

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: FC

CASE NO. I.C.I.R.-98-41-1

EXHIBIT NO. AB 289

From: CHO

DATE ADMITTED 23-11-2005

Date: 15 May 1994

TENDERED BY DEFEH CE

NAME OF WITNESS MACNEIL

Subject: MEETING BETWEEN HAC AND OPERATIONS OFFICER GENDARMERIE

1. The above mentioned meeting was held between 1030 hrs and 1200 hrs 15 May 1994 at the Diplomat Hotel in Kigali. In attendance were the following persons:

- a. Colonel Yaache, CHO;
- b. Lt Col Paul Rwarakabiji, Gendarmerie Operations Officer;
- c. Capt Cherif MB, UNAMIR G2;
- d. Major MacNeil, and
- e. Major Pajik.

AIM

2. The aim of the meeting was to hold further discussions on the safe passage of orphans from the Gisimba and Gitega orphanages in Kigali to the Kigali Airport for evacuation to Nairobi by Canadian CC-130 at the request of Mr Kouchner representing the French Government.

DISCUSSION

3. Colonel Yaache informed Lt Col Rwarakabiji of the Gendarmerie that he had been forwarded an english copy of UNAMIR SOPs and that the French copy would be forthcoming in the next few days following translation.

4. Colonel Yaache explained that the Chef du Cabinet had met with the heads of the various INTERAHAMWE groups, self defence forces and representatives of UNAMIR the previous day to discuss the feasibility of granting the request of the French minister to evacuate orphans from Kigali and was informed that the results of the meeting indicated that the leaders of the INTERAHAMWE groups and the self defence forces supported the plan. He further indicated that the Chef du Cabinet was to meet with the Operations Officer of the RGF and the Gendarmerie to confirm their security arrangements for the operation.

5. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that the Chef du Cabinet had not met with him but that he had been told to meet with UNAMIR and work out the details for protection of the convoy. He further indicated that he would provide whatever was needed based on the security situation.

6. Colonel Yaache indicated that there must be the participation of the INTERAHAMWE, the Gendarmerie and the RGF as arranged or else the operation would not take place. He further indicated that two UNMO patrols should move under escort from the Gendarmerie today to do a reconnaissance of the route.

7. LT Col Rwarakabiji indicated that there was no problem with that and he would arrange for the escort.

8. Colonel Yaache indicated that they planned initially on transporting 100 children from the Gisimba orphanage as that was the furthest away and that if that went well then they would continue with Gitega. He then showed the Lt Col Rwarakabiji the route and indicated that he would like him to comment as to whether there was perhaps a better route. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that the route was fine.

9. Colonel Yaache went on to ask what the security arrangements were and whether Lt Col Rwarakabiji had sufficient forces to provide the security. He indicated that he had a company and would deploy them all if necessary. He said at the least he would have a section of ten in front of the convoy and a section of ten behind. He further indicated that he did not foresee any difficulties transporting the orphans and that this was a completely different situation than the grown ups in the Milles Collines.

10. Colonel Yaache explained that not all the orphans were children and that some were teenagers and asked what effect this would have on the evacuation. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that there would be no distinction. Colonel Yaache indicated that UNAMIR was not prepared to have the vehicles stopped and verified. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that he did not foresee this happening.

11. Colonel Yaache asked what participation Lt Col Rwarakabiji saw UNAMIR providing and specifically mentioned the use of APC. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that for this operation a show of force would not be wise. He indicated that two to three pickups with soldiers would suffice. Colonel Yaache explained that he would speak to the Force Commander about this suggestion.

12. The Milles Collines evacuation was again raised indicating that when stopped at a roadblock the troops were demanding to see a paper giving permission to pass. It was suggested that a signed document from the Chef du Cabinet be produced in French and in the local language, and that it be suitably stamped. Lt Col Rwarakabiji indicated that he would look into this.

13. Colonel Yaache then asked when Lt Col Rwarakabiji thought the operation would be ready to take place. He indicated that a time of 0900 hrs Tuesday 17 May should be strived for and that if more time was required UNAMIR would be notified. It was agreed that the parties would all meet at this time at the Diplomat Hotel and from there would be escorted to the orphanage, pick up the children and be escorted to the airport.

14. A question was raised about moving through the roadblocks at the airport. Lt Col Rwarakibiji indicated that this would be worked out with the Gendarmerie at the airport who worked directly for the RGF.

15. The meeting then ended with Colonel Yaache indicating that final details would be further discussed on Monday, 16 May, based on the recce and the list of names of the evacuees as well as the points Lt Col Rwarakibiji would look into today and if all was well the operation would take place Tuesday.

D.J. MacNeil

Maj

for

CHO