The New Hork Times.com

April 20, 1994

Rwanda Forces Shell Stadium Full of Refugees

By DONATELLA LORCH,

Rwandan Army troops in Kigali today shelled the national stadium, where more than 5,000 Rwandans had sought refuge, United Nations and Red Cross officials said. At least 10 people were reported killed and hundreds wounded.

The stadium, where the refugees had been trapped for more than a week without food, was barraged by at least 30 artillery shells this morning, and shelling and small arms fire continued around the stadium throughout the day, the officials said. The Red Cross said it had managed to evacuate 33 seriously wounded people from the stadium and distributed 25 tons of food there.

Unconfirmed reports said that fighting had erupted in or near some refugee camps near the Burundi border, and that the anarchy that had engulfed the capital was spreading into the countryside.

The fighting in Kigali appeared to be between the Rwandan Army and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, which have been battling for control of the capital for the past two weeks. Tens of thousands of Rwandans have been killed and thousands more have fled the country. Communications Are Poor

Since Monday, nearly all phone lines in Rwanda have appeared not to be working . Prior to that, phones had continued to function despite the chaos, permitting Rwandans to reach aid workers, human rights officials, foreign embassies and friends to tell of massacres and fighting.

There are now only two working satellite phones in Kigali, one belonging to the Red Cross and the other to the United Nations. Both organizations have little access to areas away from their compounds, and relief officials and diplomats said they have little information about what is happening in the country.

"The situation appears to be getting worse rather than improving," Reuters quoted Abdul Kabia, the executive director of the United Nations mission in Rwanda, as saying. "We are continuing to talk to both parties but our efforts have stalled and we're not getting anywhere."

The 2,500 United Nations troops in Rwanda were originally deployed to monitor a cease-fire that had halted earlier civil fighting. Since the current fighting resumed, the United Nations troops have stood by helplessly. U.N. Debates Presence

On Monday, the Security Council said the United Nations mission would remain in Kigali only if the Government forces and the rebels could reach a peace agreement.

Belgium, the colonial power in Rwanda prior to the country's independence in 1962, withdrew its 450 troops from the United Nations mission after 10 Belgian soldiers were killed last week.

"The scale of the massacres make any figures meaningless," said Patrick Fuller, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nairobi.

If the United Nations was to pull out of Rwanda, it would further complicate plans to send in food and medicine, United Nations officials in Nairobi said. So far, virtually no emergency aid, except for a Red Cross medical convoy, has been able to get into Rwanda, they said. Danger of Cholera

Tens of thousands of people are in need of food in Kigali, where there is no safe drinking water and a danger of cholera, the Red Cross said.

"Our priorities are food and sanitation, especially the prevention of epidemics due to the tremendous number of dead bodies." said Lance Clark, senior relief officer for the United Nations effort in Rwanda.

In numbers alone, the relief crisis is staggering. In the past 12 days, more than 400,000 Rwandans have been forced to flee their homes near Kigali. Relief officials estimate that as many as two million Rwandans, about 20 percent of the population, are displaced.

Photo: Some of the hundreds of people who fled the massacres in Rwanda waited yesterday at the Rwanda-Burundi border to be picked up by Burundi Army trucks. Each night many try to escape into Burundi territory. (Associated Press) Map shows the location of Kigali, Rwanda.

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