

# Embattled UN Clings to Hope of Rwanda Truce

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From Catherine Bond in Kigali.

UNITED Nations military officers in Rwanda yesterday emphasised that, despite security council doubts on their usefulness in the tiny central African state, they still had a key role to play in negotiations between Rwanda's two warring parties and in bringing humanitarian aid to about 12,000 displaced people in sites near the UN headquarters in Kigali.

The headquarters are in northern areas of the city, controlled by rebels for the past nine days. Yesterday these areas were relatively quiet, and although occasional mortar and small-arms fire indicated continuing tension, there was little fighting.

A UN military observer who travelled near the army's main base in the government controlled area of the city said the killing of civilians by militiamen was continuing. Members of the army are suing for peace independently of what remains of the govern-

ment of extremists from the country's majority Hutu tribe. In an effort to bring about a truce, the UN brokered talks between Lieutenant Colonel Charles Kayonga, the rebels' top military man in the capital, and a Rwandan army colonel yesterday. The two were brought in UN armoured vehicles to the Meridian hotel in northern Kigali.

Nearly 1,200 ethnic Tutsi, more than half of them children, were massacred at a church outside the city this week, Belgian media reported. UN officials said they were not equipped to protect more than 12,000 people who sought shelter at Kigali's main King Faisal hospital hoping the United Nations would save them from the bloodletting.

The Belgian newspapers *Het Volk* and *De Morgen* reported that the Hutu-dominated presidential guard was being blamed for the massacre of Tutsi at a church in Musha, 25 miles

east of the capital.

“At 6 :30am Wednesday they kicked in the door and immediately opened fire with semi-automatic weapons and threw grenades,” Danko Li-

trick, the pastor, told *Het Volk*. “Afterwards, they attacked the defenceless people with knives, bats and spears. There were 1,180 bodies in my church, including 650 children.”