

CASE NO: I.C.R. - 98-41-1
EXHIBIT NO: D.H.C. 315
DATE ADMITTED: 19-1-2007
TENDERED BY: DEFENCE
NAME OF WITNESS:

Document 55:

Political assassination on April 7th

US document; 07 April 1994; Subject: Rwanda/Burundi: Air crash

NDOC

CONFIDENTIAL

- 443-8159-
30698

*****DCDS BRIEFING 07 APR*****

BRIEFER: CAPT RAT NATH

- DRAFT -

(CAN) RWANDA/BRUNDI: AIR CRASH

1. (C) AT 0100 LOCAL, A MUSTERER FALCON BIPROTYPE JET CARRYING PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA OF RWANDA AND BRUNDIAN PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA FROM A MEETING ON GOVERNMENTAL REFORM IN TANZANIA CRASHED AND BURNED ON ITS FINAL APPROACH TO KIGALI AIRPORT. THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS. WHILE SPECULATION BY VARIOUS RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA OFFICIALS HINTS AT GUNFIRE OR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ACTIVITY AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRASH, SUCH REPORTS ARE COMPLETELY UNCONFIRMED.

2. (C) ALTHOUGH RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA HAD BEEN REPRESENTING HIS GOVERNMENT IN TRYING TO INTRODUCE POLITICAL REFORM, HE WAS PERSONALLY AGAINST PLANS TO BRING TUTSI INTO THE WIDER POLITICAL PROCESS. SOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S BELIEFS WERE LESS THAN ALTRUISTIC AND IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HABYARIMANA'S FEAR OF LOSING POWER THROUGH A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY WAS AT THE ROOT OF HIS PERSONAL OPPOSITION. IN A WIDER CONTEXT, THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL REFORMS CONTINUES TO BE A DIVISIVE ISSUE AMONGST THE MEMBERS OF THE HUTU GOVERNMENT, WITH MANY SHARPLY OPPOSED TO THE TRANSITIONAL PLAN BEING DISCUSSED. BEING A MEMBER OF THE HUTU TRIBE WHILE NEGOTIATING FOR POLITICAL REFORM MADE THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT UNPOPULAR AMONG RADICAL HUTU AND TUTSI ELEMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

(2) INT.
URGENT TO 070530 (4) APR
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CANADIAN UN STAFF IN KIGALI REPORT THAT DURING THE EARLY ZULU HOURS OF 07 APR, PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS WENT ON A RAMPAGE THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL, ROUNDING UP AND KILLING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND THEIR FAMILIES. THESE VICTIMS ARE PRESUMABLY TUTSIS. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ACTION HAS NOT BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS REPORTS INDICATE THAT OTHER GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE DEPLOYING TO CONTAIN THE ROGUE GUARDS. WHILE REPORTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED CONCERNING BRUNDI, THE POSSIBILITY OF A (4TH) MILITARY COUP IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION. WHILE THE DIRECT THREAT TO UN PERSONNEL AND FOREIGNERS IS ASSESSED AS LOW, THE RISK TO BYSTANDERS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AREAS OF CONFLICT IS SUBSTANTIAL.

C O N F I D E N T I A L
