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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

July 18, 1994

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TO: Ambassador Albright  
THRU: Ambassador Gnehm  
FROM: POL - Cameron Hunt  
SUBJECT: July 18 Security Council Informals on Rwanda

RELEASED IN FULL

The talking points below, drawn from Friday's White House statement de-recognizing Rwanda, are intended for your use under Council discussion of "Other Matters."

Under the Rwanda agenda item, we expect another briefing from Gharekhan highlighting two incidents over the weekend. Three rockets were fired in the vicinity of Goma airport Sunday killing 60. The UN secretariat is reluctant to place blame on either the RPF or the Interim Government; UNAMIR will investigate. In addition, there was an exchange of small arms fire in the French safe area between French and RPF forces. No casualties were reported. The UN estimates that there are now close to 1 million refugees in the greater Goma area.

On Friday, the French asked for guidance from Council members on how to handle Rwandan interim government officials taking refuge in the safe area. Our preference is that the officials be detained and arrested, and we would be willing to support Security Council action authorizing the French to do so. However, in this case, because France's forces are involved, we prefer to let them set the tone and pace of Council action.

TALKING POINTS (for other matters)

- o Events make patently clear that there is no functioning government in Rwanda at this time. Therefore, on Friday, as many of you are aware, President Clinton announced that the U.S. would no longer recognize any government of Rwanda.
- o We have consequently required the cessation of Rwanda's diplomatic activity in Washington and the withdrawal of Mission personnel.
- o We intend our announcement to send a forceful political and moral statement of our disapproval of the interim government of Rwanda.
- o Noting that the ongoing fighting is creating an even more perilous humanitarian disaster in Rwanda and along its borders, the President appeals to all forces to agree to an immediate cease-fire, and call on responsible parties to begin serious talks on forming a transitional government that will lead to genuine power sharing.

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