including cattle, chickens, goats, and pigs, are also reported to be ill. WHO says that it has been told by local officials that 2,940 animals in Bugabira have died over the last month, and an additional 1,076 animals have been reported ill. The mosquitos have been identified as being of the culex and malaria bearing anopheles variety. Blood samples from the residents of the communities have been taken for further analysis.

In a May 19 report, FAO has warned that despite the relaxation of sanctions, the food supply situation in Burundi continues to be tight following a poor 1997 first season harvest and continuing civil strife. The aggregate food production of the 1997 first season crop was estimated at 1.2 million tons, 7 percent lower than in 1996 and 18 percent below the pre-crisis average for 1988-1993. FAO reports that it is in the process of coordinating NGO and UN partners the distribution of seeds for the 1997-C season. FAO will be assisted in this exercise by: ActionAid, Christian Aid, GVC, INTERSOS, VISPE, CRS, IFRC, World Vision, Oxfam-Quebec, ACF, CARE, WFP and UNHCR.

WHO says it has identified 168 new cases of typhus in Mutambu commune in Bujumbura Rural between May 5-16. The agency says it has provided drugs to the affected region. WHO, in collaboration with IFRC, has also provided drugs to combat a scabies outbreak in Ruyigi prison.

CRS reports that is assisting the Dutch medical NGO MEMISA conduct an evaluation on the feasibility of the Dutch organization providing medical supplies and seconding doctors and other professional medical staff to work in the provinces of Ruyigi, Gitega, Bururi and Bujumbura. MEMISA would work to support existing Church-based health programs. The Dutch NGO Disaster Relief Agency is also working with CRS and Caritas/Burundi to evaluate the possibility of supporting rehabilitation and small enterprise development programs in Burundi.

ActionAid reports that it is continuing its peace and rehabilitation programs in Ruyigi province. The agency attempts to foster community dialogue by providing material and organizational support for joint community efforts to reconstruct damage or destroyed houses.

World Vision has identified 8,000 children in Karuzi and Gitega provinces who, according to the NGO, are in urgent need of material support. The NGO has shipped 3,000 blankets to the province which the organization says will be distributed later this week. World Vision also says that it is evaluating both the need and possible distribution channels for used clothing for women and children in Gitega, Karuzi, Ngozi and Kayanza provinces. As part of its reconciliation program, the agency also continues to support ethnically mixed football matches between various neighbourhoods in Bujumbura.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Humanitarian agencies in Burundi are working to develop a joint plan to provide a return package to regrouped, displaced and other war-affected populations forced to live away from their home communities. The package would provide both an incentive and support for the affected populations to return to their homes. The government has pledged to close regroupment camps, although for the time being the regroupment policy remains in effect. Items provided in the return package would likely include 90 day food rations, vegetable seeds, fertilizer and non-food relief items such as blankets, soap, cooking pots and jerrycans. Return package distributions would be made, and the appropriate quantities of goods distributed, only after an assessment to determine the need for the goods being distributed.

The joint UNICEF, WFP, FAO, DHA report on conditions in IDP sites in 9 provinces has been translated into French and submitted to the government for comment. The Report on the Rapid Assessment of IDP sites in Burundi was carried out in consultation with the Ministry for Reintegration and Resettlement of Displaced and Repatriated Persons. The study provides a

snapshot of the location and size of sites for displaced persons in Bubanza, Bujumbura, Rural, Cibitoke, Gitega, Kayanza, Karuzi, Makamba and Muramvya provinces. Summary sections provide a general overview of the situation vis-a-vis food resources, agricultural production, hygiene, water, sanitation, health, education facilities, unaccompanied children and the types of humanitarian assistance provided to date.

On May 23, the Minister for Reintegration and Resettlement hosted a meeting with the Humanitarian Coordinator, DHA and the representatives of the lead agencies for the various humanitarian sectors. The Minister expressed the wish to meet with humanitarian agencies on a monthly basis and asked that representatives of the NGO community also be represented in such a forum.

[ENDS]

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Date: Wed, 04 Jun 1997 17:12:59 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi :people living outside their homes 97.6.4

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
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X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
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Burundi:People living outside their homes

The following table has been compiled from a variety of UN, NGO and governmental sources and indicate the number of Burundians no longer living in their homes in Burundi. The table should be considered a working draft and will be updated regularly.

Preliminary Summary of Affected Populations Living in Sites in Burundi

Province	Total No.	Site	% of Total	
Population	of Sites	Population	Population	
Bubanza	250,210	22	65,184	26%
Bujumbura*	660,498	35	35,338	5%
Bururi	435,240	16	44,564	10%
Cankuzo	157,535	4	3,254	2%
Cibitoke	313,137	13	57,428	18%
Gitega	625,017	15	20,997	3%
Karuzi	334,213	25	125,262	37%
Kayanza	491,506	21	109,523	22%
Kirundo	448,195	16	20,072	5%
Makamba	266,732	10	13,812	5%
Muramvya	487,736	23	46,017	10%
Muyinga	427,119	30	35,852	8%
Ngozi	535,978	14	21,530	4%
Rutana	219,360	3	3,977	2%
Ruyigi	281,524	12	4,118	2%
Total	**5,934,000	259	606,928	10%

*includes Bujumbura Rurale and Mairie de Bujumbura Total population figures according to 1990 census.

**This total comprises displaced persons, repatriated and regrouped persons. Of the total, some 275,846 are living in regroupment camps.

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 06 Jun 1997 10:59:37 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 28 May - 3 June 97 97.6.3

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
MAY 28 - JUNE 3

1. GENERAL

President Buyoya continues his program of visiting neighbouring countries to explain his efforts to move toward negotiations with rebel groups and push for the removal of regional sanctions against Burundi. During a one-day state visit to Kigali on May 28, President Buyoya told reporters that he was looking for support for his peace plan from other countries in the region. Referring to opposition to talks among some members of the student and military communities in Burundi, President Buyoya said that some opposition was to be expected in a country in which there was civil war and with a history of massacres and genocide. President Buyoya said that Rwandan and Burundian authorities were cooperating on a daily basis to improve security in the region but denied that he had reached a formal agreement with the Rwandan government to cooperate in the fight against Hutu rebels suspected of operating between the two countries.

Although the public acknowledgement of the peace talks in Rome may have cost President Buyoya support among some communities at home, they appear to have boosted his international legitimacy as a head of state. Over the reporting period, President Buyoya played host to an official state visit by the president of Burkina Faso, attended the OAU summit in Harare and witnessed the May 29 swearing-in ceremony of President Laurent Kabila in Kinshasa.

The UN Security Council has welcomed the decision of regional leaders to ease sanctions against Burundi and has given public support for the Burundian government's efforts to pursue a negotiated settlement to the country's civil war. In the May 30th statement, the Security Council also expressed "its deep concern at the involuntary resettlement of rural populations and calls upon the government of Burundi to allow the people to return without any hindrance."

Jean Minani, chairman in exile of the former ruling party FRODEBU, has threatened that his party will resort to violence if the Buyoya government does not restore peace and constitutional rule. Minani issued his threat in a letter sent to all heads of state attending the June 2 - 4 OAU summit in Harare. He said that "if an equitable solution is not achieved through the OAU and the international community, FRODEBU party will use all means, including the military

struggle, in order to bring its ideals to a successful conclusion." Minani fled to Tanzania following last year's coup. However, this threat does not have the support of leading FRODEBU members still in Burundi, who have expressed support, if somewhat guarded, for President Buyoya's peace moves.

The rector of the University of Burundi in Bujumbura announced June 2 that university authorities would annul the entire academic year. Students have refused to attend classes at the university since last month's public announcement that representatives of the Buyoya government were meeting secretly with CNDD representatives in Rome to discuss possible negotiations. However, following the threat to void the academic year, students said they would return to classes and use another method to protest the talks. If the institution is closed, the closure would affect some 1,500 students. First and second year university students are currently undergoing compulsory military training

In a May 29 ultimatum, The Tutsi youth group SOJEDEM (Solidarite Jeunesse pour la Defense des Droits des Minorites) said it would call for a strike and preparation to remove the current government if the military does not arrest President Buyoya and the Prime Minister within 15 days. The statement, signed by the organization's president, Deogratias Niyonzima, also called for the release of opponents of the Buyoya government currently being detained. SOJEDEM is often associated with Jean Baptiste Bagaza's PARENA party.

2. SECURITY

Throughout the week, mortar and other heavy weapons fire has been clearly audible in the capital, coming from the hills overlooking the city. Earlier in the week, fighting appeared to be centered in the Kiyenzi and Buhonga communities southeast of the city. By the end of the week, fighting had moved north towards the community of Gasenyi. On June 2, the military used small aircraft to bomb areas considered to be rebel strongholds in the capital's outskirts. To date there have been no reliable reports on the number of displaced or casualties from either side. This was the first time since last summer that sustained heavy fighting was clearly audible in Bujumbura.

A May 29-30 evaluation by UNDP of security conditions in Bururi province confirmed that security has been sufficiently reestablished in the province to allow staff from the agency's Continuum project to return. Continuum staff had been evacuated to Bujumbura in May following an upswing of hostilities in the province. The mission reported that access from Bururi to the town of Rumonge is also now possible.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

According to WHO, the mosquito infestation reported in Kirundo province (see May 21-27 sitrep) has led to a sharp rise in the number of reported malaria cases in the province. Between January and April, the number of cases of the disease reported by local health officials have approximately doubled in the health centers in Kirundo (from 435 to 861 cases), Ruhehe (from 432 to 799 cases) and Rukuramigabo (from 327 to 679 cases). WHO says the increase in malaria cases is much higher than could be accounted for simply by seasonal variations. The agency says one example of the severity of the disease is that 23 out of 29 (79%) of residents complaining of illness in the Rugasa community tested positive for malaria.

With financial support from UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health will spray affected areas and distribute anti-malarial drugs. WHO and UNICEF will also support the provision of a mobile health clinic to serve residents of the affected area, support training of local health workers on the treatment of malaria and support efforts to educate the population on measures that can be taken to prevent the disease.

In an effort to combat the on-going cholera epidemic in Nyanza Lac, UNICEF has provided water bladders to store 30,000 liters of clean drinking water in the town. The agency is also providing a water pump, water purification chemicals, 1,000 bars of soap, sufficient quantities

of oral rehydration salts for 1,000 people for 15 days and sterile equipment for intravenous rehydration. Italian Cooperation has also said it will provide a water truck to Burundian health authorities to help prevent the spread of disease in Nyanza Lac. At least 29 deaths in the town have been attributed to cholera since the first suspected cases of the disease in March. Rebels have reportedly destroyed the pipeline supplying the town with fresh drinking water and residents of the town had reportedly been reduced to drinking directly from the lake.

Two planes carrying approximately 70 mt of humanitarian aid from France arrived in Burundi May 29 and May 30. The planes carried milk and other nutritional supplies, medical supplies and non-food items such as soap, blankets and plastic sheeting. 62.25 mt was designated direct French- Burundian bilateral aid while the remaining supplies were shipped for the use of NGOs such as ACF, Secours Catholique and the Association France-Burundi.

In a May 29 statement issued from Geneva, UNHCR appealed to other countries in the Great Lakes not to force refugees to return to Burundi in view of continued insecurity in the country. The statement was issued following several massacres last month at sites in Cibitoke province housing displaced populations. "We have told the Burundi government that we are not promoting returns of refugees there because of unacceptable levels of violence in various parts of the country," a spokeswoman for the agency said. UNHCR in Burundi clarified that the agency is willing and able to help spontaneous returnees.

The UNHCR statement also voiced concern over the country's regroupment policy, and said that "rather than protecting refugees, regroupment centers leave them open to armed attack." The agency said that it was asking the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo not to immediately send back 200 Burundian refugees currently in a transit center near Kisangani. The Burundians had been part of a population of some 900 Burundian refugees living in the Kasese camp south of Kisangani before it was emptied by ADFL forces in April. It is unclear how many Burundian refugees remain in Zaire, but the agency believes the total is well under 40,000. Approximately 275,000 Burundian refugees remain in Tanzania and approximately 7,000 remain in Rwanda.

UNDP has launched a new \$1.8 million project to reinforce the capacity of the Ministry for Reintegration and Resettlement. The project is designed to help the ministry coordinate Burundian government programs to support war-affected populations of all ethnic groups as well as to support the return to their home communes of displaced, dispersed, regrouped and repatriated populations. Among other initiatives, the program will support grassroots education on hygiene and family planning, as well as support the reconstruction of housing and the improvement of water and sanitation systems.

CRS reports that it plans to begin June 15 a \$140,000 pilot community reintegration project to construct 50 houses in Rutana provinces and 50 houses in Bujumbura Rural province. The houses will be for Burundians who had been refugees in neighbouring countries, formerly displaced, formerly regrouped or others returning to their communes of origin. CRS, local church authorities and local officials will work together to determine beneficiaries. CRS says that an additional aim of the project is to promote reconciliation among all segments of the community.

WFP reports that it provided a 15 day ration of pulses and maize meal to 257 people in Kabarore commune in Kayanza province. The food was provided in wake of a hail storm which had destroyed fields in the commune. The agency also reports that it is continuing its regular program of assessments in Bubanza and Kayanza provinces.

UNESCO is organizing a series of meetings in which representatives of various political parties and other members of civil society will meet to discuss the roles education, culture, science and communications should play in Burundi. The initiative is entitled "Building for the Future in Burundi." The first meeting is scheduled for later this month.

An education specialist from UNESCO's Program of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER) is currently on a three week mission to Bujumbura. UNESCO PEER intends to prioritize education needs in the country and, with the help of implementing partners, to launch projects to benefit children victims of war. UNESCO PEER is also examining the possibility of starting other programs in the country.

The UN Human Rights Field Operation in Burundi (HRFOB) reports that through an invitation by the Ministry of Defense, two human rights observers from the mission participated in a military seminar in Gitega May 16 and 17 on discipline and conduct in military operations. The observers spoke before the seminar on the importance of soldiers respecting discipline and basic human rights during military campaigns.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

UN Humanitarian agencies working in Burundi have agreed on updated Terms of Reference for agencies which serve as coordinators in the major humanitarian sectors as well as in certain provinces where the humanitarian and/or security situation is especially acute.. Sectoral lead agencies are as follows:

Health
WHO

Food
WFP

Water & Sanitation
UNICEF

Non-food Items
UNICEF

Reintegration
UNDP

The designation of provincial lead agency is temporary and attributed to the agency with the strongest presence in the province in question.

[End]

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Date: Fri, 13 Jun 1997 18:00:07 +0300
From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 4-10 Jun 97 97.6.10

Sender: owner-irinwire@dha.unon.org
To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
MIME-version: 1.0
Precedence: list
X-Authentication-warning: ic.utando.com: uusasa set sender to
dha.unon.org!owner-irinwire using -f

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JUNE 4 - 10

1. GENERAL

After months of negotiation, ousted former president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya moved out of the US ambassador's residence where he had lived since he was overthrown by President Buyoya last July. Ntibantunganya moved into his own well-guarded residence overlooking Lake Tanganyika. After leaving the Ambassador's house, the former president read a prepared statement in which he said that the conflict in Burundi could only find a long term solution through global negotiations and without the exclusion of any party involved in the conflict. A statement on national radio said that Ntibantunganya's departure was agreed to "in the interest of the country."

The home of Charles Mukasi, president of the Tutsi-dominated UPRONA party, was searched June 5 by security forces. Mukasi told reporters that the security forces were looking for "subversive documents." The houses of other UPRONA leaders have also reportedly been searched. In recent weeks, Mukasi has issued a series of highly critical statements denouncing the government for meeting with the CNDD.

The Burundian national assembly ended its most recent session June 6, two months after the session opened. The reinstatement of the national assembly was one of the original conditions demanded by regional countries imposing economic sanctions against Burundi. However, the Assembly has not been able to carry out its functions since the self-exile of many of FRODEBU'S deputies and the boycott of its sessions by UPRONA have effectively denied it a quorum.

Participants in last week's OAU summit voiced support to President Buyoya's efforts to move toward negotiations but urged him to speed up the process of restoring constitutional rule. Buyoya said on his return to Bujumbura that there was clear support for the easing of economic sanctions against Burundi.

June 4 was the one year anniversary of the murder of three ICRC workers in Cibitoke. The occasion was marked by a moment of silence in the joint UN - NGO Contact Group meeting. Following the murders, ICRC pulled out of Burundi and has not re-established operations here.

2. SECURITY

A military escort vehicle accompanying the NGO African Humanitarian Initiative (IHA) was ambushed the morning of June 9 on RN - 5 three km north of Ndava in Cibitoke province. Two

soldiers in the vehicle were lightly injured. The escort vehicle was hit by both a grenade and automatic weapons fire but was able to continue. The minibus carrying the IHA workers was travelling directly behind the escort vehicle and was not hit. It is unclear who carried out the ambush. Observers note, however, that the ammunition used was similar to that used by soldiers of both the former Rwandan (ex-FAR) and former Zairian (ex-FAZ) military. UN missions to Cibitoke have been temporarily suspended and additional security measures for operations in the province are being considered.

The ambush in Cibitoke reflects a general decline in security in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces where attacks against displaced populations continue. Armed men attacked the Mitakataka camp (approx. pop.1,900) in Bubanza commune the nights of June 6 and June 7. Details of the attacks remain unclear but at least one person has been reported dead and an unknown number of shelters burned down. According to a report carried on state radio, some 200 of the camp's residents are unaccounted for and may have been kidnapped by the attackers. The camp is now reported to be empty.

Local press has also reported that a military transport truck was destroyed by an anti-tank mine in an unspecified location in Bubanza province on June 9. UN staff have been directed by UN security officials to keep movements in the province to an absolute minimum.

There are also reports that rebels ambushed a water truck June 4 between Mabanda and Nyanza Lac in Makamba province. The truck was one of the few sources of potable water in Nyanza Lac, and the commune is currently suffering from a cholera epidemic.

Fighting that had raged on the city's outskirts last week has since moved north as rebels moved in the direction of the Kibera forest. RN-1 to Muramvya was briefly closed to traffic June 4 but by noon of that day was re-open.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The United States government has issued a statement to clarify US policy on humanitarian assistance to affected populations in the country. Humanitarian assistance from the United States "should directly target those Burundians affected by the ongoing, low-level civil strife, by providing appropriate means of assistance (including, but not limited to, water, sanitation, health, food or shelter reconstruction) for an appropriate period of time after a well-documented assessment by the implementing agency has been undertaken. The focus of this assistance will be directed to Burundians living in the fifteen provinces; assistance can also be provided in the capital city, particularly if Government of Burundi policies preclude assistance for an affected ethnic group. As conditions in the provinces vary, the type of suitable assistance should be determined with the prevailing security and political climate of the province."

Between October 1996 and today, the US government has provided approximately \$6.4 million dollars in grant assistance to the medical sector in Ngozi, Karuzi, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Rutana and the city of Bujumbura; water and sanitation assistance to the forcibly regrouped in Karuzi; and home reconstruction assistance in Ruyigi. The US has also funded UN organizations operating in Burundi such as UNICEF, UNHCR, DHA and WFP.

Between January 1997 and May 1997, WFP also has received and distributed 8,296 mts of food commodities from the US government. According to WFP calculations, this represents 78.1 percent of total food commodities distributed by WFP in Burundi during that period.

In the company of Burundi's Secretary of State for Cooperation, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the WFP Country Director visited the province of Kayanza on 6 June to assess the regroupment issue. In his statements to the visitors, the Governor of Kayanza indicated that all regrouped populations in his province would be allowed to return in phases to their home communities by the end of September, 1997. Although he stated that the return operation would start soon, he could not give a definite date, nor indicate the magnitude of the first movements.

There are approximately 90,000 people living in eight regroupment sites in Kayanza, principally in the communes of Butaganzwa and Rango.

The Secretary of State also indicated to the other participants in the mission that the return of people from regroupment sites to their home communes was now a government priority throughout Burundi, wherever security conditions permitted. To date, however, there are no definite indications of a timetable for dismantling regroupment camps, other than, as described above, in Kayanza. Humanitarian agencies working in Burundi have drafted a joint plan to provide an assistance package to assist in the return of regrouped and other displaced populations. Contacts continue with local representatives of donor countries for the financing of this plan, which will also be included in the upcoming revision of the 1997 Consolidated Appeal for the Great Lakes region.

CARE International is preparing to launch a project in the communes of Kirundo, Vumbi and Gitobe in Kirundo province to provide assistance to displaced and returnees. The organization will also work in a yet to be determined commune in Muyinga province. The NGO says that a total of approximately 31,000 vulnerable individuals will benefit from the project. The project will include the rehabilitation of water systems, the reconstruction of schools and the distribution of non-food items. The project will be carried out with financial support from the Canadian government and program support from UNICEF.

With financing from UNDP, the Minister of Planning opened June 9 a five-day workshop on sustainable human development. One goal of the workshop was to start planning for a the drafting of a national report on progress in five areas of sustainable development in Burundi: promotion of women, the fight against poverty, job creation, the protection of the environment and governance. Components of the report will be used in the Burundi section of UNDP's annual World Human Development Report.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, WHO continues its efforts to combat the mosquito infestation and the resulting increase in malaria cases in Kirundo province. The agency says that between June 4-7, 2,589 patients in Bugabira commune were treated for malaria and five others required hospitalization for the disease. The agency is organizing public information seminars in Kirundo on malaria prevention methods. Over the reporting period, 11 sessions were held with 20 to 40 attendees in each session. The agency is preparing to treat some 7,500 affected houses with the insecticide Malathion.

The Norwegian Refugee Council reports that it is working with local authorities in Kirundo province to reconstruct 60 homes of formerly displaced people who have returned to their homes in Kirundo's Kitobe commune. The organization is also repairing the commune's health center and repairing wells and water supply systems throughout the province. The organization has provisional plans to build and rehabilitate approximately 700 homes in the same commune by mid 1998 as well as to repair up to ten wells and four water systems in the province.

Agreement in principle has been given by the Burundi authorities for the UN to organize an inter-agency assessment visit to Nyanza-Lac, which has been inaccessible to humanitarian agencies for several months on account of insecurity in the area. Contacts are underway to determine the route to take and the security that can be provided by the authorities.

Figures provided to WFP by local administrators from Nyanza Lac indicate that approximately 14,600 displaced persons are living among camps and dispersed among local residents in several villages in the commune. Reports from other sources indicate that there are six displaced sites in the commune of Nyanza Lac. In the town of Nyanza Lac, a total of approximately 7,500 displaced persons are reportedly living in two sites or dispersed among local residents. The agency says that it has received reports that there is adequate food available in the vicinity of the town and that limited lake traffic is continuing despite the on-going cholera epidemic. According to Burundian health officials, as of June 3, over 400 cases of cholera had been reported in Nyanza Lac with 35 fatalities from the disease.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education signed an agreement under which the Ministry will begin construction on 52 temporary classrooms serving some 5,000 children of displaced populations at seven sites in the town of Bujumbura and the province of Bujumbura Rural. UNICEF will provide plastic sheeting, \$30,000 worth of construction materials and \$13,000 worth of educational materials.

During the month of May, a total of 2,317 Burundian refugees returned spontaneously from Tanzania. This compares with a total of 2,408 who returned in April and 4,138 who returned to Burundi during the month of March according to UNHCR statistics.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

We note to our regret that the May 28- June 3 Situation Report omitted any mention of the UN/NGO sectoral coordination for agricultural assistance to vulnerable populations in Burundi. In keeping with its global mandate, FAO is the coordinator for international humanitarian organizations working in this sector. The table at the end of last week's report should therefore have read as follows:

Health WHO

Food & Agriculture WFP & FAO

Water & Sanitation UNICEF

Non-food Items UNICEF

Reintegration UNDP

In collaboration with the Ministry for Reintegration, UN agencies are planning a follow up of the joint assessment of IDP sites undertaken by UNICEF, WFP, FAO and DHA in February and March. The most affected provinces will be surveyed as follows: Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Karuzi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Cibitoke and Makamba. An initial priority of the follow up assessment will be to update statistics on site populations. These figures should be consolidated by the end of July. Information on priority needs will be collected and consolidated in a final joint report. The report will indicate key trends by drawing comparisons with the findings from the March report.

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 20 Jun 1997 11:13:43 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
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BURUNDI
UN HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JUNE 11 - 17

GENERAL

The ousted president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, who on June 7 left the American Ambassador's residence where he had been staying since last year's July 25 coup d'état, was prevented from holding a press conference in Bujumbura. He nonetheless gave several telephone interviews in which he indicated his support for the peace talks and his desire to participate in future negotiations. According to local press reports, FRODEBU (Front pour la Democratie au Burundi) issued a statement on June 12 in which the party voiced its satisfaction over the release of the former president.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Burundi will send a mission to Kinshasa to discuss the reactivation of the CEPGL (Communaute Economique des Pays de Grands Lacs). Apart from Congo, Burundi and Rwanda other participants may include Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

President Buyoya repeated his support for the creation of an international genocide tribunal for Burundi. Local press reported on June 17 that the Burundian Ambassador to the United Nations, H.E. Terence Nsanza, met with the Secretary General on May 27 to discuss the establishment of such a tribunal.

On June 17 the U.S. State Department's special coordinator for Burundi and Rwanda, Ambassador Richard Bogosian, arrived for a four day visit to hold talks with Burundian officials, including the Foreign Minister, Luc Rukingama.

The Foundation for Unity, Peace and Democracy organised a conference/debate on June 17 on the regroupment issue. Key speakers included the president of the Burundian Human Rights organisation Alteka@ and a representative of the Ministry of National Defence.

SECURITY

UN missions to Cibitoke were temporarily suspended after the June 9 incident near Ndava in Buganda commune of Cibitoke province in which a vehicle escorting the NGO IHA (Initiative Humanitaire Africain) was fired upon. In strict adherence with UN regulations, UNHCR resumed its missions on June 18. Security regulations stipulate the use of an armoured vehicle accompanied by two escort vehicles manned by twelve gendarmes. UN personnel are restricted from moving further than 50 meters from the vehicle while on the ground. Missions to Cibitoke have been limited to two per week for the time being.

Burundian state radio reported an incident in the commune of Rango in the province of Kayanza, where 883 huts in a regroupement camp located at Mpinga were reportedly destroyed by a fire on June 10. No further details were available.

Local press reports indicate that in the night of June 15 there was an attack in Gihanga, Bubanza province. According to the Achef de zone@ of Gihanga the attack left two dead and three seriously injured. Several houses were looted. Intervention by security forces prevented further deaths/damage.

AFFECTED POPULATIONS

An inter-agency assessment mission is scheduled to depart for Makamba and, security conditions permitting, will continue to Nyanza Lac. Mission members will include DHA, UNICEF and a UN security officer and is scheduled to take place from June 18 to 20. The mission will serve as a follow-up to the monitoring of the displaced situation in the province. Nyanza Lac has been recently affected by an outbreak of cholera.

WFP is planning the local purchase of 200 mt of bean seeds. FAO will coordinate the distribution. The seeds will be purchased in several provinces directly from local cooperatives or religious institutions involved in agricultural production. The seeds may also serve as contingency stock to be used in return packages.

FAO has been monitoring food and agricultural prices in Bujumbura on a weekly basis since the imposition of economic sanctions. It was noted that the weekly food expenditure of an average family has decreased during the last two weeks from FrBu 10,665 (late May) to FrBu 10,020 (13 June), mainly as a result of the incoming harvest. The pre-embargo level was estimated at FrBu 5,228 per week.

On June 13 and 14 the FAO emergency coordinator accompanied by the OFDA representative visited the provinces of Muramvya and Gitega to assess security conditions with a view to implementing new seed multiplication projects through U.S. NGOs. The general security situation was encouraging. The mission also observed good results from the 1997-B season in that local populations had benefited from a satisfactory beans and vegetables harvest.

FAO in conjunction with WFP will start a crop and food supply assessment mission on June 19th that will last about ten days and cover the entire country.

WHO continues its campaign against malaria in the north-eastern province of Kirundo. Treatment is being offered through use of mobile clinics. A total of 5,591 people were treated over the course of four days during the reporting period (4,108 people in three collines in Bugabira commune and 1,483 people in two collines in Ntega commune). 584 of 3,148 people had elevated temperatures and 632 blood tests were taken. In addition, 1,175 of 6,391 households in Bugabira commune were treated with the chemical malathion to combat the malaria epidemic.

ActionAid has received funding to support the re-construction/rehabilitation of 1,000 houses in Ruyigi province. The project will be carried out in all of Ruyigi's seven communes over the course of one year. The project will target the reinstallation of displaced and dispersed populations.

World Vision carried out a monitoring assessment from June 13 to 16 to the provinces of Gitega and Karuzi. Several regrouped and displaced camps were visited, including Rusamaza and Gasenyi regroupment camps and Karuzi Centre displaced camp. Overall conditions in the regrouped sites were very poor and signs of Kwashiorkor malnutrition were widely observed. In particular, mission members monitored the implementation of the UNICEF programme which targets unaccompanied children and children in especially difficult circumstances. The programme is implemented by a number of NGOs, including World Vision. World Vision intends to build on this project by starting to focus on the implementation of grass-roots income-generating activities for the families who have taken in unaccompanied children and

children in difficult circumstances. The projects will be largely in the agricultural and small livestock rearing sectors and will promote the self-reliance of these families.

World Vision also provides support through activities in the health sector, the promotion of peace and reconciliation programmes and the provision of non-food items. During the reporting period blankets were distributed to families with children in particularly difficult circumstances in Kibimba (Gitega province) and Karuzi Centre. In addition, the Gitega Mission's Home for Physically Handicapped children also benefited from a distribution.

COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

On June 11 the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) convened a meeting attended by representatives of the local diplomatic community, donors, and heads of UN agencies and NGOs. The HC briefed the participants on his June 6 visit to Kayanza with the Burundian Secretary of State for Cooperation and the WFP country director. During the visit the governor gave indications as to the possibility of the return of regrouped populations by the end of September. The meeting was used as a forum to discuss preparations to be taken by the humanitarian community to best assist in facilitating the return of these people. The participants felt that no concrete action should be taken before a formal written announcement is made by the central government indicating a strategy outlining a time-frame and other practical modalities. The acting Humanitarian Coordinator will meet and discuss this matter with governmental authorities during the upcoming week.

The U.S. government clarified that food and non-food resources donated by the U.S. may be provided to regrouped populations who are allowed to return to their original home sites. However, they may not be provided to regrouped populations who are not allowed to return to their original home site, despite their desire to do so. Specifically, U.S. food and non-food resources cannot be used to support policies implementing villagisation on a non-voluntary basis in Burundi.

The UN community would be prepared to assist with the provision of return packages for an initial 15,000 people. The package includes food and non-food items provided primarily by WFP, UNHCR and FAO (for agricultural inputs). Should more people be in a position to return to their homes, it will be necessary to mobilise further resources.

DHA/HCU has prepared an updated table for the month of June that provides an overview of humanitarian stocks by sector and category that are currently in the country and in the pipeline (see attachment). It should be noted that these stocks are not necessarily available for emergency distributions as some are already allocated to ongoing programmes.

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JUNE 18 - 24

GENERAL

The summit to re-launch the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (Communaute Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs - CEPGL) is now scheduled to commence on 26 June in Kinshasa. A Burundian delegation including Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama will attend the meeting at which security and commercial activities in the region will be discussed.

The UNESCO sponsored conference "Building the Future of Burundi" which was scheduled to take place in Geneva from 30 June to 2 July has been postponed for technical reasons.

For the first time in ten months, WFP was able to transport via barge commodities from Kigoma, Tanzania to Bujumbura. Restrictions linked to the embargo had prevented WFP from making use of this more efficient and cost-effective route. The first consignment consisting of 400 mt of food commodities arrived June 15.

The Burundian Minister of Commerce and Industry traveled to Kigali and Dar es Salaam to discuss interpretations of the last Arusha accord in regard to the lifting of the embargo on certain items. In particular, clarification was sought on technicalities regarding the transportation of goods.

The Secretary of State for Public Security met with a visiting South African parliamentarian to discuss the situation in Burundi and the embargo. According to local press reports, the South African official spoke out in favor of the complete lifting of the sanctions.

In light of the upcoming 35th anniversary of Burundi's independence on 1st July, Information Minister Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye reaffirmed in a radio broadcast that the government stood behind negotiations since "political dialogue among all Burundians is the only true driving force underlying the peace process".

Burundi's UNICEF representative, Michel Sidibe, gave a press briefing on 20 June at UN Headquarters in New York on the situation in Burundi. He spoke about the precarious living conditions in many of the camps that were exacerbated by the lack of hygiene, sanitation, access to potable water, health care and education as well as limited access to food due to restricted access to land and resulting reduction of agricultural production. He stated that the malnutrition rate among children had doubled from 6 to 12 percent since 1993.

U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Richard Bogosian, completed his round of talks in Burundi. He concluded that overall officials he met supported the national reconciliation process and did not favor a military solution.

President Buyoya has written a letter to the UN Secretary General indicating that regrouped populations would be allowed to return as long as security conditions permitted. He indicated that some people were already returning from Kayanza and Muramvya.

SECURITY

Insecurity and sporadic attacks continue in the communes of Bubanza and Bururi. On June 17 a rebel attack occurred in Ngara in Bubanza province but no precise information was available although national radio reported 14 civilians killed. In Gihanga a rebel attack left six injured on 19 June. The same day, a vehicle traveling in the area on RN 5 was ambushed and its passengers were robbed.

An anti-tank mine exploded on June 21 about 100 meters off the RN 9 from Bujumbura towards Bubanza on a dirt road frequently used by the NGO Equilibre. UN missions in Bujumbura rural require a military escort when traveling on dirt roads.

In Rumonge in Bururi province an ambush on a minibus on 20 June resulted in two killed and six injured. The minibus was set on fire. On 21 June rebels attacked Rumonge town and abducted four people. The same day 15 houses were burnt in Gitsiro, livestock was stolen and a military post was attacked at Murembe. One rebel was reported killed during the latter attack.

The evening of 17 June three armed men attacked a Belgian woman as she was pulling into her driveway in Bujumbura. Her belongings and the vehicle were stolen; the vehicle was later recovered. Expatriates were also targeted on 22 June when a group of UN staff were robbed at gun-point while visiting the Ruzizi National Park, a few km from Bujumbura.

An international NGO staff member received a written threat and left the country. This marks the fourth such threat against an expatriate staff in six weeks.

AFFECTED POPULATIONS

A mission comprised of representatives from UNICEF, DHA/HCU and the UN security cell travelled to Makamba from June 18 to 19 to follow up on previous visits to monitor the displaced situation. The mission was not able to proceed to Nyanza Lac as planned for security reasons. Discussions with the governor indicated that the security situation in the province has improved somewhat since April. However, tension persisted in the Nyanza Lac area and in some of the outlying communes. The road to Nyanza Lac was also not yet fully secured. Telephone services between Makamba and the rest of the country have been cut off since March.

Displaced who had previously sought refuge in the town of Makamba have virtually all returned. Sites still exist in Vugizo and Mabanda; however, people primarily gather at night for protection while they have been able to resume working in the fields during the day. According to the governor, first results from the incoming harvest are good. MSF France remains the only NGO with a permanent field presence in Makamba and continues to support to the provincial hospital and provides drugs to outlying health centers.

From 17 May to mid June 445 cases of cholera were registered at Nyanza Lac and there have been 24 fatalities. Most of the infected are from nearby displaced camps. Although control is being gained over the epidemic, thanks to a joint effort between the Ministry of Public Health, WHO, UNICEF, and MSF France, the overall situation still remains alarming. The regular water supply remains cut off since rebels sabotaged the pipes at the end of April, health centers have been looted and are now non-functional and most schools have stopped running. Needs

remain high regarding the provision of potable water, food and health care. In order to prevent a further deterioration of the situation, clean water must be provided not only to the displaced but also to 80,000 inhabitants of Nyanza Lac who have to resort to drinking contaminated water from the lake. While awaiting the repair of the pipes, WHO and UNICEF will provide 3 or 4 water tanks.

According to the governor, 14,608 displaced are gathered at six sites in or around the town of Nyanza Lac. The total displaced population in the province (with the addition of the displaced population in Vugizo -19,125, Mabanda - 1,360 and Makamba -121) now totals 35,214.

WHO continues to monitor the typhus epidemic and field visits to this effect were conducted from 17 to 23 June during which a total of 3,642 new cases were registered in the accessible zones of Muramvya, Ngozi, Kayanza and Gitega. This brings the total number of cases to 32,466. From June 9 to 13, 488 kg of permethrine supplied by IFRC was used to disinfect clothing in fourteen displaced camps in four communes in Kayanza. A national campaign covering ten affected provinces is scheduled to take place from July 2 to 11. WHO has provided 197,000 tablets of Doxycycline to the Ministry of Public Health as well as USD 28,360 to cover fuel and other costs.

From June 19 to 20, a WHO mission visited Ruyigi prison to follow up on the treatment of scabies for those among the 483 inmates that are infected. So far, 179 of the 311 people treated have been healed. The disinfection of clothing has been difficult to carry out because the people do not have a second set of clothes which has increased the chance of reinfection. WHO in cooperation with IFRC and MSF Belgium assisted the provincial health department with 16 cartons (768 pieces) of soap, 45 liters of benzyl de benzoate and 100 blankets.

WHO also provided assistance to displaced sites at Kigoboye and Bukeye in Muramvya province during a 17 June mission. A visit was paid to the public health center at Busangana which covers the needs of five sites with a total of 13,500 people (Kibogoye with 5,863 people, Bukeye with 1,887 people, Nyamirambo with 2,878 people, Ruvumu with 2,688 people and Rusalenda with 161 people.) WHO provided drugs for the health center and a mobile clinic to assist populations who live further from the center. The mobile clinic visits Kigoboye every Friday; severely malnourished children are brought to the therapeutic feeding center in Muramvya. There is also a private health center at Bukeye (unaffordable for the displaced); an additional center at Rusalenda was destroyed and is now non-functional.

A ten-day UNICEF supported workshop was completed in Kirundo. The workshop focused on training sanitation technicians and health officials in regard to improved ways and means of malaria prevention. UNICEF provided per diem and transportation for the 18 participants who represented all communes. WHO and the Ministry of Health also provided support. The latter has mobile clinic which provides UNICEF supplied fansidar and quinine to health centers and insecticide to provincial sanitation technicians. UNICEF also continues with the provision of potable water. During the week 392,000 liters of water were supplied to 27,000 IDPs in Bubanza and Bujumbura rural. Finally, UNICEF marked the day of the African Child (June 16) with a press conference, and festivities at Bujumbura stadium that included skits, speeches and traditional song and dance.

FAO in collaboration with NGOs participating in the Coordination Committee for the Agricultural Sector is preparing a report on the 1997-B season seeds and tools distributions and their impact on vulnerable populations.

A FAO/WFP crop forecast and food supply assessment mission arrived on 23 June to assess the food security situation in the country. FAO included for the first time a nutritionist because of the deteriorating nutritional situation that needs to be addressed.

ACF (Action Contre la Faim) is preparing to undertake a nutritional study in sites in the province of Kayanza. The field work will take two to three weeks.

UNHCR marked African Refugee Day (20 June) on Saturday, 21 June, with a marathon, volleyball and football matches and a reception in Bujumbura.

WFP is continuing a series of food security assessments in the provinces of Bubanza and Kayanza.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Pierce Gerety, arrived June 23 for a four day visit. His schedule includes meetings with government officials and representatives from the diplomatic, UN and NGO communities as well as field trips to Bubanza and Kayanza provinces.

UNICEF has renounced its role as lead agency in the non-food sector in light of its leadership commitments in other sectors (e.g. water/sanitation) and its limited capacity in the non-food sector. However, UNICEF will continue to participate in the planning and implementation of activities in the non-food sector under the coordination of another organisation. Discussions are underway as to who will now assume this role.

[ENDS]

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JUNE 25 - JULY 1

1. GENERAL

On June 26 President Buyoya convened a meeting with representatives of the UN agencies and the diplomatic corps. His presentation focused mainly on outlining his continued support for the peace process, in particular the national debate and external negotiations. He also expressed his willingness to work with a mediator. He urged for the lifting of the embargo and for the establishment of an international genocide tribunal for Burundi. He emphasised that the regroupement was not a government policy but was primarily a security measure taken to protect innocent civilians. People would be able to start returning to secure zones as from now; the return was planned to be completed by September, before the beginning of the next planting season.

President Moi announced on June 27 that he would authorise the resumption of fuel imports to Burundi. He also indicated that commercial Kenya Airways flights would be allowed to resume. However, it remains to be determined whether neighbouring countries will grant overflight clearance and/or authorisation for fuel to pass through their countries.

President Buyoya traveled to Kinshasa on June 30th to participate in ceremonies commemorating the Democratic Republic of Congo's Independence anniversary.

On July 1, Burundi celebrated its 35th anniversary of Independence with a military parades, speeches and general festivities in Bujumbura. President Buyoya declared the following day a national holiday.

2. SECURITY

On June 30 at about 22h30 an anti-tank mine exploded in the Kiriri district of the capital, close to a restaurant frequented by expatriates. The mine was detonated when struck by a car carrying the wife of the President of the National Assembly. The woman suffered minor injuries while the driver was seriously injured and a gendarme who was traveling in the vehicle was killed. The mine was planted on a dirt road, about five metres off a main tarmac road. The mine marks the eleventh mine to have exploded in the capital since the first explosion occurred on March 12. The last detonation in Bujumbura city occurred on April 14.

Bubanza province remains marked by heightened insecurity. On June 24, in the commune of Musigati, rebels destroyed a power line and a truck drove over an anti-tank mine. (The number

of deaths and/or injuries could not be confirmed). The same day, a child and a soldier were seriously injured when an anti-personnel mine detonated in the commune of Rugazi. On June 26, a further anti-tank mine explosion in Gihanga commune claimed the lives of eight soldiers and four civilians traveling in a pick-up. Considering the force of the explosion, it is believed that the vehicle drove over two anti-tank mines that had been placed side by side.

Ten persons were reported kidnapped in Rumonge in Bururi province during a rebel attack on June 25.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

FAO in close cooperation with governmental, NGO and UN partners is planning the seeds and tools distributions for the forthcoming season (1998-A, i.e. from September 1997 to January 1998). 1,470 mt bean seeds, 1,410 kg vegetable seeds and 228,567 hoes (of which IFRC contributed 16,000) are currently in the pipeline. FAO recently also received 160 kg vegetable seeds from the Netherlands to be distributed during 1997-C season.

FAO has started a round of consultations with UN, governmental and NGO partners to establish a common purchasing procedure for agricultural inputs. FAO is already assisting the Ministry of Resettlement, WFP, UNHCR, CARE, Christian Aid and CRS to purchase bean seeds.

The WFP country director, FAO emergency coordinator and DHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer visited Bubanza in order to assess the situation in a number of displaced camps and plan a joint distribution of vegetable seeds and food to malnourished IDPs.

The International Federation of the Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, Dorcas Aid, Austrian Relief Programme and GVC will participate in the FAO coordinated Seed Multiplication Programme. Since the programme was first implemented during the 1997-A season, land cultivated has increased from 37 ha to an estimated 300 ha for the 1998-A season. The programme includes assistance to ISABU (Institut des Sciences Agronomique du Burundi) to multiply pre-base seeds. The programme is implemented in Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Cankuzo, Gitega, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana.

The French NGO ACF (Action Contre La Faim) continues to carry out its nutritional programme in four Bujumbura hospitals in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF. Nutritional feeding to children under five is also provided in two health centers in Bujumbura rural (Gatumba and Maramvya) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WFP and UNICEF. ACF also provides essential drugs and training to health center staff. The health centers at Mubone and Kabezi remain inaccessible for security reasons. The therapeutic feeding center at Maramvya is run in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and is supported by Italian Cooperation (provision of water), UNICEF (water, food), GVC (supply of drugs), WFP (food), Oxfam UK and Christian Aid (NFI). The center targets primarily populations mostly originally from Bubanza that are emerging from the forest after months in hiding. At the end of June about 300 people were receiving therapeutic feeding and about 1,100 were enrolled in the supplementary feeding programme. The center was set up with help from IFRC. A vaccination campaign has also recently been initiated. ACF also continues with its nutritional feeding programme in ten health centers in Kayanza. Staff training and the monitoring of market prices also remains a priority. About 80 people were benefiting from therapeutic feeding and 630 from supplementary feeding in Kayanza.

The international NGO Dorcas Aid in collaboration with the International Bible Society and UNHCR is carrying out a quick impact project in the community of Ruziba. The project began the week of June 16 and will continue through two planting seasons. It will assist 50 families, both displaced and repatriated, through the provision of gardening plots on three hectares of land owned by the Eglise Evangelique d'Afrique Centrale. The objective of the project is to enable the families to grow their own food and provide them with some income through the sale of any surplus.

Dorcas Aid has also supported the bean seed multiplication work of DPAAE (Departement Provincial de l'Agriculture et d'Elevage, i.e. the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock) in Rutana for the second consecutive planting season. In season A (September 1996 through January 1997) ten hectares were harvested with a total yield of 3,974 kg. In season B (February through June 1997) 26 hectares of beans were planted at Busiga research station. 200 farmers involved in this seed multiplication scheme are currently harvesting the beans. This harvest will be used in support of similar schemes during the next planting season in Rutana and other provinces.

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is continuing its emergency programme with food distributions in Cibitoke and Bujumbura. ADRA is also assisting the Humanitarian Health Center in Bujumbura with support from UNHCR. The NGO is also continuing with the rehabilitation of houses in Kamenge and nine quarters in Bujumbura. It also continues to assist a handicapped center in Nyanza Lac.

ADRA is planning to distribute non-food items in Cibitoke (in the communes of Buganda, Rugombo and Mugina). 500 houses and several health centers are also planned to be rehabilitated in Cibitoke through a food for work programme.

UNHCR reports that Burundian refugees are spontaneously crossing the border from Tanzania to Muyinga at a rate between 100 and 300 per day.

4. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

The humanitarian community is carefully monitoring the situation in Karuzi where humanitarian sources reported that 8,000 people have been transferred from Bugenyuzi regroupement camp to Masabo commune. This transfer has apparently allowed people to be closer to their original homes which may enable them to resume agricultural activities on their own land. The preliminary return of populations is also being watched closely in Kayanza. The U.S. Ambassador and OFDA will undertake a joint mission to Gatore commune in Kayanza on July 2 to review the return of people from Gisyo camp. DHA in conjunction with FAO plans to visit sites in Rango commune in the same province during the upcoming week.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 11 Jul 1997 11:41:39 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 2 - 9 Jul 97 97.7.11

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JULY 2 - JULY 9

1. GENERAL

President Buyoya told an Independence Day rally July 1 that his government would soon enter direct talks with armed groups in order to end the country's civil war. "We will start negotiations openly with armed groups and all political parties, but we will never forget the reservations of some Burundians about these negotiations," Buyoya told a crowd of about 20,000. He gave no date for the start of the talks. Buyoya also said that he would also increase the size of the military and increase its technical abilities. UPRONA chairman Charles Mukasi told journalists that he boycotted the celebration because the government tried to muzzle him for his opposition to negotiations. Senior FRODEBU officials boycotted the event, arguing that ethnic Hutus were effectively barred from state functions.

A Tanzanian delegation under the auspices of the former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere arrived in Burundi July 4 for a three day visit to discuss preparations for possible future negotiations between parties to the conflict in Burundi. According to reports carried in local press, formal talks may start later this month. The format of the talks is still unclear. Local press reports indicate that political questions concerning a resolution of the conflict may be discussed in Arusha while military issues pertaining to the conflict may be discussed in Rome under the auspices of the San Egidio Catholic community.

Burundi's Supreme Court restarted the trial July 4 of 79 people charged with killing former president Melchoir Ndadaye and participating in the October 1993 attempted coup. Francois Ngeze, named president for two days after Ndadaye's death, denied prior knowledge of the coup and said that he would have been killed if he had declined the post. Former army chief of staff, Col. Jean Bikomagu, also denied being involved in Ndadaye's murder. A 1996 UN report accused Bikomagu of handing Ndadaye to the soldiers who killed him. The trial is being conducted in Kirundi and has been adjourned until September.

2. SECURITY

Mine incidents continue with an upswing in the number of confirmed anti-tank and anti-personnel mine attacks over the last two weeks in both Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza. At least 6 confirmed mine explosions have been confirmed over the last fourteen days. In Bubanza, there are unconfirmed reports of an increase in military casualties from anti-personnel mines.

In light of the increase in mine attacks and other security incidents, all UN missions to Cibitoke and north of Gihanga in Bubanza must be undertaken in an armoured vehicle, escorted by two light vehicles containing a minimum of ten soldiers. UN missions to the area are to be limited to two per week. UN officials also note that military authorities are becoming increasingly reluctant to share information on security-related incidents.

Fighting continues in Cibitoke's Murwi commune. A military spokesman told reporters that over 200 rebels were killed in skirmishes between the Palipehutu and CNDD rebel groups. There has been no independent verification of the claim, and a CNDD spokesman contacted by wire services in Brussels denied all knowledge of any such clash. Other press reports indicate that Palipehutu rebels killed at least 26 Hutu civilians during clashes that began July 2 in the Buhindo zone of Murwi commune. Approximately 2,500 people have reportedly fled Buhindo to Buhinyuza in Rugombo commune. UN security guidelines prevent UN staff from visiting Murwi commune, making independent confirmation of the events difficult.

Several dozen nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrated in front of the UNHCR office in Bujumbura July 8, demanding refugee status in Burundi, and seeking the agency's protection. The UNHCR representative in Burundi said that the Burundian government could determine their refugee status while UNHCR assisted vulnerable asylum seekers, pending the determination of their status. There are approximately 800 nationals of the former Zaire who are currently in Burundi, according to the Burundian government's commission for eligibility of refugees. The head of the Burundian agency told reporters that his government would have to make inquiries to see if those in the country would face problems if they returned home.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

In a mission organized by US Embassy, the American ambassador, OFDA, World Vision and UNICEF conducted a joint mission to the former Gisyo regroupment site in Kayanza province. Until late June, the site had housed up to 16,000 people. Most of these residents have since been allowed to return to their original homes. Approximately 100 people remain at the Gisyo site. Those who remain were identified by the commune administrator as being Twa. The administrator said they would be allowed to return at a later date.

The mission visited families who were among those recently resettled into their homes. The children appeared to be in good medical condition with no obvious signs of malnutrition or other medical conditions. Returnees reported that most belongings, including kitchen equipment, furniture and beds, had been stolen from their homes. In order of priority, returnees expressed a need for the following goods: roofing material, medicine (particularly for skin ailments), food and agricultural implements and educational materials.

The governor repeated to the mission that he would like to see people leaving regroupment sites settle near roadsides. However, those who left the Gisyo site were allowed to return to their original home sites even if they were not near a road. When asked what would be done for those not living near a motorable road, the governor replied that new roads would be constructed at a later date.

Although President Buyoya has stressed his intention to close regroupment camps, regroupment policies and time tables for action appear to be decentralized and to be largely in the hands of local governors. To date, UN agencies in Burundi have not received from the government any official correspondence indicating a precise calendar for the dismantlement of the camps, or a formal request for assistance for those who have returned from regroupment camps.

On July 7, FAO, DHA and Christian Aid conducted a joint mission to Rwegura zone in Kayanza province. The mission was conducted in light of reports of an exodus of individuals in poor general condition from the Kibera forest. Those emerging from the forest arrived at the site

after escaping fighting in Cibitoke province. The mission estimated that there are approximately 700 individuals at the site, most of whom arrived in March and April. Current residents of the site claimed that 10 to 15 new residents were now arriving each day, many of whom were living with local families in the vicinity of the site. UNHCR has already distributed jerry cans, plastic sheeting, blankets and other non-food relief items to site residents. On June 23, WFP distributed 30-day rations to the population.

Site residents do not have any access to surrounding land and are completely dependent on the humanitarian community for assistance. The mission found evidence of acute malnutrition among adults and children. While moderately malnourished children and adults are provided basic assistance at the site by local sisters supported by Caritas, ACF sends a mobile team to the site on a weekly basis to transport severely malnourished to their therapeutic feeding center in the town of Kayanza. Nevertheless, according to mission participants, site residents' nutritional needs are still not being completely met. UNICEF has been alerted and will conduct its own assessment of the situation.

ACF expects to open a supplementary and therapeutic feeding center in Rango commune in Kayanza province later this month. The center will provide care to approximately 100 malnourished individuals. The NGO already operates two other feeding centers in Kayanza with a total capacity of 250 patients.

World Vision reports that it is preparing proposals for donors for its unaccompanied children's programs in Gitega and Karuzi. The NGO would like to de-emphasize direct material support for the children in favour of income generating projects such as vegetable farming and the raising of chickens and pigs. The agency will also re-examine the mechanics of its unaccompanied children's programs in Ngozi and Kayanza. In addition, World Vision is assessing the needs of the Twa community north of Gitega. The organization found that only approximately 14 percent of the Twa children under the age of 15 were attending school. According to UNICEF, the gross attendance rate throughout all of Burundi in 1996 was approximately 48 percent.

World Vision also reports that its Jabe medical clinic is treating patients that have not been able to receive treatment at Bujumbura's Prince Regent Hospital. Medical staff at the hospital have been on strike for over a week over wages and other benefits. The Prince Regent hospital remains open only for medical emergencies.

UNICEF will relaunch on July 18 its vaccination campaign in Cibitoke province. The agency was forced to suspend its vaccination program in the province following the June 9 ambush in Cibitoke of a convoy carrying NGO workers. Approximately 20,000 children under five will receive polio, DPT, measles and BCG vaccines.

Two national consultants working for Africare will conduct surveys throughout the country on the attitude of the general population toward democracy and democracy education. In late July and early August, Africare will organize a series of seminars, workshops, plays and other activities that will be designed to promote a better understanding of the Democratic process in the Burundian society. The program is funded by USAID. The events will be arranged with the help of local NGOs and will be conducted in Gitega, Karuzi, Kirundo, Kayanza and Bujumbura. The activities are part of a year-long project to improve the quality of life in Burundi by increasing grass roots participation in the reconciliation and democratic process.

MSF-Belgium has completed an anti-measles vaccination campaign in 13 sites in Karuzi containing displaced and regrouped populations. MSF-B estimates that it vaccinated 44,227 children between the ages of six months and 12 years, a coverage rate of 98.5 percent according to the NGO. In May, MSF-Holland vaccinated 28,834 children against measles in seven camps in Kayanza province. The vaccination campaigns were conducted with the support of UNICEF and local public health authorities.

In its periodic assessment of local food and agricultural prices, FAO says that the weekly food expenditure of the average family continues to increase: 10,803 FrB (July 4). This represents an increase of nearly 400 FrB over the previous week.

In a \$2.25 million emergency program funded by OFDA, IRC is working to construct temporary water and sanitation systems in regroupment camps in Karuzi province. MSF-Belgium had been the primary international humanitarian organization providing emergency water and sanitation needs in the camps but, in order to concentrate on health programs, MSF will transfer responsibility in these sectors to IRC. IRC has begun work in Bihemba camp (pop. 11,000) where the NGO is constructing approximately 500 family latrines of which 100 have already been constructed.

In a separate project in Muyinga province, funded by UNHCR and ECHO, IRC is building family latrines and reconstructing existing water supply systems at the Nonwe (pop. 3,800) and Gisanze (pop. 1,600) displaced sites. Later this month, the agency will begin to rehabilitate existing water supply systems serving IDP camps in Kirundo province.

WHO, in conjunction with IFRC and national health authorities, is launching a week-long national campaign to provide insecticide to typhus-affected communities. The agency says that the provinces of Muramvya, Gitega, Kayanza, Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi and Cibitoke have all suffered outbreaks of the disease. The campaign will visit sites in all provinces affected by the disease, with the exception of those in Cibitoke and Bururi where security considerations preclude visits.

MSF-Switzerland reports that it has provided Gitega hospital with three months worth of medical supplies. The goods were supplied in collaboration with Save the Children Fund. SCF continues to import periodic supplies of medical supplies for health centers in Muramvya and Gitega, the two provinces in which the agency is operational.

4. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

A shortage of therapeutic feeding supplies such as corn-soy blend (CSB) and dried skin milk (DSM) have diminished the ability of humanitarian organizations operating in the nutrition sector to serve their beneficiaries. Agencies working in the sector include ACF, MSF, Caritas and IHA. According to UNICEF, in some areas in Burundi, one out of five children are malnourished. Agencies operating in the nutrition sector will meet July 14 to project overall needs in the sector.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Tue, 15 Jul 1997 09:53:46 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
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Burundi: Amnesty International on regroupment 15 Jul 97 97.7.15

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BURUNDI: ETHNIC "REGROUPMENT" TAKES PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF MASSACRES

Since February 1996, the Burundian authorities have forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to leave their homes and live in camps, creating a new category of displaced persons known as regroupe's. This terrible process has led to massacres of hundreds of men, women and children, Amnesty International said today as it launched a new report on Burundi.

"This regroupment policy applies almost exclusively to the Hutu ethnic group which is effectively trapped in appalling and life-threatening conditions in the camps or which becomes a military target outside the camps," Amnesty International said.

The new report-- Burundi: Forced relocation, new patterns of human rights abuses-- documents human rights abuses which have characterized the policy.

The Government of Burundi claims that the camps are for the inhabitants' own protection, that they are voluntary, that regroupment applies to all ethnic groups equally, and that it is a short-term measure. However, Amnesty International has received numerous testimonies which show that, in the majority of cases, the local Hutu population was moved into the camps by force or coercion. The first regroupment camp was set up in February 1996 by the governor of Karuzi province. Subsequently, camps have been set up in a number of other provinces where armed opposition groups have been active. There are strong indications that the camps are part of a long-term military strategy of forcible relocation to undermine support for Hutu rebel groups.

"A pattern of mass human rights violations committing during or after the process of regroupment undermines any argument that this regroupment provides protection," the organization said.

In late June, Major Pierre Buyoya, the president of Burundi, announced on state radio that those in regroupment camps should go home where security permitted. However, there is little evidence that there has been a change in the policy and with the exception of Kayanza province where inhabitants of one camp have been allowed to return home, the population remains confined to the camps. Those who have left the camp have been resettled along roads; some sources fear this is a continued attempt to control the population. Estimates for the total number of people confined in regroupment camps vary; independent estimates range from 350,000 to 500,000.

During regroupment operations, security forces and allied Tutsi militia have been accused of killings, house destruction, looting and rape. In January and February up to 122 people, including a 70-year-old man and six children are reported to have been killed in Rutegama commune, Muramyva Province. At the same time, 272 people who had not regrouped, including an 81-year-old woman and a six-year-old child, were reportedly killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ninga zone. Whole families were slaughtered.

In many cases house destruction, carried out by soldiers sometimes accompanied by members of Tutsi militias, appears to have taken place to make it impossible for the inhabitants to return to their homes. In other cases, particularly in Karuzi and Bururi provinces, Hutu have reportedly been forced to burn down their homes before being shunted to regroupment camps.

"This policy of segregation will serve to increase political, social and economic disparities and tensions between the two ethnic groups," Amnesty International said. "If regroupment continues it will have a disastrous impact on the human rights situation in Burundi."

Inside the regroupment camps, movement is restricted for inhabitants. In some cases, as in Kayanza province, initially people were not allowed to leave the camps at all. Restrictions on freedom of movement show the crucial difference between the regroupment camps, whose inhabitants are mainly Hutu, and the displaced camps, whose inhabitants are predominantly Tutsi. For instance, in Kayanza Province two such camps are effectively divided by a tiny barrier, yet those in the camp for the displaced may, if they wish, move freely in and out of the camps and leave to return to their homes. Unconfirmed reports allege that in several instances, people trying to leave regroupment camps without authorization have been shot.

Amnesty International has received consistent reports of a number of apparent "disappearances". On arrival in the camps, many people were allegedly asked to denounce those who may be involved in armed opposition. As a result, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions may have routinely occurred. Furthermore, conditions inside the camps are appalling and have led to rises in the incidence of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections. A typhus epidemic which broke out in Burundi earlier this year appeared to be concentrated in regroupment camps in affected provinces, its transmission facilitated by the conditions.

"In a war which is being played out largely on ethnic lines what effectively amounts to the isolation of ethnic groups into definable areas makes them vulnerable to attack," Amnesty International said.

In the last few months, hundreds of people were killed or wounded in attacks on regroupment camps. It is sometimes difficult to confirm the identity of the attackers. While the government accused members of Hutu armed groups, other credible sources have reported that some attacks were committed by government soldiers, sometimes in reprisal for attacks by Hutu dominated armed opposition groups.

While Tutsi civilians may see the Tutsi-dominated security forces as a source of protection, the security forces have a 30-year history of massacring unarmed civilians, mostly members of the majority Hutu ethnic group. Since October 1993, more than half a million people have been forced to abandon their homes. While displaced Tutsi have largely fled to displaced people's camps protected by the military, Hutu who have fled their homes have mostly sought shelter away from camps. Conditions in camps for the displaced are also harsh, and have been attacked on several occasions by armed groups.

"This inhuman policy may in part be motivated by a desire for revenge, or collective punishment, by members of one ethnic community on another," Amnesty International said. "Human rights violations can't be disguised as protection."

[EMBARGOED FOR: 15 July 1997]

amnesty international

BURUNDI

Forced relocation: new
patterns of human rights

abuses

15 July 1997 SUMMARY AI INDEX: AFR 16/19/97

DISTR: SC/CC/CO/GR

Since February 1996, hundreds of thousands of Hutu civilians in conflict-ridden provinces of Burundi have been forced to leave their hills and are confined to camps. Although the government claims that this "regroupment" process is voluntary and intended to protect the population, hundreds of men, women and children have been extrajudicially executed in the process. Furthermore, the regrouped population is forced to remain in appalling, life-threatening conditions in the camps. Camps have been attacked and human rights violations have also been reported from within the camps. Despite claims by the Burundi Government to the contrary, the regroupment policy applies almost exclusively to the Hutu ethnic group.

The conflict in Burundi has displaced hundreds of thousands of people; Burundi government forces, allied armed Tutsi civilian groups, and Hutu-dominated armed opposition groups have massacred defenceless civilians in a persistent cycle of violence, reprisal and impunity. While displaced Tutsi have largely fled to displaced people's camps protected by the military, Hutu who have fled their homes have mostly sought shelter away from camps and avoiding built-up areas. Many Hutu have fled to neighbouring countries, particularly Tanzania.

Regroupment has created a new category of displaced person. Regroupment is the requirement to move to a given area and to stay there until otherwise authorized. In this case, population movement is dictated and controlled by the government administration and armed forces.

The first regroupment camp was set up in February 1996 by the governor of Karuzi province. Subsequently, camps have been set up in a number of other provinces where armed opposition groups have been active.

While the degree of force used during regroupment to persuade the population to move varies, the population is made to understand that if they remain on their hills, they will be considered to be linked to Hutu-dominated armed groups and therefore legitimate military targets. As such, they risk being killed by the Burundi security forces. In many cases, in the days after regroupment soldiers have combed the hills seeking out those who have stayed, and numerous killings and massacres have been reported. Once in regroupment camps, movement is restricted although the degree of restriction varies from camp to camp. Amnesty International has received reports of people being shot when trying to leave the camps and of people being ill-treated if they return to the camps later than authorized.

Conditions within camps vary; all are overcrowded and insanitary, some are life-threatening. In some camps, hunger and disease are rampant.

The government claims that the camps are a temporary measure. However, there are strong indications that the camps are part of a long-term military strategy of forcible relocation of a particular ethnic group, carried out not for their protection but to undermine support for Hutu rebel groups. Regroupment has also effectively created military zones where the authorities legitimise violations of human rights, including the right to life. As such, forcible regroupment is a violation of international human rights standards and humanitarian law such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions, all of which Burundi has ratified.

Amnesty International is publishing this report to highlight human rights violations associated with the Burundi Government's regroupment policy and to demand its immediate reversal. The government should halt its policy of forcing and confining people to regroupment camps, prevent the setting up of any new camps and allow those within existing camps to return home if they wish to do so, while taking measures to ensure the safety of those who choose to return. The organization also calls on the government to take immediate steps to prevent further human

rights violations being carried out during regroupment and military operations where numerous extrajudicial executions are reported, for all reports of human rights violations to be independently and promptly investigated, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

This report summarizes a 17-page document (7984 words), BURUNDI: Forced relocation: new patterns of human rights abuses (AI Index: AFR 16/19/97) issued by Amnesty International on 15 July 1997. Anyone wishing further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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[ENDS]

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Date: Fri, 18 Jul 1997 12:55:36 +0300 (GMT+0300) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
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BURUNDI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT JULY 10 - JULY 16

1. GENERAL

The Burundian government has rigorously protested UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's decision not to recommend to the Security Council the creation of an international tribunal to try suspects accused of genocide in Burundi following the 1993 assassination of President Ndadaye. In a July 11 statement, Burundi's foreign minister, Luc Rukingama, said the rejection of the request for the authorization of the tribunal posed a grave threat to the peace process in Burundi. The secretary general said there was no reason to authorize the tribunal "in the current circumstances."

In another statement, also issued July 11, acting UN Special Representative for the Secretary General in Burundi, C.T. Sy acknowledged that acts of genocide that have taken place in Burundi and elsewhere should not be ignored by the international community. He added that the situation in Burundi would likely be discussed later in the week by the Security Council. The Burundian foreign minister met July 14 in New York with the UN secretary general to discuss the situation in Burundi, and the concerns of both the Burundian government and the world body.

The border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo reopened July 15. "This is a normalization between our two countries," Lt. Col. Epitace Bayaganakandi, Burundi's interior minister told reporters. As part to the opening ceremony, he and his Congolese counterpart drove from Bujumbura across the border to Uvira. Although the border was officially closed last year, black market goods have been transported across the border on a regular basis. Cross border cattle raids have also been common.

President Buyoya announced July 14 that he had replaced the governor of Bubanza, Col. Gerard Haziyo. The new governor, Gilbert Kayonde, a civilian who formerly worked in the ministry responsible for relations with the national assembly, will take office immediately. No reason was given for the change in posts.

African Airlines will begin twice weekly flights between Nairobi and Bujumbura beginning July 19. According to Air Burundi, the company's agent in Bujumbura, flights will leave Tuesdays and Saturdays. Round-trip airfare has initially been set at \$375.00. The flights will be the first commercial air link between Kenya and Burundi since the sanctions were imposed last summer.

In a study of Burundi's regroupment policy, Amnesty International said July 15 that the policy had led to the deaths of hundreds of men, women and children. "A pattern of mass human rights violations committed during or after the pattern of regroupment undermines any argument that regroupment provides protection," Amnesty said. The London - based human rights group said that it appears in many cases that houses were destroyed by soldiers, sometimes accompanied by Tutsi militia, to make it impossible for inhabitants to return to their homes. The agency alleges that in other cases, particularly in Karuzi and Bururi provinces, Hutu have

reportedly been forced to burn down their homes before being forced to move to regroupment camps.

Nurses and administrative staff suspended on July 11 their strike at Bujumbura's Prince Regent Hospital, one of the largest and best equipped medical centers in the country. The strike was called by the staff to protest the government's failure to pay overtime salaries which staff say they are owed. Hospital staff say they will resume the strike in one week if their demands have still not been met.

2. SECURITY

Fighting continues in Cibitoke with skirmishes or mine explosions reported in Mugwi, Rugombo and Murwi communes. Insecurity throughout the province, as well as in parts of Bubanza commune, continues to constrain UN operations in northwestern Burundi. Rebel attacks have also been reported in Bukeye, south of Nyanza Lac in Makamba province.

Local press reported insecurity in Bujumbura Rural, citing the areas of Muhuta and Kanyosha in the south, and Isale and Mubimbi in the east. Over the past week, skirmishes were reported near Kabezi, south of Bujumbura. Security in the Kabezi area has been precarious for the past six months. Fighting has also been reported near Rugazi in southern Bubanza province and Burambi and Buyengero in northern Bururi province. Mine attacks also continue. Five people were reportedly killed by a mine explosion near Kabezi, although there are no reliable details on the mine attack.

Amnesty International has published the names of 12 civilians whom the organization says were shot or bayoneted to death in Isale commune in Bujumbura Rural province. The alleged extrajudicial killings reportedly took place between July 7-9. The agency says the killings may have been reprisals after two soldiers were injured in a mine explosion in the same area on July 6.

In other incidents, a military post in the Kinama suburb of Bujumbura was reportedly attacked July 15. Local press report that five people were killed in the attack.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

There is increasing anecdotal evidence that populations in some areas of the country, particularly Bubanza and Kayanza, are suffering from an increase in malnutrition. NGOs operational in the nutritional sector are requesting larger amounts of feeding supplies from WFP and UNICEF in order to meet the needs of increasing numbers of program participants. Limited statistical information on malnutrition exists in the country, although agencies operational in the field are taking measures to improve the dearth of information.

ACF has received authorization from local authorities to survey malnutrition in IDP and regroupment sites in Kayanza province. Using cluster sampling techniques, the NGO expects to start its survey in late July.

In a July 14 meeting chaired by UNICEF, international humanitarian agencies operating in the nutritional sector met to discuss overall needs in the sector. UNICEF and WFP will collect data on projected three-month supply needs for international organizations operating in the nutritional sector. UNICEF is working with IMC and national health authorities to train local monitors in Musinga to use the upper arm circumference (MUAC) indicator to provide regular estimates of malnutrition in sites in the province.

Although the MUAC indicator can overestimate malnutrition, it is inexpensive, easy to use, and requires limited equipment. Using the MUAC indicator, UNICEF found a 10 percent global malnutrition rate in eight camps in Musinga province.

In light of reports of increasing numbers of malnourished individuals arriving at the Rwegura IDP site in Kayanza province, UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of conditions at the site on July 10. Local site managers told the agency that there were some 1,080 individuals registered at the site. This is several hundred more than the approximately 700 who were registered there in late June. New residents continue to arrive at the rate of 10 to 15 per day. The agency reports that shelters at the site are in extremely close proximity to each other with some shelters reportedly housing as many as 15 people. Over 220 people (of which 80 are children) are currently enrolled in a supplementary feeding program at the local health center. Those enrolled in the program, however, must pay 100 FrBu/week. Next week, ACF is planning to conduct a systematic nutritional survey of the site population.

In a mission to Ntunda, Karuzi, Bugenyuzi, Gasenyi and Rusamaza regroupment camps in Karuzi province, UNICEF found an insufficient number of latrines serving 58,000 residents, including 10,000 children. The agency also found a lack of water and sanitation infrastructure at all the sites, with residents of some of the sites having to walk more than 2 km to fetch potable water. The mission also reported a rise in the number of people suffering from intestinal problems.

UNICEF continues to support educational programs in Cibitoke province. During a July 3 mission to the town, UNICEF delivered notebooks, rulers and pens to approximately 1,400 students attending functioning primary schools in three communes in the province. With local authorities, the agency has also located two sites where temporary primary schools, serving mainly IDP children, will be constructed by the beginning of the next school year.

In Kayanza, WFP found that populations in Nyarurama (pop. approx. 12,000), Buraniro (pop. approx. 15,000) and Ninga (pop. approx. 14,000) and Banga (pop. approx. 3,000) are in urgent need of assistance. The agency says that agricultural production is supplemented by day labour at all four sites although site residents continue to show signs of malnutrition. Their current diet is composed primarily of tubers and their estimated average daily kcal consumption is below the theoretical minimum of 1,900 kcal/person. Site residents are also in need of improved health care and sanitation facilities.

WFP teams also conducted Food Economy Assessments at seven sites in Bubanza province, and found urgent need for assistance at Gashanga (pop. approx. 3,700), Muzinda (pop. approx. 3,800) and Mpanda/Gahwazi (pop. approx. 10,000). WFP is planning distributions at these sites. Insecurity prevented the residents of these from harvesting during both of the two last seasons and some residents show clear signs of malnutrition. Current access to land is difficult, if not impossible. Sanitation and access to potable water remain problems at these sites. Detailed results on a camp by camp basis of WFP's assessments in Bubanza and Kayanza are available directly from WFP/Burundi.

In a workshop organized by UNDP's continuum project, agricultural and livestock experts from the Burundian government, and from local and international NGOs are discussing ways to strengthen on-going agro-pastoral projects in the country as well as future needs in the sector. The workshop opened July 7 and is expected to last two weeks.

UNHCR - Tanzania reports a daily influx of Burundians of between 100 and 300 people per day who are crossing the border and reaching lake shore villages in Tanzania's Kigoma district. UNHCR estimates that there are some 200,000 Burundians in camps in the Kigoma region.

Conditions in camps in Cibitoke province remain mixed according to a joint rapid assessment conducted July 8 by WFP, UNHCR, IHA and Oxfam Quebec. The assessment surveyed conditions in the Nyamitanga, Ndava, Ruhagarika, Rukana II and Rugombo camps, all of which are adjacent to RN-5, the main road running through the province. Conditions in and around Ruhagarika and Rukana II, WFP says, appear to be improving. These camps appear to be better organized, with camp populations able to do limited cultivation. Residents of the other three camps, however, have limited access to land and did not plant during the previous agricultural season. Most live on manioc earned as payment for day labour or gathered from

their own or abandoned fields. WFP is considering options for assistance to these populations prior to the 1998 "A" season. The camps along RN-5 are currently the only ones in the province accessible to the international humanitarian community on a regular basis.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

WFP is in the process of opening a sub-office in Gitega. The Gitega office will initially focus on the development of diversified Food For Work programs, but will also be responsible for other WFP activities in Gitega as well as other provinces in central Burundi. In addition to its offices in Bujumbura, the agency also maintains a sub-office in Ngozi.

MSF-Switzerland is in the process of phasing out its activities in Gitega province. The medical NGO began working in the province in September of last year to ensure the distribution of essential drugs to the hospital and 17 health centers following the imposition of sanctions against Burundi. Those sanctions have now been partially lifted, and the NGO believes that local authorities are now able to procure and distribute the drugs on their own. MSF-S will continue its surgical and training activities in Cankuzo and the Kinyinya hospital in Ruyigi province.

Following the withdrawal of MSF-S from Gitega, Save the Children Fund (UK) is preparing to expand work in the province where it will rehabilitate health centers and provide training for medical staff. The NGO will also work to help ensure that the medical supplies in the health centers are managed effectively.

The British NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD) is currently establishing its office in Bujumbura and will begin new work in Bubanza province on August 1. The NGO will provide emergency support to existing maternal and child health care services already established in the province. Among other activities, CAD will provide essential medical supplies and equipment to 14 health centers and two outpatient hospital services in Bubanza. The NGO also plans to provide training for medical staff, health and nutritional education services and support for a supplementary feeding program.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 May 1997, in a presidential statement on Burundi (S/PRST/1997/32), the Council requested me to continue to keep it informed on the situation in Burundi, especially with regard to the steps being taken to encourage a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the ongoing conflict in that country.
2. The present report covers the main developments that have occurred since the previous report to the Council on 2 November 1996 (S/1996/887/Add.1). It will be recalled that, since the adoption of resolution 1072 (1996) of 30 August 1996, the Council has continued to receive regular briefings on the situation in Burundi.

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

3. During the period under review, the political situation in Burundi continued to reflect the deep divisions within and between the country's leading political movements, the polarizing influence of militant extremist groups at both ends of the political spectrum, the adverse effects on the security situation of events in former Zaire, Burundi's efforts to end international isolation brought about by the sanctions, and the lack of an agreed mechanism for negotiations acceptable to all the principal actors. For its part, the Government of President Pierre Buyoya continued efforts to consolidate power, to secure the lifting of economic sanctions and to encourage political dialogue, while stepping up efforts to combat the growing Hutu insurgency and the mounting death toll.
4. Divisions within the two main political parties, their rivalry and the constraints imposed on their work by the Government, have continued to feed animosities. The Front pour la démocratie au Burundi (FRODEBU), led in Burundi by its Secretary-General Augustin Nzojiewami and in exile by its Chairman Jean Minani as well as the Conseil national de défense de la démocratie (CNDD) leader Leonard Nyangoma, seems unable to overcome its internal divisions. The same is true of the Union pour le progrès national (UPRONA), which remains factionalized between the followers of the Chairman of the UPRONA parliamentary group, Frédéric Ngenzebuhoro, and those of the extremist wing led by Chairman Charles Mukasi. These divisions are exacerbated by the hard-line Parti pour le redressement national (PARENA), led by former President Bagaza, who continues to enjoy strong support among Tutsi youth and students.
5. The continuing hostility between political parties continues to prevent progress in the national debate advocated by the Government, and to hamper international efforts to bring the parties to

the negotiating table. Extremists on both sides continue to disrupt reconciliation efforts by threatening and undermining the President. Anti-Buyoya sentiments culminated in mid-March 1997 with the discovery of an assassination plot against the President. Swift action against the alleged perpetrators resulted in large numbers of arrests. Former President Bagaza is still under house arrest and members of his PARENA party are still detained.

6. On a more positive note, and despite these troubling developments, the restoration of the National Assembly in September 1996 has increasingly provided a forum for more regular political activity and dialogue among politicians of the different factions. Although the Assembly itself remains ineffective and has lost much of its original influence on the political process, as noted in the previous report, it was able nonetheless to carry out some valuable work. The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Léonce Ngendakumana, still has a crucial role to play in efforts to harmonize relations among the various segments of the population, particularly as the Assembly continues to be challenged by the deep-rooted antagonism between its two main parliamentary groups - UPRONA and FRODEBU. In closing the Assembly's ordinary session in June 1997, the Speaker welcomed the fact that most of its members were able again to participate in the proceedings of the Assembly, and that many of the elected representatives had been able to return from exile. However, in order for the Assembly to fully carry out its constitutional responsibilities a number of obstacles have to be resolved. They include putting an end to the judicial harassment of the Speaker and providing the Assembly with the necessary financial and logistical support for its regular work.

7. A further positive development was the re-emergence on the political scene of former President Silvestre Ntibantunganya, who on 7 June 1997, left his refuge at the residence of the United States Ambassador in Bujumbura, after securing assurances from the Government of his freedom and security. Mr. Ntibantunganya pledged himself to strive to civilize the political debate in Burundi and to contribute to the normalization of political life in the country. He also declared his readiness to join peace talks with a view to ending the civil war between the armed opposition and the army. It is hoped that Mr. Ntibantunganya's presence will have a positive impact on efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation.

III. SECURITY SITUATION

8. Since November 1996, the security situation has continued to be affected both by political developments inside Burundi and by military and political developments in the subregion. At the end of 1996, rebel attacks and army counter-operations led to a series of violent clashes throughout the country - but particularly concentrated in the northern provinces of Cibitoke, Bubanza, Muramvya and Kayanza, where violent incidents claimed a large number of victims among the civilian population. The situation in and around the capital, Bujumbura, remained tense and very volatile.

9. With the advance of the Allied Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo (ADFL) in eastern Zaire and the consequent elimination of rear bases of armed Hutu rebels close to the Burundi-Zaire border, the security situation in Burundi gradually improved during the first months of 1997, though strong pockets of rebels remained within the former Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) near Fizi, Kalemie and Moba - enabling them to launch operations against targets in Burundi, including the Government's military strongholds of Bururi and Makamba provinces. Overall, however, the massive movement of Hutu rebels along the western shores of Lake Tanganyika and across the Lake into the United Republic of Tanzania ultimately caused a shift in rebel operations towards the south. The resulting rebel infiltration from the United Republic of Tanzania into the southern provinces of Burundi caused a rift between the two Governments, with accusations that the United Republic of Tanzania was not only harbouring rebels but actively supporting the insurgency. These accusations have been denied by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

10. In March 1997, the areas in and around Bujumbura increasingly became targets of rebel attacks. Mine explosions caused dozens of victims as did counter-insurgency operations by the military - a situation aggravated by the detection of an assassination plot against the President

(see para. 5 above). Another very disturbing incident occurred on 1 July 1997 when a landmine exploded under the car of the Speaker of the National Assembly which was carrying his wife and a bodyguard. While the wife of Mr. Ngendakumana escaped unharmed the bodyguard died. Meanwhile, faced with an enormous increase in rebel activity in the south of the country, the Government decided to establish a special crisis committee dealing with security issues. Reports were also received from Rumonge commune in Bururi province, of allegations that rebels had killed more than 145 people.

11. Fierce clashes between the rebels and army units continued to shake Burundi in April, accompanied by claims and counter-claims on the responsibility for the killing. In one particularly vicious incident - attributed to the rebels - 34 schoolchildren and seven teachers were killed in an attack at a secondary school in Buta, south of Bururi. In May, heavy fighting continued in the southern provinces, causing international aid agencies to evacuate their staff. Violence also flared up again in the north-west where rebels attacked regroupement camps (see sect. V below) in Murwi and Buganda, killing some 63 people. Throughout May and June, fierce fighting was reported close to Bujumbura, including the slaughter on 14 May 1997 of 42 persons at a church in Muhuta commune. On 3 June 1997, the army used mortars and aircraft to rocket rebel positions near Bujumbura, following severe battles with rebels on the outskirts of the capital.

12. As the violence continued unabated throughout the month of June, rumours were spread by the rebels that neighbouring countries were preparing to invade Burundi in support of the current regime. Military sources, in contrast, claimed that the rebels wanted to establish a bridgehead on Burundi territory in order to press forward their rebellion with the support of the international community. Throughout the period under review, reports also continued to be received of increased faction fighting among the Hutu rebels - between the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu (PALIPEHUTU) and the armed wing of CNDD. Reports were also received that former soldiers from the ex-FAR (Forces armées rwandaises), members of the Interahamwe militia and even former soldiers of the ex-Zairian army were involved in attacks alongside Hutu rebels in north-western Burundi or caught in clashes on their way from eastern Zaire back into Rwanda. In response, regional and military officials from northern Burundi and southern Rwanda agreed in principle to cooperate on security matters and to extradite each other's rebels. Although bilateral security arrangements could not be confirmed officially, it is apparent that supportive arrangements continue to be carried out in the border areas between the two countries.

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS

13. The number of people detained on suspicion of involvement in massacres and of supporting the armed Hutu rebels has risen to some 5,000. After an interruption of a few months, the criminal courts began to function again on 26 February 1996. Many of the first trials were conducted without proper legal representation of the accused, despite demands from defendants for defence lawyers to be made available. Owing to the social and political sensitivities and pressures inherent in the trials, many Burundian lawyers declined to undertake representation of such defendants, and increasing calls were made for assistance from the international community. The first trials in 1996 resulted in noticeably heavy sentences, including 133 death sentences and 54 life sentences. Only 36 acquittals were obtained during the initial round of trials.

14. Faced with demands for counsel to be provided for the accused, the Burundi Justice Ministry - in collaboration with the National Bar Association, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi and various local human rights organizations - discussed ways in which financing might be obtained for the employment of national and international lawyers who would assist accused persons in obtaining counsel. At the end of 1996, following these discussions, a judicial assistance programme was established by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Government of Burundi. Implementation of the project began immediately, thereby facilitating the opening of the first session of the criminal courts in

February 1997. In April and May 1997, the second session of the criminal courts was held in the presence of international lawyers who collaborated with national lawyers in acting as defence counsels or as civil party lawyers. A remarkable reduction in the sentence levels has been noted, with only 13 death sentences and 10 life sentences so far being recorded, in addition to 14 acquittals.

15. The atmosphere of the initial trials, which had been tense and subject to strong public pressure, has gradually given way to a more calm and dispassionate environment. The presence of lawyers at the side of the accused has helped to reduce tensions and promote greater attention to legal requirements. Many of the cases under consideration extended beyond the expected time-frame, as postponements enabled some defendants to prepare a better defence, while the absence of witnesses complicated and delayed the trials of others.

16. With respect to the administration of justice, however, it must also be noted that the situation of these defendants remains in marked contrast to that of the suspected authors of the attempted October 1993 coup - most of whom remain free. Only a few were apprehended during the hours after the coup, and while some have fled to other countries others remain in Burundi. Although public opinion continues to demand their arrest, many continue to go about their usual business with apparent impunity.

17. A significant, though largely symbolic, step was taken with the commencement by the Buyoya Government of criminal proceedings against 79 military officers accused of having fomented the October 1993 coup. On 16 May 1997, the prosecution opened its case, alleging that the group had been responsible for the death of President Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected Hutu President of Burundi. The accused proclaimed their innocence and the proceedings were adjourned. The trial resumed on 4 July 1997, with the accused providing additional testimony, after which the case was again adjourned. No date has been set for the resumption of the proceedings. While the commencement of proceedings against the 79 officers is an important first step, much more will be required if the administration of justice in Burundi is to gain genuine credibility.

18. On 14 June 1997, President Buyoya publicly called for the establishment of an international criminal tribunal for Burundi, in order to try the instigators and perpetrators of acts of genocide that followed the October 1993 coup. In response to a recent letter addressed to me by the Government of Burundi on the creation of an international tribunal, I replied that given the circumstances prevailing in Burundi I was not in a position to recommend to the Security Council the establishment of such a tribunal at the present time. It is my intention to remain seized of the matter, however, and to review the question of the establishment of such a tribunal at a later date. I will, of course, keep the Council fully informed of developments in this regard.

V. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

19. The extensive fighting in the north and south of the country has displaced a significant proportion of the population and made it difficult for humanitarian aid agencies to conduct a consistent and effective relief programme. At the same time, landmines have become an increasingly pervasive source of danger to aid workers and civilians alike. Nyanza Lac in the south, which has recently suffered an outbreak of cholera, has not been accessible to United Nations aid agencies because of fighting in the area. Therefore, the humanitarian situation in Burundi remains, despite the easing of sanctions, extremely serious owing to two main factors, namely, the high degree of insecurity in the country and the concentration of the rural population from conflict-prone areas into regroupement camps.

20. Regroupement, the policy of collecting people in camps, an exercise initiated by the former Government in March 1996, accounts for over 300,000 persons living in sites or camps. The number of people displaced by fighting and insecurity amounts to more than 350,000. According to recent estimates, the number of vulnerable persons in rural areas now totals some 700,000. Out of a population of an estimated 6 million, approximately one out of nine Burundians lives in a camp, often in poor sanitary conditions.

21. Repeated displacement of rural populations, together with the existence of regroupement camps in areas often remote from family agricultural production areas, has severely disrupted agricultural production as well as the distribution of agricultural products. This situation has been greatly exacerbated by the sometimes deliberate destruction of fields and livestock by the warring protagonists. Significant environmental damage has also occurred in some areas as a result of deforestation by refugees and displaced persons, and also acts of sabotage. In January 1997, a joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) assessment mission to Burundi found that food production had declined by an estimated 18 per cent during the first agricultural season of 1997 compared with pre-crisis levels.

22. Humanitarian agencies have been pressing the Government of Burundi to reverse its regroupement policy on humanitarian grounds, and to facilitate wider access to vulnerable groups in order to relieve the country's dire humanitarian plight. The Government of Burundi has also been persistently pressed by the broader international community to dismantle the existing regroupement camps. On 28 May 1997, I wrote to President Buyoya expressing my own concern about these camps and urging him to take concrete actions to start phasing out those in secure areas. The President replied that regroupement was not a policy but a temporary measure to ensure the safety of people in certain areas of the country. He reaffirmed his pledge to dismantle the camps located in areas where relative security has again been attained. However, only one small regroupement centre has been dismantled to date. The intention of some provincial officials to dismantle camps only to create smaller ones closer to the homes of the regrouped have caused consternation among the aid community and led many observers to conclude that the Government is unlikely to fully abandon the regroupement policy in the foreseeable future. The United Nations continues to provide humanitarian assistance to regroupement camps but only on the basis of assessed needs and under strict monitoring.

23. As far as refugees are concerned, about 130,000 have returned since 1996. While many of these refugees have returned spontaneously to safe areas in Burundi, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that 150 to 200 are fleeing daily from the Bururi and Makamba provinces to the United Republic of Tanzania out of fear of being caught in the fighting in these provinces.

VI. MEDIATION EFFORTS

24. National and international political mediation efforts have continued throughout the period under review, and although some important positive developments have taken place, a significant breakthrough has yet to be achieved. Mediation efforts have followed three linked but distinct tracks: the ongoing regional mediation effort led by former Tanzanian President Julius K. Nyerere; the talks between the Government and CNDD under the auspices of the San'Egidio Community in Rome; and the more recent United Nations and Organization of African Unity (OAU) decision to appoint a Joint UN/OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.

25. Former President Nyerere remains the principal international Mediator for the conflict in Burundi, and the focal point for international efforts to achieve a ceasefire and bring about comprehensive political negotiations among the parties. A cessation of hostilities in Burundi has continued to be a matter of high priority for the international community, while the Government of Burundi has repeatedly stressed the need to reassess the economic sanctions imposed on the country. At a meeting in Lomé, during the course of the Summit Meeting of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held on 26 and 27 March 1997, President Buyoya made the case for lifting the sanctions. To all of his interlocutors, he conveyed his strong belief that sanctions not only hurt the more vulnerable segments of the population but also hindered national reconciliation and strengthened the extremists.

26.. Ahead of the Fourth Arusha Regional Summit, which was to be convened on 16 April 1997 to review economic sanctions against Burundi, former President Nyerere took the initiative to invite Burundi political parties for another round of talks. Although several parties welcomed the initiative, others expressed lack of confidence in the Mediator and declared that no talks were possible unless economic sanctions were lifted. The Arusha Summit itself, attended by President Buyoya, called upon the Government of Burundi and all the parties to the conflict to take steps to urgently create the necessary environment for negotiations and national reconciliation. The Summit also decided to ease some of the sanctions and agreed on the need to ensure the speedy and efficient implementation of the exemptions provided for humanitarian assistance. The participants declared their readiness to suspend all sanctions once there was movement in the negotiations.

27.. At a follow-up meeting on 10 May 1997 in Kampala, no agreement was reached on the list of products to be exempted from the regional sanctions regime. At the end of June, the Government of Burundi expressed its disappointment that sanctions had still not been eased, and its concern that the embargo was exacerbating tensions in the country. On 27 June, the Government of Kenya decided to lift the fuel and travel embargo against Burundi, for humanitarian reasons. A number of countries in Central Africa are gradually lifting the embargo as well.

28. While discussions on sanctions and their possible relaxation were going on, representatives of the Government and CNDD were engaged, with the blessing of Mwalimu Nyerere, in direct secret talks under the auspices of the San'Egidio Community in Rome. Despite a difficult start and after various problems had been overcome, the two-party talks concentrated on the need to stop the fighting in Burundi and to secure a permanent ceasefire. On 10 March 1997, both parties agreed on the broad agenda that should guide their talks. The agenda included the following items:

- (a) The restoration of constitutional and institutional order;
- (b) Issues related to the Burundi armed forces and police;
- (c) The suspension of hostilities;
- (d) The administration of justice, including the creation of an international criminal tribunal to try acts of genocide and political crimes;
- (e) The identification and involvement of other parties in the negotiation process;
- (f) A permanent ceasefire;
- (g) Guarantees for the respect and the implementation of the agreement.

29. The public announcement on 13 May of the agreement and confirmation of the secret talks between the Government and CNDD drew harsh criticism from many sectors of Burundi society, across the political spectrum. Those not represented in Rome felt excluded from the discussions, which they felt should have taken place in a wider, multi-party environment. Trade unions, student organizations and some political groups condemned the talks out of fear that concessions made to the Hutu opposition, particularly CNDD, might compromise their own political viability. Opposition to the process begun in Rome has continued to mount among extremists and has compelled President Buyoya to engage in an intensive campaign throughout the country. By contrast, reactions from the opposition were more positive. The Speaker of the Assembly took a strong position in favour of the Government.

30. On 21 May 1997, President Buyoya wrote to former President Nyerere outlining the various steps the peace process in Burundi should follow and asking him to organize as soon as possible all party negotiations under the Mwalimu's auspices. He also reaffirmed his readiness to work closely with him to organize these negotiations. Efforts by the Mediator to convince the

various political parties to accept all-inclusive political talks under his aegis have yet to succeed. In preparation for these multi-party talks, which are now scheduled for the end of July, former President Nyerere dispatched on 5 July a mission to Burundi to take stock of the political situation and encourage all parties concerned to participate in the negotiations.

31. In order to consolidate the ranks of those who are for peace, it is imperative that opportunities for dialogue and debate, both within civil society and between political parties, be created and promoted. In this connection, I have instructed the United Nations Office in Burundi to support all initiatives aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation among the population, including the national debate and the activities of the Speaker of the Assembly. In this regard, it is important to mention that the United Nations Office has played a constructive role in promoting dialogue and reconciliation among the major political actors, particularly during tense periods, and has maintained good working relations with the Government and the Parliament. It has also kept me fully informed of the major developments in Burundi. As I informed the Security Council on 25 June, I intend to strengthen this Office by the appointment of a senior official and one additional political affairs officer, in order better to support the peace process in Burundi.

32. In support of the efforts of the Mediator and of the process begun in Rome, the Security Council on 24 January 1997 approved a joint proposal from myself and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Salim A. Salim, to appoint Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun as our Joint Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, with priority attention to be given to Congo (ex-Zaire) and Burundi. Ambassador Sahnoun, who has visited Burundi several times, continues to follow events in that country very closely. He developed a relationship of trust with many of the actors inside and outside Burundi and particularly with President Buyoya, with the Speaker of the Parliament and with former President Ntibantunganya. He played a very important facilitative role on the eve of the Fourth Arusha Summit. In addition to meeting with Mwalimu Nyerere and President Mkapa in Dar es Salaam, Ambassador Sahnoun consulted in Arusha with President Buyoya and with all the parties who were present there. His contributions have been appreciated by all.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

33. President Buyoya's determination to pursue all-inclusive negotiations has resulted in improved relations between the Government and those who are interested in advancing a negotiated and peaceful settlement of Burundi's conflict. I am particularly encouraged by the new willingness shown by President Buyoya and his Government to cooperate with a variety of international actors in order to help find solutions to Burundi's persistent problems, and by the gradual rapprochement between the President, the Government and the National Assembly. Should these positive trends continue, Burundi will be able to establish the conditions necessary for the further easing of sanctions. The stubborn and unrelenting opposition to any kind of political settlement must not be allowed to close the promising window of opportunity that has opened.

34. The efforts of former President Nyerere to induce the different political parties to meet at the negotiating table will continue to receive my full support. Despite the difficulties and reservations expressed by certain parties, it is clear that he will continue to play an important role in promoting a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Burundi, since he enjoys the confidence of the Heads of State of the region. With the appointment of the Joint UN/OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, I hope that new impetus will be given to efforts by the international community to address the underlying causes of conflict and instability in Burundi.

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or

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Date: Fri, 25 Jul 1997 16:25:08 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JULY 16 - JULY 23

1. GENERAL

About 5,000 people are held in Burundi on suspicion of involvement in massacres or supporting armed Hutu rebels, according to the UN Secretary General in his most recent report to the Security Council. The July 15 report regards the trial of 79 military officers on charges relating to the 1993 coup as "largely symbolic" but an "important first step."

During a July 17 session, the UN Security Council voiced its continued concern over violence in Burundi but reaffirmed support for the regional mediation efforts of former Tanzanian President Nyerere. The Security Council encouraged the government to continue its negotiation efforts and called on all parties to cease hostilities and continue to pursue a negotiated settlement. Members of the Council also called for a rapid dismantling of the regroupment camps. Assessments from international humanitarian agencies indicate that approximately 256,000 people are living in about 45 regroupment sites throughout the country.

Responding to an Amnesty International report (see July 16 sitrep) which strongly criticized the Burundian government for the creation of regroupment camps, the minister of communications and government spokesman, Pierre-Claver Ndayicariye, was quoted by local press as denying that the regroupment of people was a deliberate government policy. Instead, he said, regroupment was spontaneous, and that people from all ethnic groups have been fleeing from "genocidal terrorists" since the aborted coup in 1993 to seek refuge in peaceful areas, protected by the security forces. Ndayicariye added that certain international organizations would like to see innocent people "remain in the forests and marshes to die there."

Bujumbura was tense July 21 following the call for a demonstration and march by UPRONA President Charles Mukasi. Among the reasons cited by Mukasi for organizing the March was to protest the refusal earlier this month of the UN to authorize the creation of special international tribunal to try suspects accused of genocide in Burundi following the 1993 assassination of President Ndadye. City authorities had made it clear that they would not allow the march to take place. Large numbers of soldiers congregated in the center of town and no attempt was made to demonstrate or march.

Local press reports indicate that formal negotiations towards a resolution of the conflict in Burundi are expected to begin in Arusha in late July or early August. However, it is still unclear exactly who will participate in the talks.

With little advanced notice, Kenyan authorities officially informed WFP/Burundi July 18 that it was withdrawing permission for the twice-weekly WFP-chartered humanitarian flight between Nairobi and Bujumbura. The agency has been given permission to have two additional round-trip flights to Nairobi on July 24 and July 31.

Although Kenyan authorities are now allowing commercial air transport between Kenya and Burundi, only one airline has resumed flights. African Airlines is operating a once weekly shuttle between the two capitals. With the flights open to the general public, and with each flight having a maximum capacity of 100 seats, there are fears that access by air for the humanitarian community to other countries in the region will again be problematic.

The decision by Kenya to withdraw air sanctions against Burundi was taken unilaterally, not by the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee. There has been no confirmation that other neighbouring countries have also withdrawn air sanctions against Burundi. Beginning July 31, Air Tanganyika will reportedly begin weekly round-trip passenger service between Brussels (Charleroi) and Bujumbura.

2. SECURITY

In the latest in a series of attacks in Makamba province, rebels reportedly killed 13 people, wounded eight and burned 36 houses in a July 20 attack in Nyanza Lac commune. Military sources claimed July 17 that Hutu rebels killed 51 people, mainly women and children, and abducted as many more during an attack near the town of Nyanza Lac in Makamba province. Wire services report that those killed were buried in a mass grave.

Tanzanian press reports allege that Burundian troops killed three Tanzanians near the village of Mkingo last week after the Burundians crossed into the Kigoma region. Tensions have remained high on the Burundian-Tanzanian border for months. Earlier this year, the Burundian government accused Tanzania of allowing Hutu rebels to stage attacks from its territory, a charge the Tanzanian Government denies.

Anti-tank mine attacks continue in Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza provinces. Over the reporting period, casualties from mine blasts have been reported in Bubanza's Musigati commune and in Mutimbuzi commune in Bujumbura Rural.

Burundian soldiers are helping the Rwandan military in its fight against Hutu rebels in the Ruhengeri area according to a report carried in local media. Burundian authorities have refused to comment on the report.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

WFP plans to significantly increase the amount of food it delivers in Burundi. The agency says that for the remainder of the year, it expects to nearly double the amount of food it delivers each month from the current total of approximately 2,000 mt/month to 3,500 mt/month. The increased quantities of food will be used to meet the emergency needs of an estimated 260,000 beneficiaries, primarily in Bubanza, Cibitoke, Kayanza, Kaurzi and Muramvya provinces. The increased quantities of food will also be given to former Burundian refugees returning from neighbouring countries and used as part of a return package delivered to all categories of displaced populations once they are allowed to return to their home communes. The agency also says that it expects to expand the number of beneficiaries in its Food for Work programs from approximately 15,000 to approximately 40,000.

According to statistics released by UNHCR in Nairobi, some 8,800 refugees crossed into Tanzania's western Kigoma region in June, down from the 17,000 who reportedly crossed in May. In June, 3,130 Burundian refugees returned from Tanzania through the Giteranyi crossing point, up from 2,320 who returned in May. During the first two weeks of July, 1,428 Burundian refugees returned from Tanzania through Giteranyi, according to UNHCR. A total of approximately 215,000 Burundian refugees are currently living in the Kigoma region.

UNHCR has estimated that in recent weeks, up to three hundred people have crossed the border into Tanzania each day to escape fighting in Makamba and Bururi. A military spokesman told local radio that some people were crossing the border into Tanzania after being urged to do so

by pamphlets circulating in southern Burundi but said that fewer were fleeing to Tanzania on a daily basis than certain international organizations had claimed.

Prices of selected agricultural and food commodities have declined somewhat over the past two weeks. According to FAO, as of July 18 the weekly food expenditure of an average family is 9,698 FrBu. The agency calculated the price on July 4 of the same basket of goods to be 10,803 FrBu.

CRS, in conjunction with diocesan development offices, organized on July 17 and 18 a workshop in Bukeye in Muramvya province to help improve the management of local agricultural credit programs. Topics covered in the workshop included the mechanics of organizing credit programs, and the responsibilities of participants in such programs.

With the participation of FAO and OFDA, CRS organized a two day mission on July 17 to Gitega and Muramvya province. The mission visited seed multiplication programs throughout the two provinces in order to help prepare for the implementation of a new seed multiplication program for the 1998-A & B seasons. CRS is also continuing work on its pilot community re-integration project in Bujumbura Rural and Rutana provinces. The project involves the construction of 50 houses in each of the two provinces for repatriated, formerly displaced or others returning to their communes of origin.

CRS is also working with Caritas/Burundi and a local public health organization to create a program that will monitor the effectiveness of an AIDS education program. The monitoring program will be launched in September in selected private adult literacy schools throughout the country. The program is designed to indicate general knowledge of the disease, as well as how attitudes and sexual practices have changed in the context of Catholic social teaching.

Christian Aid, in cooperation with FAO, and other partners, reports that it is preparing for a distribution of seeds and hoes to targeted beneficiaries throughout the country. Christian Aid will distribute 232 mt of bean seeds and 23,200 hoes to 23,200 families. Beneficiaries for agricultural goods distributed by the NGO will be chosen by Christian Aid's provincial church partners in cooperation with local authorities.

Distributions by Christian Aid will be part of a larger FAO coordinated distribution plan in which 115,812 families from among the country's displaced, regrouped and repatriated population will receive hoes, vegetable seeds and bean seeds in time for the 1998-A season. Christian Aid will serve as the focal point in Bururi, Gitega, Kirundo and Makamba. Other agencies serving as focal points for the distribution of agricultural supplies are: UNHCR (Bubanza and Cibitoke), ARP (Bubanza and Cibitoke), Oxfam Quebec (Ruyigi, town of Bujumbura and Bujumbura Rural), CRS (Cankuzo), World Vision (Karuzi), WFP (Kayanza, Karuzi and Muramvya), Intersos (Muyinga), IFRC (Ngozi) and Dorcas Aid (Rutana). FAO is currently tending bids for the agricultural supplies. Distributions of agricultural supplies are expected to be completed between August 15 and September 15. As part of its \$1.8 million project to support the reintegration of war-affected populations, UNDP has provided \$50,000 to FAO and its NGO partners for logistical support in the distribution of seeds and fertilizer for the 1998 -A season.

The president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA), Fawzi Al Sultan, arrived in Burundi July 21 for a three day visit. FIDA provides financial and technical support for agricultural programs in Bururi and Ruyigi provinces.

ActionAid continues work on the 1,000 houses that it is rehabilitating in Ruyigi province. The housing reconstruction program for Ruyigi's displaced and returnees is being funded by OFDA, and is expected to be completed by next May. Local communities construct the walls, while ActionAid provides the doors, windows and roofs. Beneficiaries are selected by committees chosen by the local community.

WHO reports that it is continuing to support efforts by Burundian health authorities to fight the on-going typhus epidemic. Among other expenses, the agency is helping to pay the costs of per diem, fuel and the purchase of material used to educate vulnerable populations on measures they can take to help avoid contracting the disease. The agency reports that it has treated the clothes and bedding of some 27,600 people in Gitega and Muramvya province. However, WHO also says that in June, 800 new cases of typhus were reported in Muramvya. The number of new cases reported in other provinces are not yet available.

UNICEF has signed two agreements to extend its existing partnerships with ACF and Solidarites from July 1 through the end of the year. UNICEF will provide the organizations with supplementary and therapeutic feeding supplies and equipment. ACF runs feeding programs in Kayanza and Bujumbura Rural while Solidarites manages feeding programs in Muramvya hospital and health centers in that province.

UNICEF has hosted a series of meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Health and international humanitarian organizations to discuss current supplementary feeding programs implemented throughout the country. A UNICEF-produced draft document calls for establishing methods to measure the efficiency of procedures carried out under the supplementary feeding programs, and determining how they can more effectively serve beneficiaries. This is the first step of a process intended to redefine the program's objectives, to set guidelines for Burundian health authorities and other intervening organizations, and to adapt procedures to increase the program's impact.

UNICEF has begun to deliver water to Gihanga in Bubanza province following damage to the town's water works. UNICEF will deliver approximately 24,000 liters of water to the town's health center and a local primary school until the agency's operational partner, ARP, can repair the damage to the town's water system.

4. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

Efforts are being made to improve coordination in logistics among international humanitarian organizations. WFP, the lead UN agency in Burundi responsible for logistics, already coordinates deliveries of sanctions-exempted fuel to humanitarian agencies. With fuel now somewhat more readily available, the committee will serve as a forum in which general logistics problems can be discussed.

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 24-30 July 1997 97.7.30

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
JULY 24 -30, 1997

1. GENERAL

Formal talks to end the conflict in Burundi will begin August 25 in Arusha under the chairmanship of Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President's office has announced. The talks would mark the first public negotiations between the Buyoya government and the CNDD. Over the past ten days, UN/OAU special envoy to the Great Lakes, Mohamed Sahnoun, as well as envoys from the European Union, the US and South Africa have met with Nyerere to discuss the up-coming talks. With the prominent exception of UPRONA, all major political parties are expected to participate in the Arusha meetings. Nyerere, or his representatives, are expected to come to Bujumbura before the talks begin to meet with parties to the Burundian conflict.

Tanzanian radio reported July 30 that both Tanzania and Zambia now back the lifting of economic sanctions against Burundi. The report added that Zambian President Frederick Chiluba and Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa had issued a joint statement saying that they would back a decision to lift economic sanctions to help ease the burden on Burundi's elderly, women and children. Support from the two countries to remove the sanctions, coming on the heels of the Kenyan decision to allow commercial air transport to Burundi, would be a significant achievement for the Burundian government which has campaigned hard for the lifting of sanctions. Tanzania had been seen as one of the strongest supporters of sanctions. Ethiopian leaders, however, have reportedly refused to unilaterally lift the remaining sanctions. President Buyoya was in Addis July 28 to discuss the embargo and the peace process in Burundi.

A statement issued by FRODEBU has urged Tanzanian authorities to protect the party's leaders exiled in Tanzania, claiming their lives are in danger. The statement, according to Tanzanian radio, claimed that some of the party's members were plotting to kill members of FRODEBU's National Executive Committee residing in Kigoma and Dar es Salaam.

Responding to past allegations from Burundi, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa denied that Burundian rebels were undergoing military training in Tanzania to prepare to invade Burundi. He said that his government would never support such training since it would undermine President Nyerere's efforts to host peace talks. The Burundian-Tanzanian border has often been tense, and earlier this month Tanzanian press reports alleged that Burundian troops crossed into Tanzania and killed three Tanzanians near Kigoma.

After an absence of a year, there are indications that Kenya Airways will resume regular service to Bujumbura as of August 11. Kenya Airways, along with other commercial carriers, suspended connections to Burundi following last year's coup. Initially, the airline reportedly plans round-trip flights between Nairobi and Bujumbura every Monday. The schedule

reportedly will be in effect until October 25 when the airline will review it and possibly add an additional weekly flight.

WFP has requested permission from the Kenyan authorities to have an additional round-trip flight between Nairobi and Bujumbura on August 7 given the delay in relaunching the Kenyan Airways flights.

2. SECURITY

Over the reporting period, fighting has been reported in parts of Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Makamba and Bururi. The towns of Rumonge (Bururi), and Nyanza Lac and Vugizo (both in Makamba province) remain unstable and reportedly suffered rebel attacks. UN security guidelines currently limit visits to all three towns. In Kabezi commune in Bujumbura Rural, a battle between soldiers and government troops reportedly left 29 dead while attacks reported near the town of Isale left seven dead.

Injuries from anti-tank and anti-personnel mines also continue to be reported in Bubanza province. Military authorities, however, have clamped down on their release of security related information.

Rumours are circulating in Ruyigi province of a possible large scale return to the province of Burundian refugees from Tanzania. Talk of their return has reportedly raised fears among local administrators that rebels may try to infiltrate the country among them. There are no confirmed reports, however, that a return is already underway.

Local press have reported that the CNDD has relaunched a recruiting drive in Makamba province and has attempted to create a parallel administration in the communes of Mabanda and Vugizo. Similar attempts have also been reported in Bujumbura Rural.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

IMC is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health's Central Pharmacy Depot. In a project that started earlier this month, and is expected to last a year, the NGO is helping the pharmacy establish a computerized inventory system that is designed to improve stock and pipeline management. The pharmacy in the past has had difficulty managing drug supplies for the country's system of local health centers. Among other items, IMC is supplying the pharmacy with a computer, inventory control software and training in how to use the inventory control system. After it has established better inventory controls in the central pharmacy, the NGO says it plans to work with the Ministry of Health to create better systems to improve the distribution of drugs to the provinces.

IMC also plans to launch a new project to rehabilitate the existing health care infrastructure in the northern communes of Muramvya province. IMC has proposed repairing health care centers to ensure that the buildings are secure enough to allow drugs and supplies to be left in the building overnight. Among other measures, IMC also plans to bolster vaccination programs in northern Muramvya. The NGO would provide logistical support for cold chain management, train vaccinators and develop means to increase community participation in the immunization program through surveys and immunizations at nutrition stations. With support from UNICEF, IMC is already working to improve the operations of local health centers in Muyinga and Rutana provinces.

SCF-UK is already working to rehabilitate health care centers in the southern communes of Muramvya and has nearly completed the rehabilitation of nine centers. SCF will continue to support these centers by providing additional technical training.

A joint Oxfam (UK) - SCF mission found scattered incidences of malnutrition in Gitega province. Of the areas visited, Rwisabi and the commune of Mutoyi were the areas most affected. However, no formal nutritional survey has been recently conducted in the province.

Mission participants report that many of the nutritional problems in Gitega stem from disruptions in the 1996 harvest and that assuming that there are no problems in the September/October harvest, nutritional problems in these sites may only be temporary.

In Rwisabi, malnourished children are cared for in a supplementary feeding program run out of the local health clinic. Sisters working in the clinic told mission participants that the situation in the surrounding hills was severe. SCF and Oxfam are considering supporting temporary nutritional programs to expand capacity in Rwisabi. In Mutoyi, there is a large private hospital staffed by Italian sisters, volunteers and a doctor. Since January, the hospital has treated 400 children in a therapeutic feeding program. Two hundred other children, living in temporary lodgings, are also treated in the hospital's supplementary feeding program. Eight hundred others come to the hospital twice a week for nutritional supplies.

As part of its reconciliation program, ActionAid is organizing training sessions August 11-23 in Ruyigi to train primary school teachers how to recognize traumatized children. The sessions will also cover the impact trauma can have on the relations between people and their neighbors. UNICEF will provide ActionAid with technical support for the training.

WHO reports that in its on-going typhus campaign, the agency has provided treatment to approximately 319,000 people in six provinces, out of the approximately 349,000 targeted in the campaign.

ACF, which receives support from both WFP and UNICEF for its nutritional activities, is establishing a temporary nutritional rehabilitation center in Rwegura in Kayanza province. The site, with a capacity to treat 100 people at a time, will be open by mid-August. UNICEF is providing ACF with 6mt of therapeutic milk and other foodstuffs used in therapeutic feeding programs. UNICEF is also arranging to have 8,000 liters of water delivered daily by truck to the Rwegura center and the Kayanza hospital.

The number of malnourished individuals in Rwegura continues to grow. Local authorities report that 2,198 people were registered at the site as of July 24. In early July, there were only approximately 700 people registered at the site. Most of the site residents are from Cibitoke and arrived at the site after crossing the Kibera forest to escape fighting in their home province. Sisters, supported by Caritas, currently provide basic assistance to moderately malnourished children at the site.

ACF has begun a nutritional survey of children under five years old at all known sites in Kayanza province housing war-affected populations. The survey, which will use cluster sampling techniques, began July 29 and is expected to be completed by August 9.

UNICEF also distributed some 20,000 kg of sand to war-affected populations in Ndava, Nyamitanga, Gasenyi and Ruhagarika in Cibitoke province. The sand will be used with locally fabricated clay jars to filter water.

A recent WFP assessment of conditions at the Rubirizi site (pop. approx. 5,000) in Kayanza's Rango commune found that site residents had good access to arable land, but lack fertilizer and seeds. The site's population was cultivating manioc and sweet potatoes. Some site residents work as day labourers in the fields of neighbouring communes. The agency says members of the assessment team observed many cases of suspected malnutrition and that WFP is planning to provide assistance at this site. The Rubirizi site was established in April of this year when authorities redirected some people from the overcrowded regroupment site in Karehe.

In contrast to conditions in Rubirizi, WFP found that residents of the Kinyovu displaced camp (pop.393) in Kayanza's Matongo commune have seeds and tools as well as sufficient access to arable land. Site residents appeared relatively healthy. At this time, the agency has no plans to provide assistance to the site.

A joint FAO-WFP special report on food security in Burundi estimated food production for the 1997-B season to be 1.7 million tons, which represents an increase of four percent over the 1996-B harvest. The report, published July 26, said that provided security and agricultural conditions continue to evolve positively, aggregate food production in 1997 is forecast to be 3.52 million tons. That figure is less than one percent higher than 1996's, and four percent lower than the 1988-93 average. The report was based on information collected during a June 18 - July 1 FAO-WFP crop and food supply assessment mission to Burundi.

4. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

In a July 27 meeting with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi, the Prime Minister said that he would like to organize at the end of August a meeting which would bring together all the key actors at the central and provincial level of government, along with representatives of donors and aid agencies. The purpose of the consultation would be to discuss the possibilities for the return of regrouped and displaced populations, including a timetable and appropriate aid measures.

WHO, in cooperation with CRS - the lead agency in the non-food sector, is in the process of attempting to organize urgent distributions of soap to sites throughout the country affected by typhus. WHO says that some 600,000 people in 10 provinces are now at risk of contracting the disease. Earlier this month, the first confirmed cases of typhus were reported in Bururi province, raising fears that the disease could spread as rapidly in the southern provinces as it has in the north.

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BURUNDI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT JULY 31- AUGUST 6, 1997

1. GENERAL

Six Burundians convicted of taking part in massacres following the aborted 1993 coup were executed by hanging July 31. Of the six, three were Hutu, two were Tutsi and one was a member of the Twa ethnic group. Their deaths reportedly marked the first court-ordered killings since the early 1980's. According to a statement from the Ministry of Justice, the sentences were carried out to show that acts of genocide could not be carried out with impunity.

A spokesman for the CNDD condemned the executions, calling them contrary to the spirit of the Arusha talks. However, UPRONA President Charles Mukasi reportedly urged the government to continue to carry out death sentences against others accused of similar crimes.

The executions have been condemned by both international and local human rights organizations, as well as western countries and neighbouring states. In a strongly worded statement, Tanzania's foreign ministry accused Burundi's military rulers of trying to sabotage internationally-backed peace efforts. According to Radio Tanzania, the Tanzanian government said that the sentencing and executions "showed that the military government had embarked on a mission to kill its opponents."

The US has called on the Burundian government "to halt all further executions and to suspend all trials arising from the 1993 assassination of President Ndadaye" and the massacres that followed. The US said that the suspension should hold pending the outcome of negotiations and the establishment of "an impartial, apolitical judicial system."

Burundi's foreign minister, Luc Rukingama, has demanded that the UN replace its Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. Rukingama has accused Pinheiro of biased reporting against his government, and of making unsubstantiated allegations on the massacres of civilians. A UN spokeswoman in Geneva rejected the demand, saying that the situation in Burundi was "serious" and that the UN would continue to press Burundi to accept a visit by Pinheiro. The spokeswoman said that the Burundian government has ignored repeated requests by Pinheiro to be allowed to visit the county. Pinheiro's mandate runs until 1998 and he is due to submit a report on human rights in Burundi at the next UN General Assembly session in September.

Pressure for Pinheiro's removal follows successful demands from the Democratic Republic of Congo for the replacement of Roberto Garreton who was probing alleged massacres of Hutu refugees in that country.

During a July 1 presentation before the diplomatic corps, Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama called on the international community to help create a favourable environment for the August 25 scheduled peace talks. Measures that would contribute to this environment, he said, would be

the complete removal of the economic embargo and the creation of an international tribunal to judge those accused of involvement in the 1993 massacres. He added that the July 31 executions were necessary in part to show that those who commit crimes could not do so with impunity.

In comments to wire services, National Assembly Speaker Leonce Ngendakumana warned that the August 25 Arusha peace talks would fail if the parties insisted on tackling the most contentious issues, such as reform of the military and the return of constitutional legality. Lack of consensus on these subjects were among the issues that blocked further progress in the Rome talks. "What will be negotiated in Arusha will not be power per se," Ngendakumana said, "but rather a project for society."

FRODEBU parliamentarian Paul Sirabahenda was reportedly killed in southern Burundi as he was travelling to visit his family in Tanzania. Paul Munyembari, deputy speaker of the Burundian national assembly told wire services that Sirabahenda was killed over the weekend of August 2-3. The circumstances and exact location of his death are unclear, however, his burnt out car was found in Makamba on the road to the border town of Mugina. Sirabahenda, who represented Makamba, had reportedly returned to Burundi to take his seat in parliament.

Over 20 FRODEBU parliamentarians have been killed since the October 1993 coup attempt. In late June, the wife of the FRODEBU president of the national assembly was injured when a mine exploded under her car in Bujumbura. Threats to FRODEBU have also come from within the party. FRODEBU members living in Tanzania have reportedly appealed to Tanzanian authorities to protect their party's leadership following concerns that some of the party's own members were plotting to kill them.

2. SECURITY

The Burundian military said August 4 that it had killed more than 30 rebels in fighting last week south of Bujumbura. In comments to reporters, a spokesman for the military did not specify where the fighting took place but said it was south of the capital. Communes in Bujumbura Rural such as Muhuta and Kabezi have been tense for weeks, with frequent military operations in the province. Local press reports have speculated recently about increased rebel recruiting in communes in close vicinity to the capital.

Throughout the afternoon of August 1, mortar fire was heard in the hills surrounding Bujumbura. A military spokesman claimed that the army had spotted rebels moving south and was firing to disperse them.

Nine people were killed August 4 when a minibus carrying 21 people detonated an antitank mine on RN-5 just south of Ndava in Cibitoke province. An army spokesman blamed Hutu rebels for the attack. The mine was planted on a small strip of road that is unpaved. RN-5 is the only route deemed safe enough for limited travel for international agencies working in the province. In light of the blast, UN agencies are temporarily suspending humanitarian activities in the province for one week to re-evaluate conditions in the province.

The Cibitoke explosion was the most recent in a series of mine blasts. On August 3, at least four people died when a minibus detonated an anti-tank mine near Muhuta between Bujumbura and Rumonge. During the early hours of August 3, a suspected mine explosion was heard throughout Bujumbura. Burundian military officials have not commented on the blast.

Since November of last year, there have been 39 confirmed mine explosions in Burundi compared with the handful reported prior to the end of last year.

Incidents of armed banditry are also on the increase in Bujumbura. During the afternoon of August 6, three armed individuals attempted unsuccessfully to rob a businessman at his house in one of the more prosperous neighbourhoods of Bujumbura. Members of the gendarmerie intervened. Shots were exchanged and a grenade tossed, apparently by one of the individuals

implicated in the attempted robbery. The attempt was one of several attempted armed robberies over the last two weeks.

On August 2, military sources say that rebels attacked the town of Rumonge, destroying houses and property. Casualties are not known.

[Clarification: In reference to reported fears by local administrators in Ruyigi that rebels may attempt to infiltrate the country among returning refugees if there was a sudden large-scale return of refugees from Tanzania, the July 24-30 sitrep said there were no confirmed reports that a return was already underway. The sentence should have stated that there were no confirmed reports that a sudden large-scale return was underway. Since December 1996, UNHCR has registered more than 30,000 Burundian returnees in Ruyigi province.]

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Using funds provided by OFDA, CARE International will take over WFP's emergency food distributions as of August 11. Since February 1996, WFP has distributed the commodities itself using its own distribution teams. With CARE responsible for the distribution of the food, WFP will concentrate its resources on ensuring that thorough needs assessments are conducted to determine where food should be distributed.

Over the reporting period, WHO has conducted two training sessions designed to improve the capacity of local health professionals to respond to potential epidemics in Burundi. Beginning July 29, WHO led a three-day training-of-trainers session on methods, appropriate for Burundi, to treat severe cases of malaria. Participants in the seminar will pass the skills on to others in their home provinces. WHO also led a week-long course in Ngozi on epidemiological monitoring. Participating in the course were health center directors and other medical staff from Ngozi, Kayanza, Kirundo and Muyinga.

The FAO coordinated distribution of agricultural inputs to approximately 116,000 families throughout the country is scheduled to begin August 8. 25,000 families in Karuzi will receive the first distribution of seeds and tools. Families from among the country's displaced, regrouped and repatriated populations will receive hoes, vegetable seeds and bean seeds in time for the 1998-A season. The distributions are expected to be completed by September 15.

4. COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

As of August 5, the WFP regional Beechcraft began serving Bujumbura. The flights will link Bujumbura with Kigali and Nairobi and will make intermediate stops in other towns in the Great Lakes region. Flight schedules and exact routes will vary, depending upon requirements. Priority in the plane will be given to WFP staff members.

UNHCR has received approval to restart regional flights to Bujumbura. The flights will link Bujumbura with other towns in the Great Lakes and Nairobi. The UNHCR flight to Bujumbura will be every Wednesday.

CRS, as lead agency in the non-food sector is holding a meeting August 12 to improve coordination in the sector. One of the key concerns of the sector is to ensure that agencies have sufficient stocks of non-food items available should regrouped populations be allowed to return home.

The Ministry of Reintegration has begun preparations for a round-table among Burundian officials, humanitarian agencies and donors to discuss the return of regrouped and displaced populations and appropriate measures the international community could take.

WFP has begun to distribute the fifth allocation of sanctions-exempted fuel imported for the use of international humanitarian organizations. WFP has submitted a request to Tanzanian authorities to increase the monthly fuel quota by about 30 percent to include 397,000 litres of diesel, 91,000 litres of petrol and 40,000 litres of Jet A-1

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Burundi: WFP news release 97.8.15

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News Release

WFP STRONGLY CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECTS OF PROLONGED FOOD SHORTAGES ON THOUSANDS OF BURUNDIANS IN CAMPS

Nairobi, 15 August 1997 -- The United Nations World Food Programme today warned that tens of thousands of Burundians, living in camps inside the country, are not getting access to enough basic food sources to stave off malnutrition and life-threatening diseases.

WFP teams assessing regroupment and displaced persons camps have reported that kwashiorkor, marasmus and oedema -- clinical signs of malnutrition which have noticeable, physical traits such as wasting of body fat, skin ulcers, swelling of the feet and lightness in hair color -- have become prevalent over the last few months.

"In many camps, people have had restricted access to their land and crops, and are now becoming more reliant on WFP food aid hand-outs," said Benoit Thiry, WFP Head of Programming in Burundi. "In some cases, the people have been in camps for so long they've missed two or three harvests. As a result, nutritional problems are on the rise."

An estimated 600,000 Burundians live away from their homes in some 250 camp settlements throughout the country. More than half of them are living in these so-called "regroupment" camps, which the Burundian Government refers to as "protected settlements". The other 300,000 are displaced persons, who were either driven into camps due to fighting in their villages or have recently returned to Burundi from refugee camps but due to insecurity, cannot return to their homes.

Recent food security assessments by WFP staff in camps in seven provinces have indicated that the hardest-hit populations are living in regroupment camps. These ad-hoc camps are often in remote areas where people have limited access to their land, thus placing severe constraints on their families' food supplies. Many camps have inadequate sources of clean water, poor sanitation facilities and little medical assistance.

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Malnutrition rates are believed to be most acute in the provinces of Karuzi, Bubanza and Kayanza. In the highly-insecure province of Bubanza, hundreds of people have been streaming into clinics in search of medical assistance and nutritional support after spending months in the forest. Some are so weak from malnourishment they can barely stand. Thousands more are believed still to be in hiding.

Medical non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating nutritional feeding centres in these three provinces have been requesting larger amounts of food supplies from WFP in order to

cope with the growing number of people who show up each day at their clinics. The NGOs have begun conducting wider nutritional surveys to determine the magnitude of the problem.

In the northern province of Karuzi, where the first regroupment camp opened in February 1996, more than 100,000 people are now living in camps with limited access to food. WFP assessment teams have found that many of the camps' residents are consuming only 1,200 Kilocalories a day, almost 40 per cent less than the recommended UN minimum food ration of 1,900 Kilocalories.

In displaced and regroupment camps across the country, WFP staff are finding that many people are not eating any fresh vegetables, meat or milk products because they cannot produce or afford to purchase them. Instead, people are resorting to filling their stomachs with cheaper and more readily available tubers -- carbohydrates that temporarily alleviate hunger but lack greatly-needed protein and vitamins.

"What we are seeing is prolonged undernutrition, which is slowly eroding the health of thousands of people," Thiry said. "This is not a population at the point of starvation, but generations of people could end up permanently blind, stunted mentally or, in extreme cases, dying of treatable diseases."

WFP has doubled its food aid assistance for the next five months, providing 21,000 metric tons of food to 280,000 of the most vulnerable of the displaced and regrouped persons. WFP hopes that the improved security conditions witnessed in some provinces of Burundi over the last few months will prevail in order to facilitate the delivery and distribution of the needed food aid.

Given the deteriorating nutritional situation and since the next major harvest is not due until December, WFP will also begin managing the food pipeline for all feeding programmes on behalf of the humanitarian community to ensure that adequate amounts of nutritional foods are reaching those most in need.

The United Nations does not support the establishment and existence of regroupment camps on humanitarian grounds. In keeping with the UN policy on regroupment in Burundi, WFP only provides humanitarian assistance to these camps on the basis of food emergency assessments which indicate relief food aid needs, and which allow strict food aid monitoring.

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 7-19 August 1997 97.8.19

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
AUGUST 7 - AUGUST 19, 1997

1. GENERAL:

Ministers from Kenya, Tanzania the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda meeting in Kampala August 16 have decided that economic sanctions imposed against Burundi should remain in force. Tanzanian Foreign Affairs Minister Jakaya Kikwete told reporters that the sanctions "must continue until they achieve their objective of restoring democratic rule." He said that the meeting had called on countries which have relaxed sanctions to restore them. The ministers also recommended that a summit meeting of African presidents should be called to study the situation in Burundi. The summit would take place sometime after the August 25 Arusha talks. Speaking on local radio after the conclusions of the summit were announced, Burundian Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama complained that Tanzania had imposed its views on other participants in the conference who were more inclined to lift the sanctions. He said that the results of the summit could block the peace process and encourage extremists in Burundi.

A Burundian national court in Ngozi handed down death sentences August 14 to fourteen people accused of taking part in ethnic massacres in 1993. The 14 were among 40 defendants being tried in connection with the massacres that followed the 1993 assassination of President Ndadaye. Thirteen were sentenced to 20 year prison terms while three were acquitted. The other ten defendants reportedly asked for an adjournment until September so that they could seek the assistance of foreign lawyers. Last month, six people were executed by hanging after a Burundian court sentenced them to death for participating in the 1993 massacres.

The executions have been defended by Burundi's foreign minister as necessary to ensure that impunity to commit similar crimes does not go unchecked. According to the UN Center for Human Rights in Burundi, approximately 90 percent of Burundi's 8,000 prisoners are awaiting trial.

President Buyoya added August 13 the post of "Minister for the Peace Process" to his 25 member cabinet two weeks before multi-party talks are scheduled to be held in Arusha. Ambroise Niyombasa, the current director of REGIDESO, the state water and electrical company has been named to the post. In the past, Niyombasa has had high level posts in the government overseeing rural development.

Burundian Minister of Institutional reform, Eugene Nindorera told reporters August 12 that the government, the National Assembly, its main parties and the CNDD had received invitations to attend the Arusha talks. However, it is still unclear if Leonce Ngendakumana, the Speaker of the National Assembly, will be able to attend the talks. Burundian officials have banned Ngendakumana from leaving the country because he is being investigated for his alleged involvement in the 1993 massacres. Ngendakumana is seen as key participant in the talks and some observers have questioned if the talks will continue without him.

President Buyoya announced August 11, that the second phase of the on-going National Debate would start this month. According to reports carried in local press, the second phase will include more involvement of individuals at the communal level

2. SECURITY:

Following an upswing of violence in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces, up to 13,000 people have streamed into the towns of Bubanza and nearby communities. Several international media reports have indicated that 600 people have been killed in recent weeks in fighting between members of the CNDD and Palepahutu, rival Hutu rebel groups in Cibitoke. The CNDD has said that its armed wing, the FDD, is battling the Burundian military in northwestern Burundi and not other Hutu rebel groups. Access to Cibitoke province is limited, and local officials have not been able to confirm the casualty figures

On August 17 a minibus carrying 18 people detonated an antitank mine near Rutanga, roughly 20 km south of Bujumbura on the road to Rumonge on National Route 3. Twelve people were killed and five were seriously injured in the attack, according to a military spokesman. The incident was one of the most serious single mine incidents to date in the country. UN security guidelines prevent travel on RN-3 south of Gitaza. The area near where the attack occurred has been the scene of heavy rebel activity for months.

In Bujumbura, there has been a noticeable increase in banditry in recent weeks with at least one episode in which the bandits were armed with grenades. On August 14, a body was found near a UN building in downtown Bujumbura. The individual was reportedly a victim of vigilante justice. Lake-side communes in southern Burundi remain tense in light of organized rebel activity in the south. Humanitarian sources have also noted an increased presence of Burundian troops on the border with Tanzania following increased tension with Tanzania and fears of rebel infiltrations from refugee camps across the border. Local press has also reported rebel attacks and persistent insecurity in the communes of Rumonge, Burambi and Buyengerero in Bururi province.

Military authorities reported that five civilians were killed during an August 12 rebel attack against the town of Buhanda outside of Bujumbura. Rebels, who carried out the attack with guns and knives also reportedly left five other members of the community wounded. A military spokesman said that villagers lynched one of the assailants and that the community had been targeted because it supported the government and would not provide support to the rebel movement. Attacks have also been reported in the Cibitoke suburb of Bujumbura. An August 10 attack on several houses in the Cibitoke neighbourhood of the capital reportedly left two people dead and two injured.

3. AFFECTED POPULATIONS:

Aid agencies for the first time have received a schedule for the dismantlement of many of the country's regroupment camps. On August 12, the governor of Kayanza issued a schedule for the dismantlement of all but one of the regroupment camps in his province. Over 82,250 people will be allowed to return to their home communities. He has provided no information on the dismantlement of the Muruta camp in the commune of the same name. The governor said that the camps, all of which are in the communes of Rango and Butanganzwa will be emptied between August 20 and September 20. Officials in Kayanza now say that all those returning home will be allowed to return directly to their respective homes. In the past the governor had indicated that many of those leaving regroupment camps would have to be resettled along roads and tracks. International humanitarian agencies have been told that they will have free access to the returned populations. Distributions of return packages - composed of a three month food ration, seeds and agricultural tools, and basic non-food items - are scheduled to begin August 22 in those communes where people have already returned home. Distribution teams from WFP and Christian Aid/National Council of Burundian Churches will distribute food and agricultural goods. FAO is coordinating the distribution of seeds in the province. Teams from IFRC will distribute IFRC's own non-food items as well as those provided by UNHCR and Oxfam-UK.

UNICEF also plans to lend jerry cans to IFRC for the distribution. To date, Kayanza is the only province where there has been a move to dismantle the regroupment camps. In other provinces, there has been no move to send the regrouped home, and conditions both in regroupment camps in other provinces and some other IDP camps continue to deteriorate.

Terms of reference are now being formalized for a meeting, to be hosted by the Prime Minister, and attended by donors, humanitarian agencies and members of the Burundian government to discuss measures to support the return of all displaced war-affected populations. The conference is provisionally scheduled for August 27.

Tens of thousands of Burundians living in the country's camps are at risk of malnutrition and other life-threatening diseases, WFP warned in an August 15 statement. The statement said that assessment teams working in both regroupment and displaced camps had reported that kwashiorkor, marasmus and oedema - which are indications of malnutrition - had become prevalent in camps. The statement said that the hardest hit population was in regroupment camps. It added that even though populations were not generally at risk of starvation, generations of people could end up blind, mentally stunted or, in extreme cases, dying of treatable diseases.

A WFP assessment of the Gakere IDP site (pop. 1,648) in Ngozi's Kiremba commune, found that site residents must travel approximately 10 km to reach their fields. This distance from their fields has limited the amount of cultivation. The agency also says that poor weather in the area has also limited crop production. Given that members of the assessment team observed signs of malnutrition among some members of the population, the agency says that it will provide food assistance to the site.

On August 13, representatives of WFP, UNHCR, DHA, CRS and Equilibre found during a mission to the town of Bubanza that some 9,000 people were encamped at a site called Mugungo III, a series of small hills just north of the town. An additional 4,000 people were said to be living at a site called Ciya, about 7 km northwest of the city and not accessible by road. The populations of both sites began arriving late last week following increased disturbances in northwestern Burundi (see Security section) with some 5,000 people arriving over the weekend of August 9-10.

As of August 13, no needs assessment at either site had been conducted. WFP, through Children's Aid Direct, has distributed limited quantities of food in Mugungo III. Residents of the Ciya site have not yet received any direct assistance. Equilibre has set-up a water bladder for the newly arrived displaced in the town of Bubanza and a second one on the edge of Mugungo III.

In separate interviews, residents of the Mugungo site told the mission that they had fled Murwi commune in Cibitoke following fighting in the area and had been forced to flee to Bubanza with little more than the clothes on their backs. Other residents of the site were said to come from other communes in Cibitoke and northern Bubanza. Site residents appeared haggard, but in better physical condition than many residents of regroupment camps. Until a thorough needs assessment can be conducted, WFP has agreed to provide additional seven day rations for 14,000 people. UNHCR is planning to distribute blankets, jerry cans and other essential non-food relief items.

WHO reports that as of August 4, 3,363 new cases of typhus have been reported in the provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Muramvya, Gitega, Karuzi, Kirundo, Muyinga and Bujumbura Rural since July 1 for cumulative total of 39,732 cases since the beginning of the outbreak last year. The agency reports that in its anti-typhus campaign, conducted with the cooperation of the IFRC, out of a total of 349,000 people in 6 provinces, 318,680 people received preventative treatment for the disease, a coverage rate of over 90 percent.

Interviewed on BBC's Kirundi service, the Minister of Interior, Epitace Bayaganakandi, has said that people living in communities on the hills surrounding Nyanza Lac in Makamba

province are leaving their communities to re-locate near soldiers. He did not specify how many people had moved but said that they were fleeing out of fear of "gangs of killers." Some reports indicate that up to 20,000 people may be living in approximately five different sites near the town.

UNHCR reports that roughly 1,000 fewer Burundian refugees returned through Kobero in July compared with the previous month. In July, 2,002 Burundians returned through Kobero compared with 3,130 who returned in June. Burundians returning from Zaire also continue to arrive at the Gatumba transit center. In July, 1,377 returning Burundian refugees were registered at the site, just over 100 more new arrivals who were registered at that Gatumba site the previous month.

Aid agencies report evidence of increased rivalry between the CNDD and Palipehutu in the Lukole refugee camp in northwestern Tanzania. Since January, some 13,000 people have returned to Burundi from Lukole.

4. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

With support from ECHO, the Irish NGO Concern is in the process of establishing operations in Burundi. The NGO will initially provide support to the nutritional sector and is discussing areas of greatest need with government officials and international humanitarian agencies already established in Burundi. In addition to nutrition, Concern is also considering programs in community rehabilitation and unaccompanied children.

In a project funded by OFDA, WFP is overseeing construction of new airstrips in Karuzi, Muyinga and Ruyigi. Construction of all the strips, except the one in Ruyigi, has already begun. Construction engineers are also extending the Ngozi airstrip. The airstrips are expected to be completed by mid-September. WFP is currently able to use airstrips in Ngozi, Gitega, Kirundo and Gihofi. The added strips will allow international humanitarian agencies air access to all corners of the country.

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BURUNDI
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT
AUGUST 20 - 27, 1997

1. General:

During an August 24 - 26 visit to Burundi, UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Yasushi Akashi visited both displaced and regroupment camps in Kayanza and Muramvya provinces. Mr. Akashi also met with President Buyoya, Prime Minister Ndimira and other high ranking officials of the Burundian government and the international humanitarian community. The Undersecretary General visited Burundi in order to gain a first hand understanding of the situation in regroupment camps and the humanitarian impact of sanctions. Mr. Akashi is the highest ranking UN official to visit Burundi since last July's coup.

All party peace talks originally scheduled for August 25 have been indefinitely postponed following a sharp deterioration in relations between Burundi and Tanzania, and complaints by the Burundian government that it was not sufficiently consulted before the talks began. The Burundian government called on August 22 for the talks to be postponed accusing Tanzanian authorities and former Tanzanian President Nyerere, the host of the talks, of provoking tension between the two countries. In an August 27 statement, however, the Burundian government reiterated its commitment to the concept of all-party talks as a fundamental path to finding a solution to the Burundian conflict.

The Burundian government has accused the Tanzanians of giving sanctuary to Hutu rebels among the 200,000 Burundian refugees living in Tanzania. Burundian authorities also see Tanzania as being the strongest voice advocating the maintenance of regional sanctions against Burundi. On August 23, Tanzania accused the Burundian army of massing troops on the border to attack Burundian refugee camps, a charge which the Burundian authorities denied. UN/OAU Special Representative Mohamed Sahnoun arrived in Bujumbura August 24 for brief talks with Burundian officials in an attempt to diffuse the situation.

In a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, Maj. Gen. Sarakikya, Tanzanian High Commissioner to Kenya and chairman of the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee emphasised that the ban on commercial flights to Burundi remained in place. Tanzania has refused Kenya Airways permission to fly over its territory to Burundi and the future of flights by African Airways, the single commercial air link between Kenya and Burundi, now appears in doubt.

Tanzania's prime minister, Frederick Somaye, has reportedly told the Tanzanian parliament that Tanzania would be forced to retaliate if provocations by Burundi continued. He said that Burundian forces were increasingly massed on the Tanzanian border. He added that a number of Tanzanians had already been killed by Burundian soldiers and that Tanzania would hit back if provoked or attacked. For their part, however, Burundian military spokesmen have downplayed the border tensions, denying that their country had any intention of entering Tanzania and adding that they did not believe that Tanzania had any intention of attacking Burundi.

2. Security:

Anti-tank mines are becoming a growing concern on Burundi's major roads. On August 20, military authorities reportedly discovered an anti-tank mine planted on RN - 1 between Bujumbura and Bugarama. The mine was safely de-fused. There is growing evidence that rebels are changing their tactics and not only placing their mines on smaller roads where military traffic is likely, but also on the country's main arteries. According to one source, there have been some 25 deaths from anti-tank mine explosions within 50 km of the capital since August 3.

In Bururi, an August 20 rebel attack against a military position left at least one soldier dead and another wounded. While the same day, in Cibitoke's Buganda province, a rebel attack against a community reportedly left five residents dead and their houses burned. On August 27, a pick-up reportedly detonated an anti-tank mine in Buyengero commune killing two occupants and wounding six others. The commune has been tense for several months.

Several attacks have also been reported in Bujumbura. On August 27, unknown individuals armed with automatic weapons attacked a bar in the Mutanga South neighbourhood, killing at least two people.

3. Affected Populations:

In the first mission to Nyanza Lac commune by international humanitarian agencies in at least four months, a joint UN/NGO mission visited two camps with a combined population of approximately 12,600 people. The mission, led by DHA, included participants from WFP, UNICEF, WHO, the UN Center for Human Rights, and the Irish NGO Concern.

The camps visited are among a reported five camps, which according to local administrators have been created over the last four months and have a combined population of approximately 19,380. An additional 4,800 people are also said to be displaced near Rimbo, approximately 20 km northwest of the town of Nyanza Lac. Approximately one third of the commune's population (approx. 60,000 before April) are now said to be displaced.

The residents of the sites visited face problems similar to those faced by displaced populations throughout the country. These problems include: lack of permanent shelter, limited sanitation, limited sources of income, limited access to health care and variable access to arable land. The sites visited were said by local administrators to be those where conditions were the worst. As bad as they were, they were considerably better than in most regroupment sites. The mission found no evidence of widespread malnutrition among site residents. Both site residents and local administrators told mission participants that those living at the sites were able to harvest crops that had previously been planted in nearby fields. Site residents have not, however, been able to plant for the next season and malnutrition is likely to become a growing concern.

Destruction of the town's water system had deprived the town of running water. Although the water system was repaired the week of August 21, cholera is once again a problem. Over 30 cases have been reported in the Nyanza Lac 1 displaced site and in the town's Quartier Swahili since the end of July.

In a joint mission to Bubanza on August 18, WFP, CRS and UNHCR found that several expanded sites have been created in the vicinity of Bubanza town. Five sites within 12 km of Bubanza town house approximately 15,200 newly displaced persons, as compared to only two

(Mugongo III and Ciya) with a combined population of 13,000 which existed a week earlier (see August 19 sitrep). WFP reports that approximately 3,000 people have been transferred from Mugongo III to sites called Muramba and Kampene. These sites are closer to their own land and are protected by military positions. Approximately 1,800 new arrivals escaping insecurity in northwestern Burundi are also being housed at a site near Nyamwagura. The mission estimated that at the Mugongo site, only approximately ten percent of the site residents are close enough to their own land to harvest crops from their fields. It takes most of the site's residents approximately three hours to reach their fields.

WFP conducted a Food Economy Approach assessment at the Rwegura site in Kayanza province. The site population, most of whom have escaped fighting in Bubanza and Cibitoke, has gradually increased since November of last year and in July numbered 2,036. Fifty percent of the site's population are widows, orphans and unaccompanied children. WFP reports that the population has no access to arable land and is surviving on vegetables scavenged from the forest. According to WFP, the site's average daily consumption is between 460 and 894 kcal, far below the theoretical minimum of 1,900 kcal. WFP has responded with an ad hoc 30 day food distribution.

According to MSF-F, evidence from those registering in therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs in Kirundo province, indicates the existence of some chronic malnutrition in non-IDP communities, and not only in displaced or regroupment camps as many have assumed. The organization says that, at this point, additional interpretations of the results are not yet possible.

IFRC is in the process of conducting a survey on the number of residents of regroupment camps in Kayanza who have returned to their communes of origin in the province. Survey results will be used to determine the quantities of non-food items to be distributed to returned populations. According to figures provided by WFP, 6,672 people have returned to their homes of origin from Ruhinga regroupment camp in Kayanza province. Those who have returned have been provided with a 90 day return package from WFP. The WFP return package provides approximately 1,215 kcal per person per day. Distribution teams are also distributing 10kg of bean seeds, 10 gr of vegetable seeds, and one hoe per family.

UNHCR reports that it facilitated the repatriation August 25 of some 400 Burundian refugees living in the Musange refugee camp in southern Rwanda.. The refugees were repatriated to their home communities in Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga and Kayanza provinces. UNHCR says its Butare office interviewed all of those returning to ensure that their repatriation was voluntary and that they did indeed want to return to Burundi. The agency says that next week, it plans to facilitate the return of an additional 1,200 Burundian refugees living in Kigeme camp in Rwanda's Gikongoro province. Approximately 5,000 Burundian refugees remained in Rwanda at the end of July. UNHCR says that it will facilitate the return of Burundians living in neighbouring countries only if the agency considers the Burundian's home provinces to be relatively secure.

Between August 24 and August 27, UNHCR facilitated the return to Rwanda of 115 Rwandan refugees who had been living in the communes of Bubanza, Gihanga, Mpanda and Musigati in Bubanza province. Some of the Rwandans had been living in the province since 1992, others fled to Bubanza after the closure of the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire in October. Anti-Rwandan sentiment has been rising in the country in light of allegations of Interhamwe activities in northwestern Burundi.

With financing from OFDA, CRS will begin September 1, a ten month project to improve food security in Bujumbura Rural, Rutana, Muramvya and Gitega provinces. The project will support seed multiplication efforts to ensure that high quality potato and bean seeds are available. CRS will work with ISABU, a Burundian agricultural research body, to improve the germination of high quality seeds. In collaboration with local agricultural extension agents, and as part of another self-funded project, CRS is already working to promote seed multiplication programs in Cankuzo province.

4. Coordination of Humanitarian Operations:

>From its warehouse in Pisa, DHA is providing cooking sets, soap, blankets, buckets and plastic sheeting for populations returning from regroupment camps in Kayanza province. The goods will be put at the disposition of those agencies distributing the goods.

[ENDS]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Wed, 10 Sep 1997 16:19:45 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Situation Report 28 Aug - Sep 5 97 97.9.10

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, August 28 - September 5

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit in Burundi

Political Developments

Tanzania holds fifth regional summit in Dar es Salaam on September 3 after collapse of Arusha talks; Burundi calls for all-party talks on September 29. Following the Burundian government's refusal to attend talks scheduled in Arusha on August 25, Tanzania held a regional summit in Dar on September 3 to review the situation. The meeting was attended by leaders of Ethiopia, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the OAU Secretary General, the UN/OAU Special Representative to the GLR and observers from Belgium, South Africa, the United States and the EU. President Moi of Kenya did not attend, largely in protest of the regional leaders' stance to maintain sanctions against Burundi. Burundi, which has accused Tanzania of partisanship, was not represented at the meeting.

In a joint communique issued on September 4, participants expressed their regret over the lack of progress in the peace negotiations, confirmed that existing sanctions would be maintained and announced the creation of a special secretariat under the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee to monitor the strict adherence to the embargo by all participating countries. Summit participants also reiterated their confidence in Julius Nyerere and his efforts to broker an agreement between the opposing parties. The statement further indicated that Nyerere, who has offered to relinquish his role as mediator should he be perceived as an obstacle to the peace process, will host the next all-party talks in Arusha. Burundi was further urged to unconditionally release the Speaker of the National Assembly as well as former Presidents Ntibantunganya and Bagaza and allow them to travel without hindrance. The communique also called for the immediate disbanding of the regroupment camps.

On September 3, the Burundian government issued a statement reaffirming its commitment to peace and calling for all-party negotiations to be held on September 29 in a "neutral" location such as Addis Abeba, Pretoria, Harare, or Lusaka. The statement protested the fact that Burundi was not included in the regional meeting held in Dar es Salaam. It remains to be confirmed if and where the all-party talks will be convened.

Rise in tension between Burundi and Tanzania. Burundi has renewed charges that Tanzania is providing bases to rebels, particularly among the refugee population and a Burundian minister went as far as accusing Tanzania of wanting to annex Burundi. A Burundian army spokesman denied reports that Tanzanian military killed 20 Burundian soldiers in a border clash in Kigoma while the Tanzanian Prime Minister warned that his country would "retaliate with all strength" if provoked.

American special envoy visits Burundi. U.S. special envoy, Howard Wolpe, visited Burundi from August 30 to September 2 to meet with government officials to review developments and

discuss the peace process. He also travelled to Kayanza, Karuzi and Ngozi where he visited displaced camps and met with local authorities.

Humanitarian Activities

Tripartite meeting on return of displaced populations. On September 3, the government convened a meeting attended by heads of UN agencies, select NGOs, diplomats and donor representatives in order to discuss the return of displaced populations from Karuzi, Kayanza and Muramvya, three provinces most affected by the regroupment phenomenon. Clear timetables have been provided for the reinstallation of populations in Muramvya and Kayanza. A schedule is also expected shortly for Karuzi where seventy percent of the regrouped are expected to be allowed to return to their homes by the end of the year.

Return of Regrouped Populations assisted in Kayanza. From 20 August to 3 September a total of 16,691 persons began leaving Ruhinga, Karehe, Buraniro and Nyarurama camps in Rango and Butaganzwa communes and received the food and agricultural component of their return package. A total of 503mt of food, 39mt of seeds and 3,396 hoes were despatched. The food portion consists of 20kg cereal, 10kg beans, 1 litre oil and 0.45kg salt while agricultural inputs constitute 10kg bean seeds, 10g vegetable seeds and one hoe per family. During the same time period, 7,986 people benefited from the distribution of non-food items. The distribution of food and agricultural inputs is overseen by WFP while IFRC is coordinating the NFI distribution. On 3 September, the WFP country director and FAO emergency coordinator visited the "colline" of Nyabibuye to witness the distribution of food and agricultural items. An Italian film crew producing a documentary on the current situation in Burundi also participated in the mission.

Feeding programmes to begin in Bubanza. Children's Aid Direct will start providing targeted supplementary feeding to 11,000 children under the age of five in six centres in Mpanda, Ruyange, Ninga, Buramata, Gihanga and Bubanza. Action Contre La Faim is also exploring the possibility of setting up a therapeutic feeding centre (TFC) serving up to 250 individuals in Mpanda. Currently, 45% of the malnourished cases received at a TFC located at Maramvya in neighbouring Bujumbura Rural are from Mpanda. The Irish NGO Concern is also considering the implementation of a therapeutic feeding programme in the hospital in Bubanza.

UNHCR update on spontaneous returnees registered in Muyinga, Ruyigi and Gatumba. From August 1 - 25 a total of 1,132 Burundians were registered crossing from the Tanzanian camps in Ngara to Muyinga in the north-east of the country bringing the total since December 1996 to 20,254. 2,500 Burundians were registered in August returning from former Zaire via Gatumba bringing the total since December last year to 30,179. In addition, 32,577 returnees have been registered crossing into Ruyigi since December 1996. This brings the total registered returnees at these three crossing points over the past nine months to 85,408.

WHO holds training workshops. WHO held a training workshop from 18 to 29 August for technicians involved in implementing water and sanitation projects in displaced sites in Gitega province. The workshop was conducted by five facilitators and attended by 21 participants. Additional training workshops took place from 25 to 28 August in Ngozi, Gitega and Bujumbura to discuss the treatment of serious cases of malaria. A total of 81 doctors, medical consultants, nurses and heads of health centres from ten different provinces attended. WHO also carried out an evaluation of skin diseases in the Mwanzeri and Tankoma displaced sites in Gitega province from 26 to 29 August.

IRC opens new office in Kirundo. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is in the process of opening an office and starting operations in the water/sanitation and infrastructure rehabilitation sectors in Kirundo. IRC, with a field office in Muyinga, already carries out water and sanitation activities in Muyinga and Karuzi provinces. Projects focus on the rehabilitation of water sources and the construction of family latrines. IRC currently also trucks water to two of the most vulnerable regroupment camps in Karuzi.

Two of three new airstrips completed. WFP has completed the OFDA funded construction of two new airstrips in Karuzi and Muyinga. A third airstrip is being built in Ruyigi and will be completed by the end of October. In addition, the Ngozi airstrip was extended by 200 m. Construction of the three new strips will bring the total serving the interior of the country to seven, including the four that already exist in Kirundo, Ngozi, Gitega and Rutana.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi. Tel: (257) 218034/ Fax: (257) 218035

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 12 Sep 1997 12:45:48 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Joint Communiqué of the 5th Regional Summit on the Burundi Conflict 97.9.4

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIFTH REGIONAL SUMMIT ON THE BURUNDI CONFLICT

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Laurent-Desire Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Brigadier General Godfrey Miyanda, Vice President, representing President Frederick Chiluba of the Republic of Zambia met on 3rd and 4th September, 1997 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and deliberated on the conflict in Burundi.
2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the Foreign Minister of Kenya, Hon. S. Kalonzo Musyoka, representing President Daniel T. arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya, the OAU Secretary General, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.
3. The Regional Summit received a comprehensive report from the Facilitator of the Peace Process, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere on his efforts to facilitate a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Burundi including his recent endeavours to convene on 25th August, 1997 in Arusha, Tanzania, a meeting of all parties to the conflict.
4. The Regional Summit expressed its regret that in spite of all these efforts, there has been no progress in the negotiation process. It expressed, in particular, its disappointment over the refusal of the Government of Burundi to take part in the first session of all party negotiations in Arusha.
5. The Regional Summit recalled the previous decisions taken in Arusha I, II, III and IV Regional Summits. The Summit reaffirmed that the objective of the negotiations is to achieve a new dispensation based on the principles of democracy and security for all. In this respect, it is expected that the negotiating parties will come up with transitional mechanisms towards the attainment of this ultimate objective.
6. The Regional Summit decided to maintain the existing sanctions and to ensure their scrupulous application. In this regard, the Summit decided to create a Special Secretariat comprising representatives of all the participating countries working under the Regional Sanctions Co-ordinating Committee, to monitor compliance by all the participating countries.
7. The Regional Summit was informed of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's position to step aside as Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process. The Summit was firmly of the view that the continued role of Mwalimu is crucial for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Burundi. It reaffirmed its confidence in the Facilitator and urged him to continue.
8. The Regional Summit also discussed the issue of the venue of the All - Party Talks. It took note of the position of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, not to host the Talks.

The leaders nonetheless insisted that the next round of Talks be held in Arusha. The Summit urged all the parties, including the Burundi Government to take part in those Talks, which will be convened by the Facilitator, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. In order to create a propitious climate for the talks, the Summit called upon the Burundi Government to halt the trials it is currently conducting until such time that a negotiated solution is in place to deal with such crimes; to release unconditionally the Speaker of the National Assembly, Leonce Ngendakumana, the former President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and the former President Jean Baptiste Bagaza to travel freely and participate in the talks; and, to immediately disband the regroupment camps.

9. The Regional Summit reaffirmed its determination and commitment to promote a negotiated settlement in Burundi and to fully back the efforts of the Facilitator in this direction. The Summit further declared its preparedness to adopt additional measures to deal with any obstruction to the negotiation process.

10. The Regional Summit appealed to all OAU member States, the United Nations and the rest of the international community to actively support the peace process in Burundi.

11. The Regional Summit requested President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda to convey to the Government of Burundi the spirit and content of this Summit.

12. The Fifth Regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Benjamin William Mkapa for once again hosting the Regional Summit on the conflict in Burundi and to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm reception and hospitality extended to all delegations.

DONE AT DAR ES SALAAM, ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1997.

[Transcribed verbatim by UN DHA IRIN.]

[Via the UN DHA Integrated Regional Information Network "Wire" mailing list. The material contained in this communication may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. UN DHA IRIN Tel: +254 2 622123 Fax: +254 2 622129 e-mail: irin@dha.unon.org for more information. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post this item, please retain this credit and disclaimer.]

Date: Fri, 26 Sep 1997 09:23:09 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN DHA IRIN - Great Lakes
<irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: UN Humanitarian Information Bulletin 13-19 Sep 97 97.9.19

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, September 13 - 19

UN DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

Political Developments

Burundi government reaffirms commitment to peace process. Following President Buyoya's meeting with President Museveni in Uganda during which the outcome of the September 3 summit in Dar es Salaam was discussed, the Burundi government issued a statement addressed to all regional heads of state. The statement again noted Buyoya's regret that Burundi was not invited to the summit and reiterated that the government intended to pursue negotiations with the opposition. An important new element in this declaration is the Government's assertion that the "national debate" it is engaged in will lead to the creation of a "negotiated transitional government" that would itself ultimately lead to the establishment of all-inclusive democratic institutions. Since the current tense relations between Burundi and Tanzania did not provide an environment conducive towards successful negotiations, Buyoya once again urged that future talks be held in a neutral African country. He also repeated his call for the complete lifting of the embargo.

President of UPRONA detained. The chairman of the majority Tutsi party UPRONA (Unity for National Progress), Charles Mukasi, was arrested as he was giving a press conference at a hotel in Bujumbura on September 18. On September 15, Mukasi had accused President Buyoya of "abuse of office and interference in UPRONA's management" in particular in regard to Buyoya's willingness to negotiate with the opposition. Charging Buyoya of being responsible for causing an increasing rift within the UPRONA party, he announced that he would take legal action against the current government. Several other members of UPRONA and three journalists were also arrested and various documents were confiscated. The detained were released later in the day.

Humanitarian Activities

Reinstallation process temporarily suspended in Kayanza. Due to a rise in insecurity in the communes of Rango and Butaganzwa, the return of regrouped populations has been temporarily halted. WFP and IFRC have also suspended the distribution of return packages until the situation in the area stabilises.

Update on FAO seeds and tools distribution. The FAO coordinated distribution of agricultural inputs for the 1998-A season is currently taking place in Bubanza, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Karuzi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Rutana and Ruyigi. 413,070 of 685,915 beneficiaries, or approximately sixty percent of the beneficiary population, have received 962 mt of bean seeds, 877 kg of vegetable seeds and 95,145 hoes. Each family receives a standard ration of 10kg of bean seeds, 10g of vegetable seeds and 1 hoe.

WFP continues emergency distributions in Karuzi. As part of an ongoing programme, WFP, in close collaboration with its implementing partner CARE, distributed 235 mt of 30 day rations to 15,939 people in two regroupment camps in Karuzi. The targeted camps were Rusamaza in Gihogazi commune and Bihemba in Bugenyuzi commune.

UNICEF special report on nutritional situation in Burundi. A UNICEF nutritionist visited Burundi from 28 August to 6 September to review the nutritional situation in the country and evaluate UNICEF's activities and strategy in the nutrition sector. The visit included contacts with UNICEF partners and visits to supplementary and nutritional feeding centres, hospitals and IDP camps. Presently UNICEF's main functions in the nutrition sector include the provision of therapeutic milk, UNIMIX and Vitamin A to therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres across the country, financial and technical support to the nutrition section of the Ministry of Health and monitoring of the nutritional situation in Muyinga displaced camps. The mission report highlighted the importance of initiating a regular monitoring system to improve the humanitarian community's ability to keep track of the nutritional situation of high risk populations. Ideally, the nutritional situation for under five year olds should systematically be monitored in seven to nine places across the country every four months. The report discussed pipeline problems, especially in regard to low stocks of therapeutic milk, and highlighted the importance of including more pregnant and lactating women in the supplementary feeding programmes. In order to ensure adequate and efficient intervention, the report concluded that responsibility for ensuring implementation of the above recommendations be assumed by a full-time UNICEF nutritionist.

UNICEF constructs temporary schools. In an effort to provide basic schooling to more children, UNICEF is constructing temporary classrooms made of local materials in a number of provinces. 52 temporary classes are being built in Bujumbura and outskirts. A total of 63 temporary classrooms will also be constructed in Cibitoke, Bubanza and Karuzi provinces along with a number of latrines. In addition, 15 existing classrooms will be rehabilitated in Karuzi. UNICEF provides pupils with exercise books and pens while the Ministry supplies the necessary textbooks.

Repatriation of Burundian refugees. UNHCR reports that from 9 to 16 September a total of 506 persons were repatriated to Burundi by air from Shabunda, Lulingu, Bukavu and Kindu in DRC. From 25 August to 15 September 2,217 people were repatriated from Rwanda, mainly from Gikongoro, Kigali and Butare.

ACF continues support to Maramvya health centre in Bujumbura Rural. ACF continues to provide supplementary and nutritional feeding at a feeding centre in Maramvya in Bujumbura Rural which has a capacity of 400 patients. Due to continued new arrivals, on September 3 there were over 620 patients, 130 more than during the month of August. Since many patients arrive with accompanying family members the site now houses 1,300 people. 69% of the cases are arriving from neighbouring Bubanza, 21% from Cibitoke and the rest from Bujumbura Rural. Cases of marasmus and kwashiorkor are common. UNICEF and the Italian Cooperation is trucking water to the site.

More aid to Rwegura site in Kayanza. The site of Rwegura currently holds about 3,000 persons who have emerged in very poor condition from the Kibira forest after having fled fighting in neighbouring Cibitoke. WFP will be providing emergency rations during the upcoming week while UNHCR will assist the roughly 600 families through a distribution of non-food items including mats, plastic sheeting, jerry cans and a two month soap ration. The distribution of the NFI items will be overseen by IFRC. UNICEF is supporting the government's national Water and Sanitation Project to construct 12 latrines and two water sources. ACF operates a Therapeutic Feeding Centre on site and MSF France/Holland provides medical assistance. On September 18, a joint ACF, MSF France/Holland, DHA/HCU mission travelled to Kayanza to meet the governor to discuss the provision of aid and the re-organisation of the site so that it would be less crowded and conditions were more sanitary. The re-organisation of the site will be overseen by IFRC. The possibility of the establishment of a second site to prevent overcrowding should the number of new arrivals continue to grow was also discussed.

Centre for Human Rights carries out missions to Bubanza, Muramvya and Kayanza. During the reporting period, UN Human Rights observers traveled to Bubanza to investigate a recent security incident at Giko and visited Muramvya to monitor the return of regrouped populations from Rutegama. The observers also investigated incidents at Gatumba and Gitaza in Bujumbura Rural and visited Rwegura in Kayanza to evaluate conditions in the camp. Representatives of the UN Human Rights Centre also met with the Minister of Human Rights, Institutional Reforms and Relations with the National Assembly to discuss the centre's activities and liaison between the two parties.

DHA policy advisor on sanctions regimes and humanitarian exemptions to travel to Nairobi. A special policy advisor will travel on mission to Nairobi from October 1 to 17 to assist in developing practical steps to facilitate the process of humanitarian exemptions with the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC), as well as the different national sanctions committees. The advisor will also consult with donors, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organisations involved in Burundi on the processing of humanitarian exemptions under the sanctions regime and the management of corridors for the transport of humanitarian relief supplies. Further objectives will include the elaboration of a memorandum of understanding regarding the processing of humanitarian exemptions, the provision of technical advice to the RSCC on the processing of such exemptions and general assistance to UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations in developing a common mechanism to monitor the impact of sanctions on Burundi.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi. Tel: (257) 218034/ Fax: (257) 218035.

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Burundi: Building the Future of Burundi UNESCO meeting 97.9.24

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To: irinwire@dha.unon.org
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Source: UNESCO

"BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BURUNDI," A UNESCO MEETING IN PARIS, SEPTEMBER 26-28

Paris, September 24 {No.97-158} - From September 26 to 28 in Paris, UNESCO will host the first of a series of meetings designed to promote dialogue in Burundi.

The meeting, entitled "Building the Future of Burundi," will be opened by UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor. Themes to be discussed are: the origin and nature of the conflict; education, science, culture and communication at the service of dialogue; building the future; peace and development - democratic principals and human rights.

Debates, closed to the public, will be chaired by the former President of Mali, Ahmadou Toumani Toure; Mohamed Sahnoun, United Nations and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) representative for the Great Lakes region; and Daniel Janicot, UNESCO Assistant Director-General of the Directorate.

The meeting will be attended by Burundi participants from within the country and from abroad, representing the gamut of political and social sensibilities of the country and civil society. Concerned countries and several inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations present in Burundi have also been invited as observers, along with the OAU, UN agencies and departments. International and regional mediators in the crisis of the Great Lakes region have also been invited and most are expected to attend.

UNESCO took the initiative of organising this meeting within the framework of its culture of peace programme in concert with the government of Burundi and the countrys various political and social actors. It is to mark the start of an informal process to help launch dialogue among the different sections of Burundis society about the countrys fundamental problems.

This process - parallel to the political process underway which UNESCO supports - is designed to back and contribute to the existing formal negotiations among Burundis different actors and to set the climate for a durable peace based on justice, tolerance, good governance and respect for the basic rights of all citizens. It will take place in several stages and the Paris meeting is to be followed by more discussions both in the Great Lakes region and in Burundi.

The opening session Friday 10:15 a.m. - and closing session - Sunday 3 p.m. - will be open to the press. Press briefings will take place Friday at 9:30 a.m. before the opening and Sunday at 4 p.m., after the closing session. For information and press accreditation, contact the Press Service, tel. (33 1) 45 68 17 43, fax: (33 1) 45 68 56 52.

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Burundi: Meeting participants request UNESCO to pursue dialogue 97.9.28

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Source: UNESCO

BURUNDI MEETING CLOSES: PARTICIPANTS REQUEST UNESCO TO PURSUE
DIALOGUE
INITIATIVE

Paris, September 28 {No.97-160} - During the UNESCO-organised meeting, "Building the Future of Burundi" (September 26 - 28), participants from Burundi stated the need to end violence and restore peace in the country through dialogue and negotiation and asked UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor to "use his personal prestige and the prestige of the organisation he heads to pursue this dialogue, on specific themes within the field of competence of UNESCO, to assist the building of a better future for Burundi, with its national, regional and international partners."

At UNESCO's initiative, September 26 in Paris, some 50 representatives of the different sections of Burundi society began a dialogue focusing on three themes: the origins and nature of the conflict; education, culture, science and communication at the service of dialogue; building the future - peace and development, democratic principles and human rights. About 30 observers took part in the meeting representing different countries, international and inter-governmental organisations (agencies and departments of the United Nations, Organisation of African Unity, OAU), as well as non-governmental organisations. Notable among them were: Howard Wolpe, Special Envoy of President Clinton; Aldo Ajello, European Special Envoy; Marc Lemieux, Canadian Roving Ambassador to Central Africa; and a representative of the St Egidio Community.

In a motion adopted by acclamation at the end of a round-up of the meeting - presented by the Director-General's representative, Daniel Janicot, Assistant Director-General of the Directorate of UNESCO - participants thanked the Director-General for "having put at our disposal this meeting space to debate the future of our country" and asked that the dialogue thus begun be pursued.

Among the notable conclusions drawn by UNESCO during the meeting, particular emphasis was given to the pluralism of ideas, cultures and ethnic groups, which must be allowed to express itself within a democratic constitutional and institutional framework to ensure the security and participation of every citizen in the management of public affairs. To this end, it is important to guarantee freedom of information, security and the rights and freedoms of all.

It was also brought to attention that the preservation of a united Burundi nation is only going to be possible if all Burundis take part in the construction of a democratic system mindful of the conditions of the country and meeting the political, social, economic and cultural aspirations of the entire society. It is also more than high time to dress the wounds of history, to overcome the feelings of rejection, suspicion and intolerance which divide society and that all Burundis must work together to realise this objective.

The capital role of education, science, culture and communication in the construction of the future of Burundi was stressed. Bearing in mind the motto inscribed in UNESCO's constitution, that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed," the participants highlighted the importance of education, science, culture and communication to ensure that the positive values of tolerance, fraternity and culture of peace prevail.

It was also brought to attention, that peace, justice and respect for human rights are the indispensable conditions for equitable, lasting and harmonious development.

During the meeting, beside the need to end violence and restore peace through dialogue and negotiation, participants stated the need to work together with all social and political partners, to find a comprehensive solution to the problems of injustice and impunity.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor opened the meeting on September 26 declaring that it was designed "to favour, in the context of the culture of peace, dialogue and the meeting of ideas which may help find lasting solutions to the conflict so that future generations may live in peace. This meeting is not intended to engage negotiations and it is not an alternative to the efforts of other international or sub-regional actors," Mr Mayor explained.

Sessions on the first theme - origins and nature of the conflict - were chaired by the former president of Mali, Ahmadou Toumani Toure, who notably reminded participants that "no one can be indifferent to the problems of others" and exhorted them to "conduct the debate frankly and in a constructive spirit." Debates on the second theme - education, culture, science and communication at the service of dialogue - were chaired by Mr Janicot with the secretary general of the non-governmental organisation Synergies-Afrique Hassan Ba, acting as moderator.

The final theme - building the future: peace and development, democratic principles and human rights - was discussed today and was chaired by Mohamed Sahnoun, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and of the OAU for the Great Lakes region. He stressed the importance and usefulness of meetings such as the one organised by UNESCO, "which allow for an exchange of view, which allow for communication and which also allow mediators to experience the concerns of the various protagonists. This is not a negotiation, but a meeting which brings forth ideas which can be important for the negotiators," he added.

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Burundi: Rapport sur les droits de l'homme 97.10.7=20

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OpÈration droits de l'homme au Burundi
RÈsumÈ des derniers dÈveloppements
GenÈve, le 2 octobre 1997

1. Au Burundi, la Mission d'observation a suivi avec une constante attention l'Èvolution de la situation. Les attaques de rebelles dans les provinces de Bubanza, de Cibitoke, de Makamba et de Bujumbura-rural se sont faites persistantes. Dans la derniÈre province citÈe, les attaques suivies d'opÈrations ou de rÈpliques des militaires se dÈroulent † une frÈquence accÈlÈrÈe, qui provoque la mort de nombreux civils. En l'espace de 24 heures durant le week-end du 20 septembre 1997, deux incidents † Gitaza et † Mubone ont entraÓnÈ la mort de 26 personnes et plus de 30 blessÈs. De fin aoˆt † fin septembre 1997, une centaine de civils au moins ont pÈri lors d'incidents dans les provinces prÈcitÈes. En outre, les mines anti-char qui y sont dispersÈes par des groupes rebelles continuent de tuer des civils et des militaires.

2. L'Ètat de la sÈcuritÈ dans la capitale a aussi ÈtÈ perturbÈ durant ces derniÈres semaines. Diverses agressions ou vols † main armÈe yont ÈtÈ commis, le plus souvent attribuÈs † des ÈlÈments rebelles ou † des bandits. Bujumbura a subi en moyenne une attaque armÈe par semaine, plus particuliÈrement dans les quartiers pÈriphÈriques. La radio et la tÈlÈvision nationale ont confirmÈ la recrudescence de la criminalitÈ dans la mairie de Bujumbura.

3. L'opération de démantèlement des camps, qui est supposée se dérouler lors d'une phase initiale et durant le mois de septembre dans les provinces de Kayanza, de Muramvya et de Karuzi, a commencé dans la province de Kayanza, où des milliers de regroupés ont déjà regagné leurs collines. Ces derniers s'entraident activement dans la reconstruction des maisons détruites, mais l'assistance annoncée par les autorités tarde à se concrétiser. Dans la mesure du possible, les agences humanitaires accompagnent ces retours en distribuant aux regroupés des paquets de première nécessité. Toutefois, l'opération de retour à Kayanza a dû être interrompue au bout de quelques jours, en raison de l'insécurité qui régnait dans certaines régions de la province. Durant ces dernières semaines, les observateurs des droits de l'homme ont effectué des visites à plusieurs sites de regroupés, où ils ont effectivement constaté que les camps avaient été vidés de leurs habitants et leurs abris démantelés. Au cours des entretiens qu'ils ont eus sur les collines avec les ex-regroupés, ceux-ci ont confirmé qu'ils étaient retournés volontairement dans leurs foyers et qu'ils avaient pu reprendre sans difficulté particulière leurs activités traditionnelles.

4. Dans les camps de regroupés maintenus jusqu'ici, les conditions de vie des populations demeurent extrêmement précaires. Elles sont le plus souvent sous-alimentées et en proie à diverses maladies comme le typhus ou la malaria. Faute d'eau potable aisément accessible, l'hygiène est difficile à maintenir. Les sites de regroupés sont souvent doublés de positions militaires à proximité qui veillent à la sécurité des camps durant la nuit. La plupart du temps, les populations des camps doivent à tour de rôle participer aux rondes nocturnes de surveillance qui sont effectuées par les forces de l'ordre. Si des civils refusent d'obtempérer ou sortent des camps en dehors de l'heure du couvre-feu, généralement fixée à 18 h., ils doivent payer des amendes. Les très nombreux enfants qui se pressent dans les camps ne disposent bien souvent pas des infrastructures scolaires dont ils ont besoin à leur âge, soit qu'elles n'existent pas, soit qu'elles aient été détruites, et encore moins de livres, de cahiers ou de crayons.

5. Le Sous-Secrétaire général des Nations Unies chargé des affaires humanitaires, M. Y. Akashi, a récemment visité des camps de sinistrés dans la province de Kayanza en compagnie d'agences de l'ONU, dont la Mission d'observation des droits de l'homme et de diverses agences humanitaires, pour y constater les conditions de vie déplorable des populations et leurs besoins. Malgré les nombreuses difficultés qui subsistent, les autorités burundaises semblent déterminées à poursuivre le retour des regroupés dans leurs foyers d'origine. Un cadre de concertation sera établi à cet effet entre le gouvernement, les bailleurs de fonds et les agences humanitaires. Une première réunion regroupant tous les intéressés s'est tenue à Bujumbura, le 25 septembre 1997.

6. Le procès des personnes accusées d'avoir participé au putsch du 21 octobre 1993 ayant coûté la vie au Président Ndadaye a repris pour la troisième fois devant la Cour Suprême de Bujumbura, le 19 septembre 1997. Les prochaines auditions ont été fixées au 10 octobre. Plusieurs accusés et parties civiles ont protesté contre les irrégularités de l'instruction. Certains déplorent que le procès s'appesantisse sur les exécutants plutôt que sur les réels auteurs de la préparation du coup d'État ou de l'assassinat du Président Ndadaye.

7. Le programme d'assistance judiciaire lancé sous les auspices du Haut Commissaire aux droits de l'homme poursuit assidûment son activité auprès des chambres criminelles de Bujumbura, de Gitega et de Ngozi, malgré le manque de moyens financiers et matériels. Les six avocats internationaux recrutés par le Centre des Nations pour les droits de l'homme, à Bujumbura, vont arriver incessamment au Burundi pour la session des chambres criminelles qui va débiter durant les premiers jours d'octobre 1997.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, October 4 - 10

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit (Burundi)

General

Burundi calls on other countries to join mediation efforts. The Burundian government has repeated its call for other, more neutral, parties to join the Tanzanian mediation effort currently underway to bring peace to Burundi. Progress has been hampered by strained relations between Tanzania and Burundi. Foreign minister Luc Rukingama suggested that Mozambique, South Africa or the European Union could play an active role in negotiating a peaceful resolution to Burundi's crisis.

Minister of peace process visits Bagaza. On 8 October, the minister in charge of overseeing the peace process, Ambroise Nyonsaba, paid a visit to former President and head of PARENA, Jean Baptiste Bagaza. Bagaza has been under house arrest since January.

National assembly reconvenes. The Burundian national assembly re-opened session on 6 October. In his opening speech, the president of the national assembly, summarised the parliament's activities, its constraints and its outlook given the current political environment. The ceremony was attended by the UPRONA parliamentary group, indicating that UPRONA might cease the boycott that has denied the assembly a quorum. The parliament was initially dissolved after Pierre Buyoya seized power in the July 1996 coup but was restored in October of last year.

Six killed when NGO vehicle strikes mine in Bubanza province. A minibus belonging to the international NGO Austrian Relief Programme (ARP) hit a mine when travelling on a dirt road in Gihanga commune of Bubanza province on October 10. The explosion killed six of the passengers, who were members of the local community participating in a seed distribution programme. The ARP driver was unhurt, but an ARP agronomist was seriously wounded.

Humanitarian Activities

Nutritional feeding centre opened at Nyanza Lac. Due to the precarious nutritional situation among the displaced population living in and around Nyanza Lac in Makamba province, MSF France/Holland have opened a supplementary feeding centre which received 55 children the first day. It is expected that the number of children in need of supplementary feeding will rise to between 100 and 150. Severe cases of malnutrition are hospitalised in the town of Makamba where MSF will be opening a therapeutic feeding centre shortly. Some 12,000 displaced are

spread over seven displaced camps in and around Nyanza Lac. The area had been inaccessible to aid workers for months due to insecurity.

ActionAid inaugurates 500 houses in Ruyigi province. On 8 October, the British NGO ActionAid held a ceremony to inaugurate the completion of the first 500 homes reconstructed as part of the NGO's programme targeting the reinstallation of displaced populations in Ruyigi province. The ceremony was attended by President Buyoya and other dignitaries.

Coordination meeting on distribution of clothes. On 7 October a meeting was held at DHA/HCU to ensure the equitable distribution of clothing to the neediest populations in the provinces. NGO stocks and requirements were discussed and it was agreed that a large part of the children's clothes will be distributed at therapeutic feeding centres. Participating agencies and NGOs included CRS, Christian Aid, Oxfam UK/Ireland, World Vision, IFRC, Terre des Hommes, GVC, MSF France/Holland, Children's Aid Direct and ACF.

UNICEF activities. UNICEF, in its role as head of sector in the nutrition sector, is coordinating the distribution of nutritional feeding items. 60 mt were provided to implementing partners IMC, Solidarite, MSF France/Holland, WHO and GVC for use in their nutritional feeding programmes in Rutana, Muramvya, Kirundo, Gitega and Bujumbura Rurale, respectively. UNICEF estimates that needs in the nutrition sector for the last quarter of this year amount to 900 mt, up from 575 mt required during the last quarter. The increase can be partially attributed to improving security conditions in some areas of the country which has allowed increased access to feeding centres; however, conversely, in other parts of the country a deterioration in the security situation has led to increased displacement and therefore a greater number of people in need of assistance at feeding centres.

UNICEF's water/sanitation sector continues with the provision of drinking water to Bubanza, Bujumbura Rurale and Cibitoke provinces with distributions reaching up to 500,000 litres per week. The distributions target hospitals as well as displaced camps, many of which have lost their water supply after surrounding water systems were destroyed. The water trucks are supplied by UNICEF, Equilibre and the Italian Cooperation.

In close collaboration with its partner NGO, Austrian Relief Programme, UNICEF has recently completed the rehabilitation the Mugina water system in Cibitoke which will provide water for 12,300 people. Structures that will benefit from the improved water supply include the communal administration, the Mugina health centre, the market place, the communal college, two primary schools, a church and the local population.

UNICEF also completed teacher training courses attended by 180 aspiring teachers in Gitega and Karuzi provinces. Karuzi, for instance, is in need of 83 additional teachers to meet basic staffing requirements in the 45 currently operational schools in the province. A total of 67 schools had been operational in Karuzi before the outbreak of the crisis in late 1993.

Equilibre completes construction of 500 latrines in Bubanza. In the framework of its sanitation programme, the French NGO Equilibre has just completed the construction of 500 latrines in Bubanza province and is distributing soap to all displaced camps.

CARE constructs 1,300 houses in Ngozi. CARE has completed the construction of 1,300 houses at Ruhororo in Ngozi province. UNICEF supported the project by constructing latrines and showers.

WFP activities. WFP distributed the food portion of the return package to 16,000 formerly regrouped people who had returned from Gisyo camp in Kayanza's Gatore commune at the beginning of June. Last month the distribution of return packages had to be suspended in other parts of the province due to a rise in insecurity. Preparations are also underway to commence distributions to people who are leaving camps in Muramvya. Some 48,700 people will benefit from the three month return package in this province.

WFP is also in the process of providing further assistance to displaced families in Vugizo commune in the south-western province of Makamba. The families have for the most part been displaced since the rise in insecurity in May. Approximately, 18,000 displaced are spread over 8 sites in Vugizo commune and most have very limited access to land due to insecurity in the surrounding area. WFP in collaboration with its partner NGO Equilibre is distributing 115 mt in form of a 15 day seed protection ration. WFP had last provided food assistance to the area in June.

WFP has also started carrying out household food security assessments in the north-eastern province of Kirundo. According to figures obtained from WFP assessments carried out last February, there are 16 displaced sites housing some 42,000 people. WFP overall monthly requirements to cover food needs in Burundi are currently estimated at 4,500 mt per month.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi.. Tel: (257) 218034/ Fax: (257) 218035

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, September 20 - October 3

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit (Burundi)

General

UNESCO sponsored all-party conference on Burundi takes place in Paris. Under the theme "Building the Future of Burundi", UNESCO hosted talks in Paris from September 26 to 28 to encourage dialogue by providing representatives from a variety of Burundian parties an opportunity to meet and exchange views. Some 50 delegates including a Burundian government delegation led by the Secretary of State for Cooperation, Leonidas Havyarimana, attended. Jean Minani, president of FRODEBU, claimed in a communique that his party was not invited and rejected the talks, partly because political negotiations were not seen as part of UNESCO's mandate. FRODEBU also did not want to appear linked to any talks that related to the negotiations in Rome between the government and the CNDD. PARENA, although present at the talks, also issued a statement that accused the meeting of partiality and called for the release

of former president Bagaza and other PARENA party members presently under arrest. The Burundian government however indicated its willingness to talk to the opposition by participating in the next round of peace talks planned to be held in Arusha under the leadership of Julius Nyerere. A number of international observers from the UN, OAU and the US government also attended. Main items on the agenda included the origin and nature of conflict, how education, culture, science and communication can encourage dialogue, and the building of future peace and development based on democratic principles and human rights. The conference had initially been scheduled to take place from June 30 to July 2 in Geneva but had to be postponed due to complications over the issuance of visas.

Regional Sanctions Committee meets in Addis. On October 3, the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee (RSCC) met in Addis Ababa to discuss the tightening of sanctions with a view to exerting more pressure on the Burundi government to engage in direct talks with the opposition. The meeting was chaired by Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, General Sarakikya.

Burundian foreign minister visits UN Headquarters in New York. On 26 September, Burundi's foreign minister, Luc Rukingama, met with the UN under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs, Yasushi Akashi to discuss the return of regrouped populations in Kayanza, Muramvya and Karuzi, the continued difficulties related to the importation of humanitarian goods and relations with Tanzania. On 2 October, Rukingama addressed the general assembly calling for the immediate lifting of sanctions and highlighting the progress in terms of security and negotiations the country has made since Pierre Buyoya came to power. He also urged that former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere's mediation efforts be assisted by other personalities.

Burundian Prime Minister on two week mission to Europe. Burundi's Prime Minister, Pascal Firmin Ndimira, departed on 27 September for a two week tour to meet government officials in Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain.

More flee continued fighting in Cibitoke. On-going insecurity caused by skirmishes between rival factions in Cibitoke has led to growing numbers of displaced seeking refuge in neighbouring Bubanza province where the number of displaced in and around the provincial capital has now reached 30,000. This figure is up from approximately 13,000 who had arrived in August.

Mine incidents on the rise. The number of mine incidents reported to the UN security cell has been increasing over the past months. While 3, 5 and 6 incidents were reported in May, June and July, respectively, 8 incidents were reported in August. All of the incidents in August were anti-tank mines. Since beginning of year, a total of 40 mine incidents have been reported.

Security incident along Tanzanian border. Tanzanian and Burundian border troops exchanged fire on the Lake Tanganyika border on 28 September with both sides accusing the other of starting. During the incident, a Burundian patrol boat entered Tanzanian waters and shot at Tanzanian fishermen, allegedly killing three of them. Tanzanian military sources have reported that 3,600 refugees from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda have been detained for screening during a ten day operation to round up illegal aliens in Kigoma region that started on September 23.

Humanitarian Activities

Cholera outbreak at Rumonge under control. WHO reports that a recent outbreak of cholera in the lakeside town of Rumonge in Bururi province is under control. The epidemic was linked to the destruction of the town's regular water supply that has forced residents to drink water directly from the lake. The first case was reported on 2 September and rose to peak of 31 new cases on 17 September. In total, 260 cases and 10 deaths were registered at Rumonge hospital. In a concerted effort, WHO, MSF Belgium and France/Holland provided necessary medicines

and disinfectants, UNICEF provided a bladder, motor pump and chlorination tablets while the Italian Cooperation provided a water truck.

Overview of UNICEF assistance in the water/sanitation sector. UNICEF's water/sanitation programme covers the whole country with a particular emphasis on the northern, western and central provinces. Primarily, UNICEF finances the rehabilitation of water sources, the trucking of water, and the emptying and construction of latrines. The trucking of water takes place in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Cibitoke and Kayanza while the construction of temporary latrines mainly targets displaced sites in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, and Ngozi provinces. UNICEF works in close collaboration with partners such as WHO, local ministries, Equilibre, IHA, IRC, CARE and ACF. In follow-up to a preliminary study of the water/sanitation situation in 107 sites conducted in February/March in collaboration with the government's technical services division, UNICEF is preparing for the launching of the final study in October. Results from the study will be used to plan interventions for the 1998 programme.

IHA activities in Cibitoke. The NGO Initiative Africaine Humanitaire, IHA, is running two nutritional feeding centres in Cibitoke. One is located at Buganda where approximately 200 persons each are receiving therapeutic and supplementary feeding. An additional centre is located at Ndava where about 130 and 250 people were registered in the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes, respectively, during the month of August. IHA also assisted ARP with the UNHCR coordinated distribution of seeds in Cibitoke. Beneficiaries who have access to land received 10 kg of bean seeds and a hoe, while those without access received 5 kg of seeds, a hoe and a food ration. A total of 26,138 persons benefited from the distribution.

Results from Equilibre missions to Makamba and Bururi. On 24 September, Equilibre travelled to Makamba to obtain lists of beneficiaries in the Nyanza Lac region and Vugizo commune in view of the upcoming seeds and tool distribution. It was determined that there were a total of 16,833 people in 7 sites in the Nyanza Lac area and 17,808 people in 8 sites around Vugizo. (The seeds and tool distribution overseen by Christian Aid already took place in the more secure communes of Mabanda, Makamba and Kivoga). On 1 October, Equilibre returned to Makamba to assess the situation in Kabonga. The town is only accessible by boat since the roads leading to the town are mined. Kabonga was largely destroyed in 1995, but has been partially inhabited again since July 1997 by 705 families (2,345 persons). 423 persons were reported just to have arrived from the forest. People have access to land and were in need of seeds and hoes. There was also a need for plastic sheeting to cover the destroyed roofs. The health centre was closed but there was a functioning school and a semi-adequate water supply. The condition of some of the people (about 10 adults and 30 children) was critical due to malnutrition which calls for a distribution of food and the establishment of a nutritional feeding programme. The mission continued to Rumonge where Equilibre noted an urgent need for a clean and adequate water supply as there was no immediate possibility to repair the destroyed water pipes. As a result there was a great need for jerry cans, plastic pails, disinfectant and soap. Equilibre is exploring ways to ensure the provision of drinking water either through the rehabilitation of hand-pumps or through the pumping of water from the lake into a reservoir for treatment.

Planning for return of displaced families from Bujumbura to outlying provinces underway. At the request of the Ministry of Reintegration, DHA/HCU is in the process of coordinating the provision of return packages for 632 displaced families returning to their provinces of origin. Agencies have indicated that they are willing to assist provided an independent assessment of the number of families is undertaken and that the return is voluntary. In a separate project, 500 families from the Johnson and Legentil displaced sites are to be reinstalled in the largely destroyed neighbourhood of Kamenge.

UN Centre for Human Rights travels to Kayanza. UN Human Rights observers travelled to Rango and Muruta in Kayanza province to follow up on the monitoring of the return of regrouped populations which has been halted in light of renewed security concerns. The

observers were able to confirm that people from 20 collines have returned from the site of Rango. People from 9 collines still remain in the camp.

Karuzi coordination meeting. On 1 October, a meeting was held at DHA/HCU attended by UN agencies and NGOs working in Karuzi. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the condition of the displaced, ongoing and planned activities and strategies to adopt in the event that site populations will not start returning to their homes. The meeting was attended by IFRC, CRS, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, Oxfam UK, Christian Aid, FAO, IRC and WFP.

Large drop in returnees at Tanzania/Muyinga crossing. The number of registered arrivals crossing into Tanzania from Muyinga dropped to only 46 persons during the month of September. This number is down from 1,166 in August, 2,160 in July and 3,188 in June. The total number of returnees that have crossed into Muyinga since December last year stood at 20,334 at the end of September. The number of returnees crossing into Ruyigi has dropped as well with only 319 crossings registered in September as opposed to 1,691 the previous month. The total number of returnees into Ruyigi since December last year stood at 34,954 at the end of September. By contrast the number of returnees from Congo crossing at Gatumba during the month of September remained nearly same as last month, namely 2,580 and 2,536 persons, respectively. The total number of people that have returned from Congo since October 1996 stood at 33,141 at the end of September.

WHO Activities. WHO continues to carry out a number of training workshops. A workshop was held from 8 - 13 September in Bururi to inform on the treatment of severe cases of malaria. 51 participants which included nurses and heads of health centres from Bururi, Makamba, and Rutana, attended. Another workshop catering towards staff involved in controlling epidemics was held from 8 - 15 September in Gitega. 27 heads of health posts and 4 provincial doctors from Ruyigi, Gitega, Cankuzo and Karuzi participated. In addition, a training course for 55 trainers of midwives was held in Karuzi and Kayanza provinces from 17 - 27 September. A WHO mission also travelled to Muramvya and Kayanza provinces from 24 to 26 September to examine the prevalence of skin diseases in displaced camps. WHO visited the IDP site of Kirehe in Muramvya and examined 250 of the 3,825 site inhabitants. Scabies accounted for over 80% of the cases. The team also visited Kimerejnana in Ngozi where 300 of 3,000 site inhabitants were examined. In this case, Tunguiase infection comprised 80% of the cases.

Overview of GVC activities. The Italian NGO, GVC (Groupe du Volontariat Civil), runs activities in the health, nutritional feeding and NFI sectors in the capital (Cibitoke, Kinama, and Kamenge zones) and in 7 communes in Bujumbura rurale. GVC covers 15 health centres, 4 emergency health posts, 8 nutritional feeding centres, 3 emergency nutritional feeding posts, and 3 IDP sites in Isale. It supports health centres through the provision of medicine and general supervision. GVC has recently reopened health centres in Martyazo, Mubone and Mubimbi which had been closed due to insecurity. GVC has also restarted a vaccination programme in centres where activities had been halted due to insecurity. GVC has assisted through the distribution of non-food items such as blankets, soap, and cooking utensils. GVC has recently also rehabilitated a health post and nutritional feeding centre at Gitaza. The centre has been enlarged and latrines have been added.

ARP activities. The Austrian NGO, Austrian Relief Programme, (ARP) has completed the distribution of agricultural inputs in Bubanza and Cibitoke in collaboration with UNHCR. ARP is in the process of constructing a school at Buringa, rehabilitating a primary schools in Gihanga (Bubanza) and Muyange (Cibitoke). ARP also provided Food for Work for the construction of 250 km of irrigation canals. ARP also runs a literacy programme in Gihanga and income-generation projects in the carpentry, brick-making, pig-farming, and metal-work sectors.

WFP food distributions. Emergency distributions continued in Karuzi province, where 420 mt of food were provided to 24,091 beneficiaries in the sites of Bugenyuzi, Mugogo and Gitaramuka. In Bubanza province, seed protection rations were provided to 27,417 beneficiaries. While the distribution of return packages in Kayanza remains suspended, an

emergency relief distribution took place to assist 3,026 people at Rwegura site. In expectation of new arrivals, WFP also provided a buffer stock of 8,820 rations to ACF which runs a nutritional feeding centre at the site.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, October 11 - 17 1997

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Burundians commemorate assassination of Prince Rwagasore. Burundians commemorated the 36th anniversary of the assassination of national independence hero, Prince Louis Rwagasore, on 13 October, a public holiday. He was assassinated following his designation as prime minister and the victory of his party, UPRONA, which had been elected to majority in the national assembly on 18 September, 1961. Various ceremonies were held in his honour.

UN/donor meeting. On 15 October, heads of UN agencies and donor representatives met to discuss, among other items, the follow-up to the tripartite meeting of 3 September and the return of populations in Muramvya, Kayanza and Karuzi. Whereas the return operation has been suspended in Kayanza since 9 September due to security concerns, regrouped populations in Muramvya are currently in the process of leaving their sites and four have already closed. The distribution of return packages, coordinated by WFP and IFRC, is presently underway. A timetable for the dismantling of camps in Karuzi, promised by the governor at the 3 September meeting, has still not been received but humanitarian sources operating in the province report that houses are being constructed along the main roads, in line with the government's "villagisation" programme. In Bubanza and Bururi, the return of populations cannot be envisaged in the near future due to continued insecurity. Other topics of discussion at the meeting included a review of the UNESCO meeting that was held in Paris from 26 to 28 September, the renewal of funding for the WFP internal flight and the possibility of a WFP

operated flight to Kigali in view of the continued lack of a regular and reliable air-link to and from Burundi.

International Week for the Elimination of Poverty/World Food Day. The UN community organised a variety of activities to celebrate the International Week for the Elimination of Poverty and World Food Day. A special ceremony attended by government officials and UN representatives took place in Kirundo to mark World Food Day on October 16.

Humanitarian Activities

Results from Caritas survey of nutritional feeding centres. From 28 July to 25 August, Caritas undertook an evaluation of 69 of its 72 nutritional feeding centres located at health centres and in displaced camps across Burundi. The main objectives were to evaluate the overall functioning and impact of the programme and to determine the extent to which the emergency supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes should be continued or expanded. The study also evaluated the hygiene, sanitation, water, infrastructure and stock supply conditions at the centres. In July, a total of 9,898 children were registered at Caritas therapeutic and nutritional feeding centres across the country, i.e. there were an average of 137 beneficiaries per feeding centre, with a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 420 registered. Of the 9,989 children, 750 were registered at one of Caritas' 22 therapeutic feeding centres.

Overall, the nutritional situation in Burundi can be described as very fragile, particularly among the most vulnerable groups in the camps and insecure areas. According to the report, the area of highest concern stretches along Lake Tanganyika from Magara at the edge of Bujumbura Rural through Bururi to Nyanza Lac in Makamba. In Bururi, particularly high pockets of malnutrition are reported at Buyengeru, Muyange, Maramvya, Minago, Resho and Rumonge, i.e. generally areas of large population displacements. In Makamba, these areas include Mabanda, Martyazo, and Vugizo. Rwegura in Kayanza province was also slotted in the high-risk category as was the town of Bubanza where 170 and 250 malnourished children were registered at the hospital in June and July, respectively. Largely due to inaccessibility, little information was available for Cibitoke. Other areas of concern remain Bujumbura rural, Karuzi IDP camps and border areas which are particularly vulnerable in case of an increased return of refugees.

Results from the survey revealed that the average walking time to reach a health centre was 92 min, with distances as near as 3 minutes and as far as 240 minutes. Waiting periods ranged from a minimum of 60 minutes to a maximum of 360 minutes, resulting in an average of 184 minutes. The rate of recuperation was found to be 21.7%, ranging from 0.6% to 54.5%, depending on the location. This is far below the normal goal of 40 to 60%.

Main reasons for the low recovery rate are the often long distances to the feeding centre, irregular access due to recurring insecurity, and the fact that rations are often shared with other family members. 72% of the feeding centres provide free services; for those that pay, charges vary between 10 and 150 Burundian Francs per week. Caritas estimates that at least 25% of the displaced do not have access to health or nutritional feeding services.

Caritas is seeking to strengthen their feeding centres through added technical, logistical and material support and is prepared to open new therapeutic feeding centres, especially near displaced camps where people don't have regular or adequate access to fields such as in Kayanza, Bubanza, Bururi and Makamba. The report also recommended the rehabilitation of infrastructure, the provision of additional staff and supplies, the improvement of the referral system and the inclusion of pregnant and lactating mothers in the feeding programmes. In order to pre-empt a deterioration in the population's nutritional status, it was imperative to support agricultural production programmes where possible and to work closely with WFP to ensure adequate and timely food distributions. Caritas estimates monthly requirements for their feeding centres at 62 mt CSB/Musalac/Unimix, 3 mt DSM, 2 mt sugar, 1,400 litres of vegetable oil and 6 mt of high protein biscuits.

Concern reports on missions to Bururi. The Irish NGO Concern, which arrived in Burundi in August, has undertaken two recent preliminary investigative missions to Bururi to identify possible future interventions required in that province. On October 1 and 2, Concern visited the sites of Maramvya and Murago in Burambi commune. The majority of the 3,200 people at Maramvya have no access to land while those that do are accompanied by military forces. Some are able to work in nearby fields for 100 Burundian Francs a day (the equivalent of about 30 cents). The nearest health facility is a private health centre located about 10 km away. The children are not able to attend school. The site has not benefited from any interventions since UNHCR and CRS provided food and plastic sheeting in November 1996. At Murago, people were also only able to access land when accompanied by soldiers but the administration is allocating small plots to those who have no land at all. CRS provided seeds and tools to 297 families at this site in September and an additional distribution is planned shortly.

>From October 8 to 10, Concern visited Rumonge commune which also receives very little to no assistance at present. Lack of potable water and the ensuing health and sanitation problems are of greatest concern. Most of the water supply systems have been destroyed by rebel activity and repairs are presently not possible due to the state of insecurity. Concern visited Buruhukiro which holds a fluctuating population depending on the amount of military/rebel activity in the surrounding area. The site has received no aid to date. The displaced site at Rumonge benefited from a joint CRS/Caritas food and non-food distribution three months ago. Other sites visited included Kagongo, Kizuka, and Minago, all of which have not received any assistance to speak of. Concern will most likely assist through the distribution of seeds and tools and interventions in the nutrition, health and sanitation sectors are possible as well. Concern will become fully operational once registration formalities with the government have been finalised.

Returnees by Province. According to UNHCR statistics gathered since October 1996, the vast majority of the 147,572 registered Burundian returnees originated from Cibitoke province (61,862), followed by Ruyigi (35,601), Bujumbura (18,936), Muyinga (17,288) and Bubanza (13,885). These figures include officially registered returnees up to 3 October, 1997.

UNICEF/NGO water-sanitation meeting. On 16 October, UNICEF convened a meeting to ascertain NGO needs in the water and sanitation sectors for 1998 planning purposes. Although UNICEF has been in a position to provide ad-hoc assistance to its implementing partners, advance planning will ensure more complete coverage of needs. UNICEF provides technical, in-kind and financial assistance (the latter only to a limited extent, i.e. up to USD 50,000 per project in areas where the government cannot implement projects itself). UNICEF indicated that its priority for 1998 is to gradually shift focus from providing assistance to displaced camps towards the reinstallation of populations, ideally while strengthening local capacities such as the provincial "Regies Communales de l'Eau" as much as possible. It was also a priority to rehabilitate existing infrastructure rather than begin with new constructions. UNICEF also announced that it would be initiating new well-digging and latrine maintenance projects for which implementing partners were sought. NGOs were requested to submit their needs to UNICEF by 4 November. The meeting was attended by Terres Sans Frontieres, MSF Belgium, Caritas, IHA, Solidarites, SCF, ACF, ARP and Oxfam UK/Ireland.

CRS non-food distributions. During the month of September, the US NGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed a total of 4,462 blankets to 12,150 people in three displaced camps in Bubanza (Ngara, Burunga, Mugogo III), the Ngozi prison and Bugenyuzi camp in Karuzi. The recently displaced at Mugogo III also received 1,500 jerry cans, 1,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, and soap. The 1,670 prisoners in Ngozi also benefited from a soap ration. CRS also provided wraps to 272 hospitalised women in Bubanza hospital.

Christian Aid distribution of clothing. Christian Aid is in the process of distributing 20 ballots of clothing to vulnerable groups in all 15 provinces. The British NGO collaborates closely with the Burundian Protestant church network which serves as an implementing partner.

World Vision non-food distributions in Karuzi. In Karuzi, during the month of September, 7,169 children received two pieces of clothing each and 21,714 bars of soap were distributed to vulnerable groups. Over the course of this month, World Vision plans to distribute 2,766 wraps, 286 bars of soap and 515 pieces of clothing. In November/December, 13,515 families with 33,147 children in the camps of Canzikiro, Rusamaza, Gasenyi, Gihogazi, Munanira, Ntunda and Buhiga will receive 5,918 wraps, 40,572 bars of soap, 25,830 blankets, 2,623 kitchen sets and 66,294 pieces of children's clothing.

UN Human Rights Observer Mission sends monitors to Karuzi and Bubanza. A Human Rights mission travelled to Karuzi province from 8 to 9 October as part of its effort to monitor the return of populations. The mission visited the camps of Bugenyuzi, Gitaramuka and Gihogazi where a reduced military presence was noted. According to information obtained from local authorities, it was reiterated that there was no plan to close the camps completely; instead populations would continue to be moved to smaller camps closer to their original homes such as has already been the case with the sites of Masabo in Bugenyuzi commune and Gasasa in Gihogazi commune. Most of these sites are located along main roads where considerable housing reconstruction activities were observed. Karuzi is in the process of carrying out the Burundian government's reinstallation programme through which each province has been allocated 30 million Burundian Francs to construct 600 houses at the cost of 50,000 Burundian Francs each. The money enables the purchase of doors, windows, nails, and roofing materials.

On 10 October, a separate UN observer mission visited the mixed (displaced/returnee) site Gihungwe located in Gihanga commune of Bubanza where 20 site inhabitants were killed when the camp was attacked during the night of 24 September. 193 shelters were also destroyed during the incident leaving the families largely without housing. Due to security reasons, the families have no access to land. Apart from an initial return package given to returnees by UNHCR upon their return from former Zaire late last year, the camp population has reportedly received no further assistance. The UN Human Rights Centre has appealed to other agencies to assist the Gihungwe camp where the plight of the displaced has become even more precarious due to the destruction of their shelters.

Correction: CARE construction of 1,300 houses in Ngozi. In last week's bulletin, it was erroneously reported that CARE had completed the construction of 1,300 houses in Ruhororo in Ngozi province. The construction is, in fact, still underway; to date, approximately 300 houses have been completed. The project is expected to be completed in January/February 1998. UNICEF is supporting the project by financing the construction of latrines and showers.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi. Tel: (257) 218034/ Fax: (257) 218035

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Burundi: Summary of Affected Populations Living in Sites 97.10.28

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Summary of Affected Populations Living in Sites in Burundi

[as of 28 October 1997]

Province	Total Provincial of Population	Total Site Sites	Number Total Population	Total Province Population	% of Population
Bubanza	270,210		33	80,686	30%
Bujumbura*	670,498		41	41,954	6%
Bururi	423,240	22	42,259	10%	
Cankuzo	157,535		4	3,254	2%
Cibitoke	353,137		13	49,971	14%
Gitega	625,017	16	26,539	4%	
Karuzi	334,213	24	121,733	36%	
Kayanza	491,506		20	70,365	14%
Kirundo	448,195		16	20,072	4%
Makamba	254,732		19	37,785	15%
Muramvya	487,736		17	23,302	5%
Muyinga	427,119		23	22,855	5%
Ngozi	535,978	11	19,184	4%	
Rutana	219,360	7	3,675	2%	
Ruyigi	281,524	13	6,335	2%	
Total	5,980,000	279	569,969	10%	

* includes Bujumbura Rurale and Mairie de Bujumbura

Total population figures according to 1990 census and updated by FAO/WFP food and crop supply assessment mission (June 1997).

Please note:

Figures include displaced, regrouped and repatriated populations living in sites across Burundi.

[Of the total, regrouped populations total 222,677 in 50 sites over 6 provinces.]

These figures are compiled from a variety of UN, NGO and governmental sources. The table should be considered a working draft and is updated regularly based on results from assessment missions and feedback received from agencies and NGOs.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, October 18 - 24

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Burundians commemorate assassination of President Ndadaye. On 21 October, a public holiday, Burundians commemorated the fourth anniversary of the assassination of the first democratically elected president, Melchior Ndadaye. President Buyoya travelled to Kibimba in Gitega province to lay a wreath at the site where 73 students had been killed in the acts of genocide sparked off by President Ndadaye's death. He also lay the first stone of a memorial that will be constructed in memory of the victims of the 1993 massacres.

President Buyoya travels to Kigali. On 18 October, President Pierre Buyoya travelled to Kigali for a one day visit to hold talks with Rwandan President Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame. Key matters discussed included the Burundi peace process and issues related to regional security, in particular along the border between the two countries.

Army carries out mass arrests in Gatumba. On 19 October, in a "sweeping-up" operation, Burundian military arrested 10,053 people at Gatumba in the outskirts of Bujumbura near the border to the DRC. The detained, which included a number of Congolese and Rwandans, were accused of not being in possession of identity cards and residency permits. More than 150,000 people currently live in the zone of Gatumba as compared to 7,000 before the outbreak of the 1993 crisis. Most of the detained were released on 20 October. Four children reportedly died of dehydration while detained with their parents.

A third of all schools in Bujumbura Rural destroyed. According to Bujumbura Rural's District Commander, 18 schools were burned by rebels during the weekend of 18 and 19 October, leaving 5,000 pupils without classes. The destruction comes in the wake of increased rebel activity during which between 50 and 100 people have been killed in the commune of Kabezi, according to local press sources.

Humanitarian Activities

Return of regrouped populations proceeding smoothly in Muramvya. From 6 to 17 October, WFP distributed 513 mt of the food portion of the return package to 16,275 people who have left the sites of Mushikamo and Rutegama. IFRC has been overseeing the distribution of the non-food component of the return package. From 9 to 22 October, 30,110 people leaving the sites of Mbuye/Biha, Nyamirambo, Rutegama, Kirehe, Kibogoye, and Busimba were assisted.

UNESCO PEER activities. The UNESCO Programme of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER) was initiated in Burundi in July of this year and works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education. So far, 3,000 pupils at primary schools in Bubanza and Cibitoke and 2,000 pupils in Bujumbura Rural have benefited from a distribution of school materials that include a cotton school bag, 4 exercise books, 3 pens, a ruler, an eraser, a slate and chalk. The NGO Equilibre assisted with the distribution in Bujumbura Rural

and Bubanza while the Ministry oversaw the distribution in Cibitoke. The PEER programme is also in the process of printing 12,685 teacher and student textbooks for 168 secondary schools and community colleges across the country. UNESCO provided the equipment needed to print the books while the Belgian cooperation supplied the paper. The books will be distributed in November. The ministry expects the number of institutions at secondary level to rise to 210 next year.

UNICEF proposals to install 500 water sources in Ngozi and Muramvya and rehabilitate 25 wells in Kirundo. UNICEF is presently negotiating with the World Bank to secure funding for the installation of 250 water sources in both Muramvya and Gitega provinces. The project will be implemented by UNICEF and overseen by the government. In Kirundo, UNICEF is discussing the possibility of providing material and technical assistance to rehabilitate 25 wells in collaboration with the local authorities who in turn would provide an office and the necessary labour force.

FAO seeds and tools distribution nearly completed. The FAO coordinated distribution of seeds and tools for the 1998-A season is expected to be finalised within the coming week. A total of 668,000 people, or about ten percent of Burundi's population, will have benefited from this agricultural assistance.

WHO Activities. From 1 to 11 and 13 to 20 October, WHO conducted training workshops on the monitoring and containment of epidemics in Bururi and Bujumbura, respectively. A total of 66 doctors and heads of health centres benefited from this training. On 16 October, a planning workshop on the training of traditional midwives was held in Bujumbura and attended by 46 trainers. WHO also conducted a study of skin diseases in seven displaced sites in Bujumbura, Gitega, Muramvya and Ngozi.

Overview of Solidarites programme in Burundi. The French NGO Solidarites, financed by ECHO, has been present in Burundi since December 1996. It has focused on providing assistance to the province of Muramvya where it established a field office and assists displaced and other vulnerable groups through projects in the water/sanitation and nutritional feeding sectors. So far, 9 water distribution systems and 58 capped springs were rehabilitated benefiting site populations as well as the surrounding community. Solidarites also created hygiene committees in displaced sites, carries out hygiene awareness campaigns, assisted in the battle against typhus and distributes 50,000 pieces of soap on a monthly basis to 13,000 families. In addition, 434 latrines have been constructed and 359 latrines have been emptied. Solidarites has also provided substantial support to the nutrition sector through the rehabilitation of up twelve nutritional feeding centres which benefit nearly 5,000 people per day. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, a therapeutic feeding centre with a 100 bed capacity and 24 hour care was opened in the provincial hospital. Solidarites provided the necessary equipment, food and medicine needed to heal severely malnourished. As of 1 October, over 450 persons had been treated at the therapeutic feeding centre with a recuperation rate of 95%. Solidarites also provides training programmes to staff working in the feeding centres. Solidarites also assisted with the FAO coordinated 1998-A seeds and tools distribution in 13 sites in the northern part of the province during August and September through which 8,334 households received 97 mt of seeds. Solidarites works closely with UNICEF which provides the food stocks for the feeding centres and material and equipment required for the water/sanitation projects. WFP has provided Food-For-Work to construct and empty latrines and to rehabilitate 23 capped springs and 3 water distribution systems.

DHA Lessons Learned Study on Humanitarian Coordination in the Great Lakes Region. A DHA mission will be visiting Bujumbura from 29 to 31 October as part of a study to assess the effectiveness of UN arrangements for strategic coordination of humanitarian activities in the GLR. The mission will review and identify lessons learned and propose recommendations. The mission will be meeting with UN, NGO and donor representatives as well as government officials.

DHA/UNICEF mission to Karuzi. DHA/HCU and UNICEF representatives travelled to Karuzi on a joint mission on October 23 and 24 to meet with the governor to respectively discuss the return of regrouped populations and review UNICEF activities. DHA/HCU reviewed progress made according to the return calendar that had been provided by the governor during the tripartite meeting on 3 September. The governor has prepared a document that provides an overview of population movements thus far and an updated calendar outlining movements planned in the future. The mission also visited the sites of Canzikiro and Masabo.

Annex: Overview of Humanitarian Stock Situation in Burundi. The attached table, prepared on a monthly basis by DHA/HCU, provides an overview of the humanitarian stock situation in the food, nutrition, health, agriculture, non-food and water/sanitation sector as it stood at the beginning of October. The table takes into account UN and NGO stocks in-country as well as in the pipeline and indicates how long the stocks will last and how many beneficiaries can be covered.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, November 1 - 7

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Return of regrouped populations begins in Karuzi province. On 5 November, people that had been regrouped since February last year started leaving the camp of Bihemba in Bugenyuzi commune. On 7 November, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), accompanied by the Minister of Reinsertion, travelled to Karuzi to meet with the Governor of the province to discuss these developments. The Governor provided the visitors with a calendar for the return of 137,000 regrouped persons by the end of the year. He confirmed that the population of all camps, with the exception of part of Ntunda camp and four old-caseload displaced camps (Karuzi, Giteramuka, Buhiga and Ruvubu/Rusi), would return to their original homes. Since the residents of the latter four camps preferred not to go home yet, these sites were in the process of being transformed into long-term resettlement sites. The Governor explained that although all populations would be allowed to return by the dates indicated in the calendar, some returnees would first spend time in transit camps while their former houses were being reconstructed. The HC paid a visit to the camp of Bihemba where it was observed that most of

the 10,000 former inhabitants had already left during the previous two days. He also visited the site of Giteramuka where 200 houses were already in an advanced stage of construction.

Rwegura site closed. On November 6, military forces closed down the site of Rwegura in Kayanza province and escorted the approximately 5,300 inhabitants to Cibitoke province. The site had been formed spontaneously in March of this year as a result of people fleeing fighting in neighbouring Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces. The condition and exact whereabouts of the people remain unclear although authorities have indicated that they were sent to Ndora in Cibitoke province (even though about 500 are originally from Bubanza province). About 155 patients remained behind in a therapeutic feeding centre run by ACF. On the other hand, 57 patients who were staying in the camp were apparently moved out with the others. A CNUDH observer mission visited on Nov 7 to speak to local authorities about the incident and MSF France/Holland, Belgium and Switzerland issued a joint press release criticising the action. On November 8, the HC met with the Prime Minister to discuss the incident. He offered assistance to the government in order to bring the people to more secure areas where they would be able to receive medical treatment and other assistance as required. An action plan is presently under discussion between the Government and the UN.

Displaced leaving Johnson and LeGentil sites in Bujumbura. Displaced populations who had sought refuge at the Johnson centre in the capital when unrest erupted in late 1993, have begun returning to their former neighbourhoods.

UN considering despatch of special mission to Burundi/Tanzania border. Following a November 2 meeting convened at UN Headquarters in New York by the Department of Political Affairs in response to the intensified clashes at the Burundi-Tanzania border, it was agreed to send a fact-finding mission to the Burundi-Tanzania border, with the participation of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations, UNHCR, and DHA. The Secretary General has designated Ambassador Berhanu Dinka, the newly-appointed Regional Humanitarian Advisor, to lead the mission.

Tanzania insists on continued troop presence along border. On November 5, the Tanzanian defence minister stated that Tanzanian troops would continue to be deployed along his country's border with Burundi in order to defend Tanzania's territorial integrity.

WFP internal flight to be suspended. Due to a lack of funding, WFP will be forced to suspend its flights serving the interior of Burundi as of 10 November.

Humanitarian Activities

Update on Muramvya return. The distribution of return packages to populations leaving their sites in Muramvya continued. By 7 November, WFP had despatched 1,458 mt to 52,493 persons (in the form of ninety day food rations) and IFRC had distributed 140,345 bars of soap, and 15,121 jerry-cans, blankets and mats to 38,115 people as part of the non-food portion of the return package. All populations living in sites had already benefited from the FAO coordinated seeds and tool distribution that took place in September. The return package distribution is expected to be completed by 11 November.

UNICEF and Government of Burundi sign programme of cooperation. UNICEF signed a USD 20 million cooperation programme with the Burundian government and presented its 1998/99 Accelerated Humanitarian Intervention Plan that focuses on the development of temporary schools in displaced camps, the continued provision of nutritional feeding supplies to up to 40,000 malnourished, strengthening of the unaccompanied children programme and the maintenance of a co+9-untry-wide vaccination programme. So far, homes have been found for 14,000 unaccompanied minors. UNICEF reports that enrolment rates in primary schools have dropped from 52% to 30% since the outbreak of the crisis in 1993/94. In addition, about 3,000 teachers who have either been killed or displaced, have been replaced by unqualified teachers. As a result, UNICEF will focus a large part of next year's programme on teacher training, the construction of temporary schools (225 of which have already been established) and the

introduction of peace education in school curricula. UNICEF aims at having provided training to 1,800 teachers by end of the year.

Mission planned to Rumonge. FAO will lead a joint UN/NGO needs assessment mission to the lakeside town of Rumonge in Bururi province. Security conditions permitting, the mission will take place on November 13. Rumonge has been off-limits to UN missions for most of this year.

CNUDH mission to Bururi and Makamba. On 30 and 31 October, a Human Rights observer mission travelled to Bururi and Makamba provinces but due to security concerns could only visit the provincial capitals. The observers met with local authorities and clergy to discuss, in particular, the fate of some 12,000 people who had allegedly been held by rebels in Bururi's Burambi commune and had now been installed in a number of existing sites, namely Maramvya, Gighiya, Murago, and Muyange. Authorities stated that the displaced, including many women and children, were sick, malnourished and were in need of shelter. The administration had provided some food and sheeting but it was not sufficient to cover all needs. The UN will send a mission to Burambi once adequate security can be arranged.

Bubanza coordination meeting. UNHCR convened a meeting on November 7 attended by most agencies and NGOs active in Bubanza province. Main issues of discussion included the security situation, latest developments concerning the displaced population, and current and planned interventions. According to information provided by provincial authorities, the number of displaced has risen to approximately 120,000 persons spread over 45 sites. As a result of deteriorating security conditions over the past months, some of these camps are inaccessible to the humanitarian community. In other cases, owing to the danger of mines, NGOs have resorted to reaching vulnerable populations by bicycle or on foot.

WFP explained that based on findings from camp-by-camp assessments in April, they had distributed food to all Bubanza sites in July, followed by the despatch of seed protect rations in October. WFP, in close collaboration with UNHCR and IHA, is now planning the distribution of one month rations to all accessible sites; those that are not accessible will receive 15-day rations, to be collected at the nearest, secure collection point. ACF is still awaiting permission from local and central authorities to proceed with the opening of nutritional feeding centres. Oxfam Quebec is focusing on providing assistance to unaccompanied children, orphans, handicapped and other vulnerable groups, primarily in the health and non-food sectors. FAO assisted 12,579 families during the last planting season and has now been requested to assist 5,000 newly displaced families (pending verification of existence and size of sites). Equilibre assists some 4,000 families in the most vulnerable category through the distribution of non-food items (such as soap, jerry cans and clothes), constructs latrines and assists people to return home where possible. ARP continues its activities in the income-generation, infrastructure rehabilitation, water and agriculture sectors while Caritas supports the provincial hospital. It was pointed out that the hospital is facing a serious cost recovery problem as fewer and fewer patients are able to cover the cost of treatment. Whereas, in April, 4,000 of 7,000 patients were able to pay their fees, in October only 1,000 of 7,000 were able to do so. Children's Aid Direct provides health services through four health centres and the hospital and manages six nutritional feeding centres. The next Bubanza coordination meeting will take place on 20 November.

Health Coordination Meeting. At the bi-weekly UN/NGO coordination meeting convened by the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF announced that it was planning a large-scale polio vaccination campaign scheduled to commence in mid-December, during which one million under five's will be vaccinated throughout the country.

Non-Food Coordination Meeting. CRS, in its role as head of the non-food sector, held its monthly coordination meeting on 5 November. Participants, which included UNICEF, Christian Aid, Equilibre, GVC, MSF Belgium, World Vision and DHA/HCU, discussed the stock situation in-country and in the pipeline as well as agency/NGO needs and availability of items.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi.

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 26 Nov 1997 14:37:52 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, November 15 - 21, 1997

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura

General

Ex-President Bagaza to be tried. The Ministry of Justice announced that former President Jean Baptiste Bagaza is to stand trial in a military court next week for allegedly planning the assassination of President Buyoya. Bagaza, who has been under house arrest since January of this year, is head of the hard-line Parena party. He was overthrown by Pierre Buyoya in a coup in 1987.

UN/NGO mission to Ndora. A DHA/HCU-led joint mission comprised of representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF, CNUDH, WFP, ACF and the UN Security Cell travelled to Ndora in Bukinyana commune of Cibitoke Province on 18 November via Kayanza, Rwegura and the Kibira Forest. The objective of the mission was to seek clarification on the whereabouts and condition of some 5,000 people (including 46 patients who had been registered in a therapeutic feeding centre) who had been moved from Rwegura site in Kayanza province on 6 November. The mission met with the Governors of Kayanza and Cibitoke. Although nobody was seen in Ndora, the mission learned that the people were transferred to three already existing sites, namely Bihembe (for those originating from Musigati in Bubanza province), Gahebura (for those from Murwi commune in Cibitoke) and Rusenda (for those from Mabayi and Bukinyana communes, also in Cibitoke). The Humanitarian Coordinator has asked the Government to trace the 46 missing patients and to give them access to further medical treatment as required.

Head of MSF France/Holland leaves Burundi. At the request of the Government, the Coordinator of the MSF France/Holland mission left the country on 17 November. The NGO, whose France and Holland branches merged in April this year, was charged with not having signed, as a joint entity, a memorandum of understanding with the government and was therefore not officially recognised. A senior representative from MSF Holland headquarters arrived in Burundi in order to negotiate a new agreement with the central authorities. Meanwhile, emergency-related activities conducted by the NGO continue, with the agreement of the national authorities.

Appointment of Emergency Relief Coordinator. On November 14, the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, appointed Sergio Vieira de Mello to head the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator as of January 1998.

Congo expulsions. As the result of operations carried out by Congolese military in the Uvira region bordering Burundi, up to 3,000 Burundians living in this area have been forced back to Burundi. The expulsions started on November 9 and included people who had fled to Congo as far back as 1972. Congolese military suspected the Burundians of assisting the Interahamwe and Mai Mai militia and gave no time for people to collect their belongings or otherwise prepare for their departure and any items of value were confiscated. The identification of Burundian residents and making of lists had already commenced last month, an indication that the

operation was planned in advance. Upon arrival in Burundi, the expelled persons were escorted to their communes of origin, mainly Buganda and Rugombo in Cibitoke province, by Burundian military forces. UNHCR moved about 130 people who were not from Cibitoke to Gatumba transit camp for onward transfer to their provinces of origin. 69 of these people were of Rwandan origin. UNHCR is monitoring the situation and plans to provide assistance to the returnees, provided that their areas of return are accessible.

Humanitarian Activities

Overview of activities implemented by UN Centre for Human Rights. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights opened an office in Bujumbura in June 1994 to assist the Government of Burundi through the implementation of a multi-faceted programme of cooperation in the field of human rights. The activities of the Centre are divided into three main components, namely Human Rights Field Observation (HRFO) and the programmes of judiciary assistance and technical cooperation. The HRFO seeks to promote and protect human rights by informing authorities of violations and following up on individual cases. Observers visit prisons and detention centres which now hold more than 10,000 people. The judiciary assistance programme seeks to guarantee the impartiality of the Burundian justice system in order to foster the necessary conditions for a return to peace and national reconciliation as well as the re-establishment of the rule of law. The technical cooperation project aims at reinforcing the rule of law by increasing the institutional capacity of the Ministries of Justice and Education through organisation of seminars and training workshops with governmental employees, national media and youth groups.

UNICEF supports battle against AIDS. As part of a pilot project, from November 10 to 15, UNICEF trained 193 field workers in Muyinga to help raise awareness about the transmission of AIDS. A workshop at which 35 health workers were trained had been previously held in September. UNICEF plans to conduct awareness raising sessions every month for groups of twenty people.

UNICEF water/sanitation survey. In cooperation with the Ministries of Health, Community Development and Reinstallation, UNICEF has begun with its survey of water and sanitation conditions in 250 sites across the country. A training course was held for 38 technicians who will be evaluating the sites over the course of a two-week period. The technicians were provided by government ministries or partner NGOs such as ARP, CARE, IRC, MSF and IHA.

Overview of WFP programme for 1998. WFP's emergency assistance for 1998 will target 175,000 people of which 25,000 fall under the "old case-load" displaced category, i.e. people who have been displaced since 1993/94. It is expected that the latter will require continued assistance; even though some have been able to establish alternate coping mechanisms, other groups will remain vulnerable due to recurring insecurity which only allows sporadic and limited access to land. Up to 150,000 newly displaced victims of recent violence, located in sites primarily in the south- and north-western parts of country, who have no access to land and no alternative means of survival, will also be assisted. WFP is also planning for the return of 249,000 refugees who will receive a three month return package. It is anticipated that 140,000 of these returnees will also be in need of a ten day transit ration. In addition, ninety day return packages will be provided for up to 150,000 internally displaced who will be returning to their original homes. WFP will continue with the implementation of diversified food-for-work projects for some 55,000 beneficiaries in sectors such as income-generating, infrastructure rehabilitation, and environmental protection. These projects seek in particular to promote the participation and development of women. WFP will also provide assistance to 25,000 vulnerable people who are in need of food aid due to social, economic or health reasons. A total of 45,000 people will be assisted through supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes.

WHO update. WHO reports that 28,856 cases of bacillary dysentery were registered in Burundi from January to September 1997. The provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi and Ruyigi were most

affected with 5,059, 3,357 and 3,031 cases, respectively. The number of cases registered in the Ngozi prison and health centres increased during the months of September and October with the mortality rate in the prison reaching 14,85%. WHO is planning to intervene in collaboration with MSF Belgium; special focus will be placed on the provision of supplementary feeding, especially at the prison. A total of 44,541 cases of typhus were registered from January through September, with 1,903 cases registered in August and 1,334 in September. In general, the epidemic is on the decline with the exception of continued risk areas such as the Ngozi and Gitega prisons and the Mutaho sector of Gitega province where the situation remains unchanged. 78 cases were registered in Ngozi in October of which 7 died (mortality rate 8,97%). WHO has recruited a staff member to implement a project entitled "Motherhood without Risk and Female Victims of Violence". A consultant is currently compiling an analysis of the violence being committed against women in Burundi.

Preparation for upcoming polio vaccination campaign. WHO and UNICEF are preparing for the National Days of Vaccination which aim at eradicating polio. The campaign will take place in December and January and will target all children aged 0 to 59 months who will receive two doses (the second after 4 weeks). WHO provided technical support towards the organisation of an initial planning workshop that was held from 27 to 29 May which led to the creation of a national plan of action and the elaboration of a budget which was prepared in July. WHO also enabled the production of a booklet on how to eradicate polio and provided material support such as cool-boxes, vaccine trays, etc. WHO also assisted with the photocopying of related documents and fuel costs. UNICEF is supporting the national vaccination programme through the provision of a doctor and various material and financial assistance to support the cold chain. UNICEF has contributed kerosene and vaccines in value of USD 500,000.

UNFPA plans for 1998. UNFPA, which reports that women make up 54% of Burundi's war victims, plans to establish and fund female war victims' associations and outreach services to raise awareness about reproductive health, family planning, the transmission of AIDS and other STDs, and general hygiene and sanitation issues. UNFPA will support the Ministries of Human Rights, Social Action and the Promotion of Women, as well as Reinstallation to promote women's projects currently implemented in four provinces (Ngozi, Muramvya, Cankuzo, Rutana). UNFPA has created units called Centres for Family Development that strive to improve women's socio-economic status and thus the well-being of their families. This is achieved through women's involvement in Information-Education-Communication activities especially in reproductive health and income generation sectors. It is planned that all communes covered by the Ngozi and Muramvya Family Development Centres will be provided with a total of 50 trained female outreach workers and 200 women leaders. 1,500 female war victims will be sensitised and their involvement in ten income generating associations will be encouraged.

UNFPA estimates that the number of women of child-bearing age (15 to 44 years) in Burundi is 1,340,000. 286,000 births are expected per year with the maternal death rate ranging between 700 and 800 per 100,000 live births. While the use of contraceptives was estimated at 4 % in 1993, it has fallen to 2.7% in 1996. The percentage of mothers who benefited from pre-natal care stood at 71% in 1993; by 1996, the number dropped to 57%. Whereas only 11.4% of all expected deliveries took place in the country's health structures/units and maternity hospitals in 1993, the figure decreased to 7.6% by 1996. UNFPA is challenged with elaborating a strategy that conforms to the current emergency situation and aims to increase access to reproductive health and family planning services. Due to the wide displacement of populations, mobile health teams that offer basic pre- and post natal care, delivery assistance and information on STD/AIDS prevention need to be mobilised.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, November 22 - 28

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Rapporteur for Human Rights to visit Burundi. Sergio Paul Pinheiro, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, is scheduled to visit Burundi from December 7 to 20. It will be his fourth mission to Burundi.

Burundian diplomat expelled from embassy in Dar es Salaam. Tanzanian authorities expelled Burundi's only government representative from Burundi's embassy in Dar es Salaam which has been staffed by exiled members of FRODEBU, the Front for Democracy in Burundi, since last year's coup. According to Tanzania's Foreign Ministry, the representative was asked to leave as she lacked diplomatic credentials and a valid visa. However, Tanzania followed this action by stating its willingness to re-establish diplomatic links should Burundi agree to participate in peace talks.

ESABO calls for lifting of sanctions. The chairman of ESABO, the Eastern and Southern Africa Business Organisation, urged COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, to lift the regional economic embargo imposed on Burundi. He cited "the devastating consequences for member states" who had halted all trade while other countries outside the region, such as China and South Africa, had profited from stepping into the vacuum.

FROLINA announces resumption of military opposition. On 27 October, FROLINA, the National Liberation Front, a splinter group of PALIPEHUTU, led by an exiled Burundian living in Tanzania, officially announced the resumption of military operations after an 18 month cease-fire. The halt in hostilities were intended to provide an opportunity for mediation efforts to bear fruit.

Humanitarian Activities

CRS provides emergency assistance to displaced in Buyengero. CRS, in collaboration with local church partners, provided 2,500 blankets, 4,000 cooking pots, 10,000 pieces of soap, 2,000 jerry cans, 11 mt of corn flower and 3 mt of beans to recently displaced people in Buyengero in Bururi province. Up to 10,000 people have gathered near the local church. While approximately 1,000 people are sleeping in the church and some have sought shelter in nearby buildings, most of the people are sleeping outside.

Results from study on return of regrouped populations in Muramvya. DHA/HCU has compiled and analysed results from a study undertaken in Muramvya to verify the return of regrouped populations. A total of 559 people were interviewed in four areas in the communes of Muramvya and Bukeye where return package distributions had taken place. 543 of those interviewed declared that they had returned voluntarily and 466 people indicated that they had

been able to return to their original homes. The study was made possible through the collaboration of UNICEF (who covered the per diem of four national consultants), DHA (provision of vehicle) and CARE (provision of driver).

UNHCR to shift focus in 1998. The UN refugee agency is planning to gradually phase out operations in the western provinces of Burundi, namely Bubanza and Cibitoke, to which the majority of people who had sought refuge in former Zaire have returned within the past year. UNHCR will instead concentrate its activities on the southern and south-eastern provinces in anticipation of the return of up to approximately 250,000 Burundians who remain in camps in Tanzania.

Return package distributions in Karuzi. Following the distribution of return packages to formerly regrouped populations in Kayanza and Muramvya, a similar operation is beginning in Karuzi. In a collaborative effort, CRS, MSF Belgium and World Vision have begun distributing the non-food portion of the return packages to 20,000 families are in the process of leaving a total of nine sites. The three NGOs together will contribute 127,472 pieces of soap, 40,000 blankets, 17,000 jerry cans and 19,500 pieces of plastic sheeting (of which UNICEF is providing 4,500 pieces). The distribution will commence on November 29 and is expected to last until December 12. CRS is also providing trucks to facilitate the distribution process. On November 26, Representatives from DHA/HCU, WFP and IFRC met with the Governor of Karuzi to discuss the return of regrouped populations. According to the Governor, 66,049 people had so far been able to return to their homes in Gihogazi and Bugenyuzi communes.

FAO survey of market prices across Burundi. In addition to monitoring the evolution of market prices in Bujumbura, FAO is following the situation in the provinces. While an average monthly "basket" of up to 40 different food products cost FrBu 10,170 in the capital, the average prices in the provinces were somewhat lower, fluctuating between FrBu 7,845 in Bururi and FrBu 10,010 in Gitega. (The official exchange rate is FrBu 402 to the dollar.)

UNICEF supports protection of the rights of the child. In a new pilot project, UNICEF, in collaboration with local judicial authorities in Ruyigi, is preparing a workshop on child rights protection. Local authorities, NGOs and UN agencies assisting children in the province will meet to identify key violations committed against children in the province, review judicial action in light of these transgressions and suggest how to ensure stricter adherence to basic child rights. It is intended that similar initiatives will take place in other provinces.

WHO activities. In the framework of its "Motherhood without risk and Female Victims of Violence" programme, WHO has provided training to a total of 510 traditional midwives in the provinces of Karuzi and Kayanza. The training is taking place from October 28 to December 2 and covers all aspects of pre- and post-natal care, the importance of vaccinations, family planning and the prevention of AIDS and other STDs. In other news, WHO has noted a rise in the number of cases of bacillary dysentery registered in health posts and health centres since September. In an effort to combat the epidemic, WHO provided 2,000 litres of glucose serum, 2,000 litres of ringer lactate and 1,000 litres of cetrime chloredixine to the Ministry of Public Health.

WFP emergency distributions continue. WFP distributed emergency rations to 10,513 people in Karuzi, 10,578 people in Ngozi, 6,635 people in Bubanza, and 11,678 people in Bururi.

Formation of UN Telecommunications Group. A UN Telecommunications Coordination Group (TCG) has been created following meetings held between the DHA/HCU Telecommunications Officer and the Communications Officers of individual UN Organisations. The group is charged with coordinating efforts among the UN agencies in the field of telecommunications, which includes reviewing UN radio frequency plans, frequency allocations, license requests, and liaison with the telecommunications representatives of the Burundi government. Permanent members of the TCG include telecommunication experts and focal points of UN organisations and a representative of the NGO Liaison Committee (a.k.a. CLIO). The TCG will operate under

the auspices of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and will be presided by the DHA/HCU Telecommunications Officer. The first meeting will take place on 4 December.

Annex: Overview of humanitarian stock situation in Burundi. The attached table, prepared on a monthly basis by DHA/HCU, provides an overview of the humanitarian stock situation in the food, nutrition, health, agriculture, non-food and water/sanitation sector as it stood at the beginning of November. The table takes into account UN and NGO stocks in-country as well as in the pipeline and indicates how long the stocks will last and how many beneficiaries can be covered. The individual sector summaries are prepared by the respective sectoral lead agencies (Food - WFP, Nutrition/Vaccines - UNICEF, Medicine - WHO, Agriculture - FAO, NFI - CRS, Water/Sanitation - UNICEF).

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Mon, 15 Dec 1997 11:50:41 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: Human Rights Watch arms report 8 Dec 97 97.12.8

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Subject:

Burundi- Halt of Arms to All Parties in Civil war

(8 December 1997)--In *_Stoking the Fires: Military Assistance, Arms Trafficking, and the Civil War in Burundi_*, released today, Human Rights Watch charges that members of the international community have blithely continued to supply arms or other forms of military assistance to the parties to the civil war in Burundi, or have allowed their territories to be used as transshipment points for weapons.

The report documents how, during the past four years, a seemingly unstoppable flow of arms has reached all parties to the Burundian conflict and contributed to serious abuses of human rights and humanitarian law. Tens of thousands of unarmed civilians have been killed in this war, often solely because of their ethnicity, and hundreds of thousands of others have been forcibly displaced.

Human Rights Watch calls on the international community to impose an international arms embargo on both sides of the conflict, and on individual states to investigate and prosecute persons who, in their deadly commerce, have violated national and international laws.

The report, summing up an extensive field investigation in central Africa, describes the routes and the networks through which weapons are supplied to the Burundian combatants. *Stoking the Fires* also reveals that China, France, North Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States, and Zaire (the pre-May-1997 Congo) have directly provided military support to abusive Burundian forces (though France and the United States maintain that their assistance ceased in 1996). Angola, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire permitted the transshipment of weapons through their territories or allowed insurgents to establish bases on their soil. Most commonly, private arms merchants took and continue to take advantage of loose restrictions on arms transfers, poor controls at border points and corrupt officials.

"Governments and arms traffickers through much of the region have supported or supplied both Hutu rebels and Tutsi forces in Burundi," says Kathi Austin, Human Rights Watch investigator and co-author of the report. "There are, however, instances in which states have clearly taken sides. The Mobutu government's support for the Hutu rebel forces in eastern Zaire and elsewhere in the region extended both to hosting these forces and facilitating their resupply. At the same time, some of Mobutu's cronies have offered supplies to the Burundian government." In contrast, continues Austin, Uganda and Rwanda appear to have served as conduits primarily to Burundian government forces and associated Tutsi militia. Arms flows through Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique, and on direct flights from European suppliers tended to be less partisan. While the Tutsi-dominated government in Burundi as well as the Hutu rebels each had procurers operating in Europe and in east and southern Africa, some arms suppliers appear to have catered to either side motivated exclusively by profit.

Typically, the Burundian security forces and Tutsi militia and gangs received weapons overland via Tanzania, Uganda or Rwanda, by air into Bujumbura from central and southern African

states, including Zaire and South Africa, and across the lake from Zaire. The Hutu insurgents were supplied in Tanzania and, at least until the end of 1996, in eastern Zaire, usually via Angola, South Africa, Zambia and Zaire.

Whether motivated by profit or acting on a political agenda, governments and private weapons suppliers share responsibility in the Burundian civil war and the human rights abuses that it has engendered. Now raging in several provinces of that country, this recent round of conflict was ignited in October 1993 when the predominantly Tutsi army assassinated Hutu president Melchior Ndadaye and effectively put an end to Burundi's brief experiment with democracy. The cycle of ethnic strife and reprisal that ensued saw the emergence of a steadily growing insurgency organized on behalf of the Hutu majority. The rebellion intensified after the July 1996 coup d'etat that dissolved a transitional government and, with the army's backing, installed Pierre Buyoya to the presidency.

"We believe that nations as well as individuals continue to stoke the fires despite a regional embargo imposed against Burundi in August 1996," observes Joost Hiltermann, director of the Human Rights Watch Arms Project and the other co-author of the report. "This ongoing pattern is fully consistent with information we have collected in the Great Lakes region over the past four years. But the international community, while noting almost as a matter of bureaucratic routine the serious abuses that have occurred, has taken precious few steps to stop them." Hiltermann adds that when it comes to official responsibilities, research conducted by Human Rights Watch shows that governments were either involved in the direct supply of military assistance, or have wittingly failed to inhibit the trade, while some have simply adopted a laissez-faire attitude, tolerating corruption and illegal activities by private actors.

Human Rights Watch has asked several governments to provide answers to these issues. "We certainly did not expect a choral mea culpa," says Loretta Bond, advocacy coordinator of the Human Rights Watch Arms Project. "However, the outright denials we have received blatantly clash with the evidence from the field. Meanwhile, the Burundian government remains defiant in the face of regional sanctions, knowing that the one-sided embargo can be and is circumvented."

In light of the evidence collected by Human Rights Watch of continuing transfers of weapons to Burundian belligerent parties, Human Rights Watch provides an extensive list of recommendations. These include:

- Imposition of an international arms embargo on the sale or supply of arms and ammunition, as well as military materiel and services, against all sides in the war.
- Deployment of U.N. or Organization of African Unity (OAU) military observers at key border crossings and airstrips in the Great Lakes region, including, and especially, in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Angola and Congo.
- Reactivation of the U.N.-established International Commission of Inquiry (Rwanda), known as UNICOI, and extension of its mandate to include Burundi; and the immediate and public release of the commission's yet-unpublished final report dated October 29, 1996.
- Imposition of an OAU moratorium on arms sales to the Great Lakes region as proposed by the U.N. special rapporteur on Burundi.
- Convening of a regional conference on arms trafficking, security and human rights in the Great Lakes region.
- Establishment of a regional arms control agency, with representation from all states in the Great Lakes region, empowered to investigate members' compliance with the international arms embargo and other arms control mechanisms.

-Creation of national mechanisms to support an international arms embargo, including the establishment of offices by states neighboring Burundi whose tasks would be to monitor, implement and enforce the operation of the embargo on their own territory.

-Enaction and implementation of domestic legislation enabling the prosecution of nationals who sell weapons, ammunition, military materiel (including dual-use equipment) or military services to the warring sides in Burundi, even if such nationals operate on the territory of other states.

-Creation of a voluntary register of movements and acquisitions of small arms, ammunition, and military materiel and personnel to which all states in the Great Lakes region would submit full information about their purchases and knowledge of transactions on an annual basis.

-Funding for serious institutional attempts in the Great Lakes region to improve control of weapons transfers through stricter border controls and regular information exchanges between senior security and customs personnel of states in the region.

-Funding for a disarmament commission to study the feasibility of demobilization and ethnic integration of Burundi's security forces, and of possible weapons destruction and buy-back programs.

-Active enforcement of measures to prevent armed organizations with a record of gross abuses from operating from the territories of states in the region.

-Publication of all information on arms transfers to Burundi since 1993, including types and quantities of weapons, ammunition, military materiel (including dual-use equipment), and military services.

-Strict enforcement of existing export controls on weapons (especially light weapons and small arms) and military services.

-Creation of a voluntary U.N. register of light weapons and small arms that would complement the existing U.N. conventional arms register.

-Adoption of a code of conduct on arms transfers by regional entities like the European Union, the Organization of African Unity, the South African Development Community, and others.

-Support for new initiatives aimed at curbing the flow of arms into conflict-ridden zones, such as the E.U. "Programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms".

Human Rights Watch calls on the international community and individual member states to implement the above measures to prevent further abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law in the tragic conflict in Burundi.

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X-URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int/emergenc> Date: Wed, 24 Dec 1997 11:47:42 -0300 (GMT+3) From: UN IRIN - Central and Eastern Africa <irin@dha.unon.org> Subject:

Burundi: IMC Reports Deadly Outbreak of Shigellosis 97.12.19

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R e l i e f W e b <http://www.reliefweb.int> Source: International Medical Corps (IMC) Date: 19 Dec 1997

IMC Reports Deadly Outbreak of Shigellosis Dysentery in war-torn Burundi

Contact: Kevin Doyle, 310-826-7800

Los Angeles - Medical workers for the Los Angeles-based organization International Medical Corps (IMC), operating in Burundi, report a significant increase in the occurrence of shigella dysentery in various regions of the war-torn country. Shigella dysentery is a highly contagious and often deadly disease that was one of the main killers in the Goma refugee camps in 1994.

In one province alone, Muyinga, where there is a camp of thousands of internally displaced Burundians, IMC medics report a 70% increase in the incidence of shigella (or shigellosis) since October. Patients are being treated with an antibiotic intravenous solution, and a public education campaign is underway to improve the supply of clean water and general sanitary conditions.

Shigellosis, caused by the parasite *Shigella dysenteriae*, is the most frequent type of dysentery and is the only cause of large-scale and prolonged dysentery epidemics, as well as being the most frequently fatal. Occurrence of shigellosis is linked mostly to an inadequate water supply (both in quantity and quality), poor sanitation, overcrowding and malnutrition. It is a major cause of morbidity in refugee camps in Africa.

The International Medical Corps is a private, non-sectarian, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles and established by volunteer U.S. physicians and nurses. Its mission is to save lives, relieve suffering, and improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in areas worldwide where few organizations dare to serve. By offering medical training and health care to local populations and medical assistance to people at highest risk, and with the flexibility to respond rapidly to emergency situations, IMC rehabilitates devastated health care systems and brings them back to self-reliance. Since its founding in 1984, IMC efforts have reached more than 13 million people around the world. IMC is currently assisting in medical crises in Angola, Bosnia, Burundi, Somalia and Sudan.

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Burundi: UN Humanitarian Information Bulletin 13-19 Dec 97 97.12.24

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, December 13 - 19

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Amnesty International reports on death sentences. According to an Amnesty International report dated December 17, a total of 220 people accused of participating in the massacres that followed the 1993 assassination of President Ndadaye have so far been sentenced to death in Burundi. The Supreme Court recently confirmed the condemnation to death of ten people who had already been condemned by the Criminal Chamber of the Court of Appeals last year; they are now awaiting the President's decision to grant clemency or proceed with the executions. Amnesty International has indicated that five of the convicted did not have access to legal representation. The trials are taking place in courts in Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi. The UN Center for Human Rights began providing judicial assistance in these courts in February 1996.

Humanitarian Activities

Overview of IRC activities. The US based NGO International Rescue Committee, IRC, began implementing water/sanitation projects in IDP camps in Muyinga in 1996 and has since expanded activities to Karuzi and Kirundo provinces. IRC broadened its approach to include assistance in the infrastructure rehabilitation sector and will be overseeing the FAO coordinated distribution of seeds and tools for the 1998-B season in Karuzi and Muyinga. IRC also implements Quick Impact Projects for UNHCR in Muyinga and Kirundo to facilitate the reintegration of repatriated populations and restore communal infrastructure. During the month of November IRC was carrying out a total of 33 projects that included the development and protection of spring sources, the installation of water pumping systems, water trucking, improvements to communal latrines, the construction of family latrines, the provision of tap stands and washing areas and hygiene education. IRC receives funding from USAID/OFDA, ECHO and the Irish Government.

UNHCR Bubanza coordination meeting. Since the humanitarian situation in Bubanza remains of ongoing serious concern, UNHCR continues to hold a provincial coordination meeting every two weeks. On December 18, UN and NGO partners met to discuss latest security developments, population movements as well as completed, ongoing and planned interventions. There has been no noted improvement in the security situation as military operations and small-scale rebel attacks continue. As a result, newly displaced continue to arrive in and around the provincial capital, at the rate of 10 to 50 persons per day. Many arrive in very poor condition after having spent weeks or months hiding in the surrounding marshes and woods and reports of abductions are frequent. In order to better monitor the number of new arrivals, UNHCR is hiring a number of local assistants who will assist in maintaining updated lists on new arrivals, their condition and assistance provided. WFP continues to undertake evaluations of accessible sites and is providing emergency distributions to those most in need. Children's Aid Direct (CAD) is now providing supplementary feeding to 4,000 pregnant and lactating mothers in six locations and has begun tracking unaccompanied children. CAD will be opening a temporary

health centre in Bubanza in January to assist with the growing medical needs that have resulted from the large influx of newly displaced. Equilibre, which is the only NGO that has established an office in Bubanza, continues with their housing rehabilitation program to encourage and facilitate the return of site populations. Sanitation activities and hygiene-related distributions (soap, jerry cans, clothes) to the most vulnerable site populations continue as normal. Austrian Relief Programme, ARP, continues with the provision of agricultural assistance (through the distribution of hoes and seed multiplication programmes) and the improvement of water supply systems, partly in conjunction with WFP's Food for Work scheme. ACF is still waiting for central authorities to provide the green light to proceed with the opening of an urgently required therapeutic feeding centre in the provincial capital.

FAO coordination meeting. The FAO emergency coordination unit held its weekly coordination meeting to plan the seeds and tools distribution for the upcoming 1998-B season. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to ensure the uniformity of local purchase procedures among the various partners.

WFP activities. WFP assessment teams have been monitoring the return of formerly regrouped populations in Karuzi province. Visits to the communes of Bugenyuzi, Giteramuka and Gihogazi revealed that people from 34 of 61 "collines" have been able to return so far while inhabitants from four "collines" are being held in temporary transit sites. The return process is expected to be completed by the end of the year. WFP is in the process of finalising preparations for the distribution of return packages in Karuzi which is scheduled to commence in January. Meanwhile WFP continues with emergency distributions in Bubanza, Karuzi and Kirundo provinces where a total of 26,210 people received 265 mt of food in the form of 30-day rations.

UNICEF activities. UNICEF continues to provide basic peace education training to teachers in collaboration with the Rural Education Offices. So far a total of 550 teachers have been trained in Gitega, Ngozi, Muyinga and Kirundo. It is planned to train 1,200 more by the end of the year. As part of UNICEF's "Children in Distress" project, on December 15 UNICEF initiated a survey to assess the numbers and needs of street children in Bujumbura, Gatumba, Ngozi and Rumonge. The survey will be carried out in conjunction with other NGOs involved in providing assistance to street children who will help define priorities for interventions. The last such survey was carried out in 1991 and was confined to the capital.

Annex: Overview of humanitarian stock situation in Burundi. The attached table, prepared on a monthly basis by DHA/HCU, provides an overview of the humanitarian stock situation in the food, nutrition, health, agriculture, non-food and water/sanitation sector as it stood at the beginning of December. The table takes into account UN and NGO stocks in-country as well as in the pipeline and indicates how long the stocks will last and how many beneficiaries can be covered. The individual sector summaries are prepared by the respective sectoral lead agencies, as follows:

Food - WFP Nutritional Feeding Supplies/Vaccines - UNICEF Medical Supplies - WHO
Agricultural inputs - FAO Non Food Items - CRS Water/Sanitation - UNICEF

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi. Tel: (257) 218034/Fax: (257) 218035 E-mail: dha@cbinf.com

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, December 6 - 12

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

FRODEBU temporarily suspended. On 6 December, the Minister of Interior announced the six month suspension of the main opposition party, FRODEBU which holds the majority in the National Assembly. The decision followed FRODEBU's announcement that their leader, Jean Minani, living in exile in Tanzania, had been re-appointed as the party's legal representative at the party's second congress that took place on 6 December. This move was opposed by the Burundi government which accused Minani of "rebellion" against Burundi and insisted that opposition parties need to nominate new leaders to replace those in exile. The government, however, retracted the ban within 24 hours and submitted the case to the judiciary.

Eritrea withdraws support for sanctions. The Eritrean Foreign Minister, Haile Woldetensae, formally withdrew Eritrea's support for the sanctions during a visit to Burundi on December 8. He used the opportunity to sign a framework cooperation agreement with his Burundian counterpart, Luc Rukingama.

National Assembly voices support for collaboration with government. On December 5, the speaker of the National Assembly, Leonce Nyengakumana, announced the body's willingness to work with the government to revive and encourage the peace process. He proposed a joint government parliamentary committee that could meet regularly with key leaders involved in efforts to broker peace.

Special Rapporteur for Human Rights arrives. Sergio Pinheiro, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, arrived in Burundi on December 7 for a two week visit to meet with government and civilian authorities, review progress made towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict, the embargo and other issues. He will be undertaking several missions to the interior of the country.

President Buyoya visits Burkina Faso. President Pierre Buyoya paid a visit to Burkina Faso from December 10-12 to meet government officials and discuss the situation in Burundi. Particular focus was placed on security, the reconciliation process and the economic blockade as well as the refugee situation in the Great Lakes Region. The two countries signed a framework agreement establishing a joint cooperation commission.

Human Rights Watch publishes report on arms smuggle to Burundi. A report published by Human Rights Watch on December 8 has accused a number of countries of providing direct and indirect military support to all parties in Burundi. Human Rights Watch issued a number of recommendations that called for, inter alia, the imposition of an international arms embargo and the deployment of a UN and/or OAU military observer force to monitor key border crossings and air strips.

Ugandan delegation visits Burundi. Six Ugandan parliamentarians departed Burundi on December 5 after a four day visit that aimed at reviewing the peace process.

Peace dialogue in Brussels. The Compagnie des Apotres de la Paix (CAP) has initiated a first of a series of meetings scheduled to take place in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Kenya to promote efforts to end the conflict in Burundi. The first meeting, attended by Burundians living in- and outside of Burundi, took place in Brussels from December 5-7.

"Consultative meeting" planned in Arusha. AFP reports that the former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere, has called for a meeting to take place in Arusha from January 21 to 23 to discuss the experiences of African countries in conflict and lessons to be learned from mediation efforts.

Overview of mine incidents. Between October 1996 and November 1997 48 mine incidents were registered by the UN security cell of which 42 (88%) were anti-tank mines. This number reflects only those incidents reported to the UN security cell and does not include numerous other unconfirmed reports. The majority of the incidents took place in Bujumbura Rural (16), the capital (13), and Bubanza (10). Due to the danger of mines in Burundi, the UN Security Cell is offering mine awareness training for all UN staff posted or on mission in Burundi. The briefing provides an overview of the situation in Burundi, the types of mines used and their effects, and precautions to be taken.

Increased insecurity along RN 1. As a result of an increasing number of ambushes on vehicles along RN 1, the main road leading from Bujumbura to Muramvya and on to the north-western provinces and Kigali, the UN security cell temporarily closed the road to all UN traffic for 24 hours on December 9. Travel on RN 1 has now been restricted to between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm.

WFP internal flight to resume. ECHO will support the resumption of the WFP internal flight as of January for an initial period of four months. The operation was suspended in early November due to a lack of funds.

Humanitarian Activities

Number of displaced increases in Buyengero. The number of displaced in Buyengero in Bururi commune continues to rise. While in October the number of displaced was set at 2,000, the figure rose to 10,000 in November and has now reached 20,000 with more people seeking refuge arriving daily. All the displaced are registered by the local parish. Most are sleeping outside and are in need of food, shelter and blankets. Security conditions permitting, a joint UN/NGO mission will travel to the area to undertake a closer needs assessment.

Austrian Help Programme to start activities. The NGO Austrian Help Programme, AHP, is currently working in Rwanda, Tanzania and the DRC and is planning to commence activities in Burundi in January. The NGO will initially focus on providing assistance in the nutrition and water/sanitation sectors to the province of Bururi and is in the process of opening an office in the provincial capital. AHP will also seek to strengthen food security through distribution of seeds and tools and seed multiplication projects implemented in collaboration with FAO. AHP plans to assist supplementary feeding centres in Burambi (1), Bururi (1), Buyengero (1), Mugamba (1), Rumonge (3) and Songa (2) and a therapeutic feeding centre in Rumonge. AHP also plans to repair the water supply system at Murago, and will distribute soap in 25 locations, and water purification tablets in 7 locations. AHP will also pump water from the lake to 5 locations in Rumonge commune and truck water to Muheka in Songa commune.

Makamba coordination meeting. A meeting was convened at DHA/HCU on December 11 to coordinate UN and NGO interventions in Makamba province. DHA/HCU will be leading a joint mission to the province on 22/23 December to meet with the Governor. In terms of food security, Equilibre in collaboration with WFP and FAO, distributed seeds and 15 day food rations to all displaced sites in Vugizo and Nyanza Lac while Christian Aid distributed seeds in

Makamba, Mabanda and Kibango communes. WFP is currently assessing the food security situation in sites in view of a possible additional distribution before the next harvest. MSF France/Holland is presently launching a nutritional feeding programme consisting of four supplementary and one therapeutic feeding centre. Equilibre is planning to implement a sanitation programme in the sites deemed most in need.

UNHCR facilitates return of 125 Congolese. 55 Congolese families that were mistakenly expelled during the expulsions from Uvira that occurred between 9 and 23 November were returned to Uvira with the assistance of UNHCR on 5 December. The families had been residing in a hangar at the site of Gasenyi in Buganda commune of Cibitoke and were in bad condition as they had not been able to bring any belongings and were not receiving any assistance. Five people, including two children, died from illness and lack of food.

IMC opens field office in Muramvya. The International Medical Corps, IMC, has started health activities in Muramvya which include the rehabilitation of the Muramvya hospital and health centres in the northern part of the province. IMC also runs a vaccination campaign via a mobile clinic and provides medicine to the hospital and health centres.

Reintegration Forum. On December 9, the Ministry of Reintegration convened a sectoral meeting to discuss progress in the reintegration sector with NGOs and UN agencies involved in the sector. The discussion focused on the scope of the reintegration strategy that included the reconstruction of houses and social infrastructure but could also cover income-generating activities, support to unaccompanied children, peace education and data collection. The ministry presented a document that had resulted from the Tripartite Meeting held on September 3 and that outlined the establishment of a permanent framework of coordination between the government, donors and humanitarian organisations to facilitate and monitor the reinstallation of affected populations. The latter forum is scheduled to take place every four months; a smaller technical committee will meet every two months and provincial coordination meetings presided by governors will take place on a monthly basis.

UNOPS reinstallation project. The UN Office for Project Services, UNOPS, has begun implementing a UNDP financed 21 month project worth USD 1.7 million with additional support from UNICEF (five vehicles, computers and training). The project seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Reinstallation in support of the National Plan of Action to reinstall displaced populations. This will be achieved through the co-funding of a number of pilot projects targeting the reinstallation of up to 3,000 displaced families and the establishment of a database made possible through the collection and analysis of data on displaced. OPS is currently identifying implementing partners such as ActionAid, ADRA, Equilibre, and CRS who have already commenced similar reinstallation endeavours in Ruyigi, Cibitoke, Bubanza and other provinces. Prerequisites for the approval of the pilot projects are that the reinstallation must be permanent and conducted in the spirit of reconciliation in a secure environment with substantial community participation. UNOPS will be working closely with provincial committees to coordinate reinstallation efforts. A three week survey is currently taking place in all sites across the country to collect general data on conditions and needs of the displaced. The information will be stored in a database and will assist in planning the reinstallation of populations in 1998. The study began on December 8 and is being conducted by six teams. UNOPS is covering costs for fuel, per diem and the preparation of the final document. UNICEF and the Ministry of Planning provided four and two vehicles, respectively. The final document summarising the results of the survey is expected to be completed in January.

NGO support to reinstallation. After having completed 1,500 houses in Ruyigi, ActionAid is now in the process of re-building a further 1,461 in the same province. In Muramvya and Rutana, CRS has constructed 50 houses each and plans to build a further 240 and 160, respectively. Equilibre is rehabilitating 1,000 houses in Mutimbuzi in Bujumbura Rural while IFRC is also planning to rehabilitate 500 houses in a province that is yet to be determined.

FAO signs new cooperation agreement. On December 9, FAO signed a new cooperation agreement with the government worth USD 165,000. The OFDA grant will finance the post of

the emergency coordinator responsible for coordinating emergency interventions in the agricultural sector.

MSF France/Holland activities. MSF France/Holland is carrying out activities in Kayanza, Kirundo and Makamba. In Kayanza, the provincial hospital receives surgical support and medical supplies and medical consultations are provided in therapeutic feeding centres run by ACF. Health centres are also provided with medical supplies. In Kirundo, MSF supports the hospital, provides supplementary feeding and offers dental consultations in the local prison in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council. In Makamba, the local hospital is also supported with surgical services and MSF is in the process of opening therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres. Kayanza remains one of the provinces more affected by malnutrition; for example, 129 people were admitted to the provincial hospital for malnutrition in October and 15 of the patients died. In contrast, during the same time-period, three people were admitted to the Makamba hospital on grounds of malnutrition while in Kirundo there was one admission. In both hospitals, one person died as a result of malnutrition.

Overview of NFI distributions in November. CRS, in its role as head of the non-food sector, has compiled a monthly overview of activities. Some of the non-food distributions that took place in November included a Christian Aid distribution of clothes in Makamba and Bururi, a CARE despatch of blankets in Kirundo, the joint MSF Belgium/World Vision/CRS distribution of the non-food portion of return packages to returning populations in Karuzi, and an MSF Switzerland despatch of soap to 2,400 returnees passing through health centres in Cankuzo. CRS provided jerry cans to 406 families in Bujumbura Rural in conjunction with GVC, soap and blankets to 850 families in Bugenyuzi, and 2,500 blankets, 4,000 kitchen sets, 10,000 pieces of soap and 2,000 jerry cans to 2,000 families in Buyengeri in Bururi.

UNFPA workshop. The UN Population Fund, UNFPA, held a workshop on December 10 and 11 in Bujumbura to train journalists about issues related to population growth and development. The workshop focused on explaining changes in the approach of the IEC (Information-Education-Communication) project adopted by the government in 1988 which aimed at supporting the national family planning programme in an effort to curb Burundi's rapid population growth. The IEC approach was amended based on recommendations that resulted from the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population Growth and the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference. It was agreed that the approach should be broadened to cover not only family planning initiatives but also reproductive health, the prevention of AIDS and other STDs, pre- and post-natal care, etc. Participants included government officials and representatives from local private and public media.

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, December 20 - January 2

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

Pinheiro calls for reappraisal of sanctions.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burundi, Sergio Piheiro, visited the country from 7 to 20 December; a press release dated 22 December summarizes the findings of this, Mr. Pinheiro's fourth visit to Burundi, during which he visited sites in several provinces. The Special Rapporteur notes that the security situation has generally improved, but points to the ambiguity of security-related measures, particularly mine clearance, in which civilians are required to play a part. Observing that the combined effects of the civil war and the economic sanctions are having a devastating impact, not only on displaced and regrouped people, but on the health and nutritional status of the peasant population in general, the Special Rapporteur feels that the time has come for a serious reappraisal of the pertinence of maintaining the economic sanctions, particularly as the mediation efforts led by former Tanzanian president Nyerere appear to be in an impasse.

These comments fall at a time of increased speculation in Burundi and the surrounding countries concerning the future of the sanctions and the negotiation process; in this context, it will be recalled that during a recent visit to Burundi, the Eritrean Foreign Minister formally withdrew his country's support for the sanctions.

Death of Kayanza governor.

The Governor of Kayanza province, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Nengeri, died on 28 December. Governor Nengeri, a diabetic, suffered an allergic reaction to a malaria treatment. He had been one of the foremost exponents of the policy of regroupment, moving more than 80 000 people into makeshift sites in December 96/January 97, mainly in the southern communes of Rango and Butaganzwa. However, with the stabilization of the security situation, in August Governor Nengeri authorized the gradual return of regrouped populations to their collines of origin; having stalled for several weeks, this operation is currently still in progress (see below). Rebel attack at Bujumbura airport.

In the early hours of 1 January, a large group of rebels attacked the military base adjacent to Bujumbura airport, around 8 km from the capital. In the city, exchanges of fire were heard for several hours, including prolonged bouts of mortar shelling. An army spokesman claimed that the attack was repulsed with the loss of only two soldiers' lives, and that the retreating rebels caused damage to the airport infrastructure before killing a number of civilians estimated variously at between 100 and 180. At the time of writing (morning of 3 January), Route Nationale 5, the main road leading north out of Bujumbura to the airport and Cibitoke, remained closed to all non-military traffic.

Humanitarian Activities

Joint Mission to Makamba Province, 22-23 December.

DHA organized a joint UN/Donor/NGO/Red Cross mission to Makamba to present the international humanitarian coordination system to the local authorities and to discuss the humanitarian situation in this province, where a wave of rebel attacks launched from bases in Tanzania from April 97 has resulted in the displacement of over 30 000 people to temporary sites by the lake.

The talks focused on the current status of the affected populations, the health and sanitation sector, education, agriculture and infrastructure. One of the main problems highlighted by the local authorities was the increasing incidence of malnutrition, a trend which it is feared may continue owing to the late planting of the 1998A crop and the persistent heavy rains. The authorities also emphasized the province's need for assistance in the rehabilitation of social infrastructure, including schools, housing and health centres. It was decided to follow up these talks by creating sectoral working groups at provincial level; the first meeting of the nutrition working group, chaired by the local health authorities and attended by MSF, Caritas, Unicef, WFP and DHA, took place the next morning at Makamba hospital.

Regrouped of Karuzi province return home.

Operational agencies report that the timetable established by the Governor for the return of all regrouppees to their collines has largely been respected. As at 31 December, all the regroupment camps, including the new "villages", had been emptied, with the exception of two transit sites and Ntunda camp, where so far the inhabitants of only two collines had returned home; the remaining 10,000 people at this site are in the process of leaving.

Return process relaunched in Kayanza province.

Between 15 and 20 December, WFP distributed return packages (90 day rations) to 18 500 people from 12 collines who had definitively returned home from regroupment camps in Butaganzwa and Rango communes. According to WFP, the regroupment camps of Karehe, Ruhinga and Nyarurama have now been completely emptied. Meanwhile, in the western part of the same province, the Therapeutic Feeding Centre run by Action Contre la Faim at Rwegura, adjoining the Kibira forest, continues to admit large numbers of severely malnourished patients crossing the forest from the neighbouring province of Cibitoke.

IHA to pull out of Burundi

The Benin-based NGO Initiative Humanitaire Africaine (IHA) has announced that it is to pull out of Burundi as of 31 December 1997, as part of a general restructuring of the NGO's activities which will also put an end to its operations in Rwanda, DRC and Liberia. IHA Burundi, a UNHCR implementing partner, had been running a medical, nutrition and rehabilitation programmes in Cibitoke province, and providing medical support staff at Gitega hospital. Discussions are currently under way for the NGO's activities in Cibitoke to be taken on by other agencies.

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Burundi: UNHCR Statement - Ogata condemns spiral of violence 98.1.7

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7 January 1998

OGATA CONDEMNS SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, today condemned the escalating cycle of violence in Burundi, saying it had major implications for hundreds of thousands of returnees and refugees.

Her statement followed an armed attack on Tuesday in Maramvya village in Bujumbura province which caused around 8,000 civilians to flee. They included around 3,000 survivors of last week's massacre at the nearby village of Rukaramu, which left more than 150 people dead. UNHCR today sent an assessment mission to the area.

"These attacks are aimed at destabilizing areas where thousands of people have returned and are trying to restart their lives," Mrs. Ogata said. "UNHCR is deeply concerned about the implications for some 170,000 returnees it assists in Burundi and the 200,000 Burundi refugees it cares for abroad. The current cycle of violence severely jeopardizes returnees' security and the refugees' ability to return."

Aid workers, including UNHCR staff, were unable to reach Maramvya on Tuesday to check for casualties, but met several wounded villagers on the road leading to the area, a few kilometers from the capital's airport. Today's assessment mission is aimed at locating those who fled the village and establishing what assistance is needed.

UNHCR had already been providing aid, including blankets, jerrycans and high protein biscuits, for the survivors of the Rukaramu massacre. That attack also caused some 2,000 returnees to flee from UNHCR's Gatumba transit centre a few kilometers away. They have since returned to the site.

In expressing sympathy to the victims' families, the High Commissioner said "Innocent civilians are clearly the targets. As in the attacks on Congolese refugees in Rwanda, most of the victims are women and children who are being chased further and further from their homes."

ends

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, January 10 - 16

DHA Humanitarian Coordination Unit

General

OUA delegation - As it left Burundi after a visit this week, the OAU delegation headed by the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Addis Abeba was reported to have said that progress had been made in the peace process, and to have called for a reappraisal of the embargo imposed by the neighbouring states in the wake of the coup d'etat of July 1996.

US envoy visits Burundi - US envoy Dr Howard Wolpe arrived in Bujumbura on Friday 16 January, hard on the heels of the OAU delegation and Ambassador Berhanu Dinka, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Humanitarian Advisor for the Great Lakes Region, who was in Burundi last week. Dr Wolpe is set to discuss the peace process with all the main political players.

Continued fighting near Bujumbura - Heavy exchanges of firing, lasting several hours and including mortar shelling, were clearly audible in the capital all week, particularly between Sunday 11 and Tuesday 13 January. The fighting was concentrated around the hills of Gishingano and Nyambuye, adjacent to the main north-south road out of Bujumbura, Route Nationale I, around 6 km from town. The military announced 53 rebel dead on Sunday, and a further 72 during the week, with very light army losses and no civilian casualties. Most of the civilian population of this area has fled to temporary havens in Bujumbura and surrounding areas (see below).

International NGO's vehicle sets off landmine - On the morning of Sunday 11 January, a pick-up truck belonging to the NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF) detonated an anti-tank mine on a track leading off the main Bujumbura-Cibitoke road (RN 5), just north of the airport, about 8 km from the capital. The truck was on a supply run to the recently reopened Maramvya Therapeutic Feeding Centre, which had been temporarily closed following the rebel attack of 6 January which saw the centre's warehouse burned down and the flight of most of the 800 severely malnourished patients in care. Neither of the two national staff members involved were injured; the NGO continues to supply the centre by bicycle.

WFP internal flight - The WFP is working to restart internal flights in Burundi, after the engine of its Twin Otter aircraft was destroyed during the rebel attack on the airport on New Year's Day. A new engine to be flown in from Entebbe will be fitted locally, after which the aircraft will be flown to South Africa for checks. Meanwhile, the continuing insecurity in the hills overlooking Route Nationale I to the north-east of the capital has caused this, the country's main north-south artery, to be closed several times this week.

Humanitarian Activities

NFI stocks and pipeline difficulties - A report dated 10 January by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), lead agency for non-food items, shows that non-earmarked NFI stocks - particularly those of plastic sheeting - are very low. Agencies such as Christian Aid have significant pipelines, but are having difficulty getting goods into the country. This phenomenon, which has also led to serious disruption of the WFP pipeline, is primarily linked to the the unseasonal deluge that has put much of the transport infrastructure in Tanzania out of commission, while administrative delays in Burundi itself are also giving increasing cause for concern.

Civilian population flees from the hills above Bujumbura - In the wake of the heavy fighting that broke out on Sunday 11 January a few kilometres to the north-east of Bujumbura (see above), the majority of the civilian population of the collines of Nyambuye and Gishingano, commune of Isale, has fled, many of them to a site known as Le Gentil, in the Kamenge zone on the outskirts of Bujumbura. The Xaverian missionaries who run the site registered a total of over 5,000 people from three hills; Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed high-energy biscuits, pending an emergency WFP food distribution on Friday 16 January. The situation will be reassessed should the prevailing security conditions prevent these people from returning home in the near future.

Water and sanitation conference and Unicef survey - On Tuesday 13 January, at a conference hosted by the Ministry of Rural Development and jointly organized by Unicef, the national and local authorities, UN agencies and NGOs discussed the water and sanitation activities carried out in 1997 and assessed priorities for 1998. Among other issues, the conference examined ways of improving coordination between the authorities and their operational partners. Unicef also submitted the initial findings of a nationwide water and sanitation survey of displaced/regrouped sites in November and December. The survey shows that 84 of the 272 sites surveyed had more than 50 users per latrine, while 175 sites out of 272 had less than the recommended minimum of 10 litres of water per person per day.

FAO coordination meeting - Amid fears that the persistent heavy rains will significantly reduce the yield of the 1998A crop due to be harvested over the next few weeks, on Wednesday 14 January the FAO held a coordination meeting with its operational partners to discuss the organization of a nationwide seeds and tools distribution for 1998 B. In addition to the FAO, Christian Aid, Concern, CRS, WFP, HCR, Caritas and World Vision all have significant quantities of bean seeds on order. The B season crop must be sown by the end of the first week of March at the latest, and Burundian suppliers may have difficulty meeting deadlines, while the WFP's food pipeline troubles (see above) may constitute a further constraint, as in many provinces a simultaneous food distribution (seed protection ration) is essential. Bean seed varieties purchased in neighbouring countries do not fare well in Burundi, and in a bold attempt to boost in-country production it was decided that the 1998 B distribution would target not only vulnerable population groups, but also secure areas with the potential to produce surpluses.

Joint mission to Bururi - On Thursday 15 January DHA headed a joint UN/NGO mission to Bururi. The delegation, which included Unicef, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, Concern and CRS, discussed the humanitarian situation with the Governor of the Province before visiting the commune of Buyengero, where over 20,000 people have been displaced. Although WFP has been supplying food via the local parish priests since mid-November, this was the first time a UN team has been able to visit the area since heavy clashes between the military and the rebels in October last year. Further visits will be organized shortly to evaluate the situation in greater detail, both in Buyengero and the neighbouring commune of Burambi, where some 30,000 are believed to be displaced.

Malnutrition in Kayanza/Cibitoke provinces - While the situation in Kayanza as a whole has improved significantly, enabling the WFP to complete the third and final phase of its return package distributions as the last of the regroupment camps is dismantled, the north-western part of the province, bordering on the unstable Kibira forest area, continues to receive large numbers of sick and malnourished people from neighbouring Cibitoke province. In Rwegura, the joint efforts of Action Contre la Faim (nutrition) and Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland (medical care) are being snowed under by the influx; the emergency therapeutic feeding centre (TFC)

there, initially designed for 50 beneficiaries, is currently treating some 450 severely malnourished patients in almost impossible conditions. The Irish NGO Concern is still awaiting authorization to launch a nutrition programme in Cibitoke.

This bulletin is prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) Humanitarian Coordination Unit, Bujumbura, Burundi. It is compiled from input received from humanitarian organisations working in Burundi. Tel: (257) 218034/Fax: (257) 218035 E-mail: dha@cbinf.com

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Humanitarian Operations in Burundi

Information Bulletin, January 17 - 26

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

General

Bujumbura calmer. The situation in and around Bujumbura was somewhat calmer this week despite continued sporadic bouts of fighting between military and rebels in the surrounding hills. On 18 January, rebels advanced as far as the northern neighbourhood of Mutanga but were repelled by government soldiers. That day clashes also took place in the neighbourhood of Gikungu/Gihosha in Gasenyi during which 7 rebels, 3 soldiers and one civilian were killed, according to military sources.. The first section of RN1, from Bujumbura to Bugarama, i.e. one of the main roads used to access the interior of the country, remained closed to all UN traffic throughout the week. On 22 and 23 January the RN7, the only alternative route to leave Bujumbura for Ijenda, Gitega, Ngozi and onwards to Kigali, was also closed to all UN circulation due to military operations. The closure of these roads effectively left the UN community without a means of leaving the city and yet again highlighted the need to establish a regular and reliable air-link out of the country. The UN curfew in the capital remains set at 21h00.

In other security incidents, 31 civilians were reportedly killed by Palipehutu and Interahamwe rebels emerging from the Kibira forest in Gituhura in Cibitoke's Mabayi commune the night of the 18th to the 19th. AFP reported 20 rebels, 12 civilians and one soldier killed in an attack in Rumonge the night of the 20th to the 21st while the following night rebels allegedly attempted to attack the Bugendana IDP camp in Gitega before being repulsed by the army.

Arusha meeting. Delegates from 46 mainly African countries met from 21 to 23 January in the Tanzanian town of Arusha to discuss the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa. The meeting, an initiative of the Julius Nyerere foundation, was attended, among others, by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Burundi was represented by Foreign Minister Luc Rukingama. CNDD representatives also attended but no formal talks on Burundi took place as this was not the specific focus of the forum. In his closing speech, however, Mwalimu Nyerere charged the Burundian Government with presenting a hindrance to the peace process.

Business delegation urges end to sanctions. A delegation of businessmen representing the executive council of the Eastern and Southern Africa Business Organisation, ESABO, has urged member governments of COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, to endorse the lifting of the over 16 month-old embargo that was imposed on Burundi shortly after the July 1996 coup. After a visit to Burundi, the eight delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Rwanda concluded that the sanctions served no useful economic or political purpose and were in fact counter-productive.

On 25 January, Tanzanian radio reported that Burundi's Foreign Minister, Luc Rukingama, has indicated that his government wished to invite the foreign ministers of those countries imposing

the embargo on Burundi to a meeting early in February to discuss the lifting of sanctions. He proposed Kampala as a venue.

Humanitarian Activities

Update on refugee/returnee statistics. According to the latest statistics provided by UNHCR, a total of 177,746 Burundians have returned since 1996 and 493,522 remain refugees outside the country. The following table provides a breakdown by country.

Country	Refugees	Returnees (since 1996)
Rwanda	5,135	5,770
DRC	30,000	107,250
Tanzania	*458,387	64,726
Total	493,522	177,746

*Includes 200,000 old-caseload (1970s) displaced that were excluded from past reports since they were not expected to repatriate. However, due to a number of expulsions from this group, the figures are now being included for planning purposes.

Bubanza coordination. Two coordination meetings were held during the reporting period to discuss the evolving humanitarian situation in Bubanza province. One was convened by the Governor at his provincial head office, gathering all UN agencies and INGOs intervening in the province to review aid provided in 1997 and assistance planned for 1998. The Governor indicated that some of the nearly 130,000 displaced living in sites would be returning to their homes and would require support from the international community. All participants agreed that closer cooperation between local authorities and humanitarian agencies was required. UNHCR, in its role as lead agency for the province, also held its bi-weekly coordination meeting at which security and programme-related matters were discussed.

Overview of 1998 activities: Save the Children Fund - UK. Over the course of 1998 the British NGO Save the Children (SCF) will continue, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, to rehabilitate and provide general support to 24 health centres located in Gitega and southern Muramvya provinces. The project aims to strengthen public health infrastructure, improve skills of medical staff employed in the health centres, and provide equipment and medicine as required. SCF will also support vaccination campaigns, maintain the cold chain, provide AIDS counselling and assist populations who have difficult access to health centres through a mobile clinic. Particular emphasis will be placed on building the capacity of provincial authorities to enable them to eventually provide the above services themselves. Finally, SCF also plans to set up a nationally coordinated programme for unaccompanied children that will be implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry for Social Action.

Nutritional survey and food security training workshop underway in Gitega. WFP is presently holding an intensive two-week workshop in Gitega to train staff involved in needs assessments on the food economy analysis methodology. The seminar includes daily evaluations in the field with a view to gaining a provincial rather than a site-by-site assessment. At the same time, SCF-UK, in conjunction with Oxfam-UK, is carrying out a nutritional survey. Results of both surveys will complement each other.

World Vision support to the health sector. World Vision (WV) mainly carries out activities in the infrastructure rehabilitation, unaccompanied children, non-food, income-generation and health sectors. WV currently runs two clinics (Jabe and Rohero) and a feeding centre in Bujumbura. The clinics, run in conjunction with its partner, African Revival Ministries, have in- and out-patient departments and provide affordable quality health care and emergency surgical services. The clinics have been particularly overwhelmed due to the rise in number of war-related injuries they have been receiving since the beginning of the year. To better serve the population, WV provided an emergency mobile unit (4WD and medical doctor) to collect the wounded and administer emergency first aid. WV also provided a nurse to help support the

MSF Belgium team administering emergency care to the wounded. The feeding center supported by WV is located at the Johnson centre and is currently treating 27 patients.

More arrivals at Rwegura feeding centre in Kayanza. The French NGO Action Contre la Faim, ACF, has registered 450 patients in need of therapeutic feeding at their feeding centre located in Rwegura, a former site from which the then displaced population was forcibly moved in November of last year. As the centre initially was meant to serve only fifty people, ACF, in agreement with local authorities, is building a new, larger centre nearby to better accommodate the patients.

MSF Switzerland programme for 1998. MSF Switzerland, the fourth MSF branch to arrive following Belgium, France and Holland, has been working in Burundi since November 1995. The Swiss branch is currently working in the eastern provinces of Ruyigi (Kinyinya commune) and Cankuzo. In Kinyinya, MSF runs the 45-bed hospital which was completed by the French Mission for Cooperation in October 1995 and serves a population of 50,000 people. The hospital features different units (internal medicine, pediatrics, therapeutic feeding, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery, radiology and a laboratory) and a polyclinic which provides consultations, mother- and child-care and vaccinations. MSF-Sw. places particular focus on the training of local staff, the introduction of a cost-recovery system and the provision of medicine not covered by the Central Pharmacy. In 1998, it is planned to gradually hand over the management of the hospital to the Ministry of Public Health. In Cankuzo, MSF Sw. also supports the provincial hospital that is serving a population of 170,000 with special emphasis on the surgical unit. Eight health centres also benefit from assistance through the provision of medical supplies and rainwater catchments. Eight of Burundi's fifteen provinces are presently benefiting from the various MSF branches' support to health services.

Children's Aid Direct (CAD) supports integrated nutrition-agriculture programme. CAD is about to launch a pilot programme at three health centres in Bubanza where the NGO is implementing supplementary nutritional feeding programmes. The objective of the programme is to enable mothers of the children registered at the feeding centres to improve their own food security situation, reduce dependence and improve their nutritional status through encouraging productive activities. This will be achieved through the creation of 100-member women's groups at the health centres, allocation of one hectare per health centre for cultivation (authorities), provision of seeds, tools, fertilizers and technical assistance (FAO), provision of Food for Work prior to the harvest (WFP), and provision of supervision and health, hygiene and nutrition workshops (CAD).

WFP distributions reduced due to stock shortage. As a result of pipeline delays caused by heavy flooding that has blocked road access in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, WFP has been forced to limit despatches to populations most in need until food stocks can be replenished. Among those receiving priority assistance during the previous week were over 18,000 people who had been displaced by the recent fighting in and around Bujumbura. This included 8,934 people who returned to Rukaramu, and 9,000 people at Kamenge, Mutumba and Buhonga Parishes.

FAO agricultural coordination. The FAO agricultural emergency coordination unit held its weekly meeting with a dozen UN and NGO partners implicated in the distribution of seeds and tools for the upcoming 1998-B season. The UN Office for Project Services, UNOPS, is providing funding to cover fuel and other transport costs. Stock situation permitting (see above), WFP may distribute seed protection rations in food deficit areas that are in the process of being identified.

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