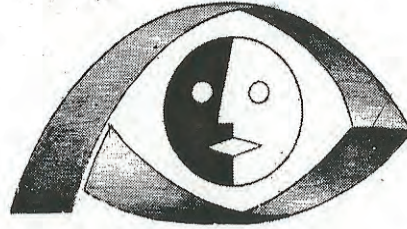


REGAR



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Malo Arms For Rwanda

The audience at the Special Olympics last Sunday were asked solemnly to observe a minute of silence for the children of Rwanda. Could it be that at the same time arms exported from Seychelles had entered into the possession of one of the two murderous armies in the Rwandan conflict, to kill more children in that ill-fated country?

The total silence of the Seychelles government on the subject of the exportation of the Malo arms can only lead one to believe that this is what has happened.

Since there is no other explanation, our government stands accused of having made a greedy and cynical deal to benefit from the tragedy of inter-tribal conflict in Rwanda.

The whole world has been sickened by the cruelty and carnage perpetrated by both sides in the conflict. Our link to it is a tragedy and a monumental blunder on the part of

our government.

It has now been established that the plane which picked up the arms went to the town of Goma, on Zaire's border with Rwanda. It is the point where a large number of Hutus have taken refuge.

The arms deal was negotiated in Seychelles by people of Zairean, South African and Rwandan nationality. One of the persons involved is an official of the Hutu dominated government that is now fighting the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front.

These facts lead to the inevitable conclusion that the arms have been sold to the Hutu forces in the civil war.

In seizing the Malo shipment, Seychelles used the justification that it had acted in the cause of international

peace since the arms were destined for one of the warring armies in Somalia. It would be a savage twist of irony if it has turned around to hand it over to an even more vicious group, in another African country which has seen even more bloodshed and atrocity than Somalia.

The town of Goma is also the spot from which France is launching an intervention force into Rwanda, declared as purely a humanitarian mission to protect the civilian population.

The arms will land and be transferred literally under French eyes. It has to be asked if this is with or without their acquiescence.

The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, one of the parties in the conflict, has objected to the French intervention, calling it only a manoeuvre to intervene

on behalf of the Hutu government forces. If France is not a party to the arms deal, it is morally bound to ask for an explanation for it is now implicated in the affair.

The story of French involvement in supplying arms to the Hutu government of Rwanda is not new. In May of this year, the Indian Ocean Newsletter, published in Paris reported on intense efforts by the Hutu Rwandans to obtain arms from the French government. On June 15, the French newspaper 'Liberation' picked up the story and reported that plane loads of arms and ammunition had been flown to Rwanda in May, delivered by South African pilots in unmarked Boeing 747s. The newspaper repeated allegations of French government connections but pointed out that in April the French government had officially rejected Rwandan government requests for military aid.

STORY OF THE DEAL

Evidence is emerging that the arms deal was brokered in Seychelles by Rwandan government officials, with the help of Zairean and South African businessmen.

A Rwandan national, named as Themeste Bagosora, arrived in Seychelles on June 4th, on the Air Seychelles flight from South Africa. He stayed at the Beau Vallon Bay Hotel and identified himself as a businessman, resident of Kigali. Mr. Bagosora departed on the Air Zaire plane that came to pick up the arms, thus establishing his connection with the deal.

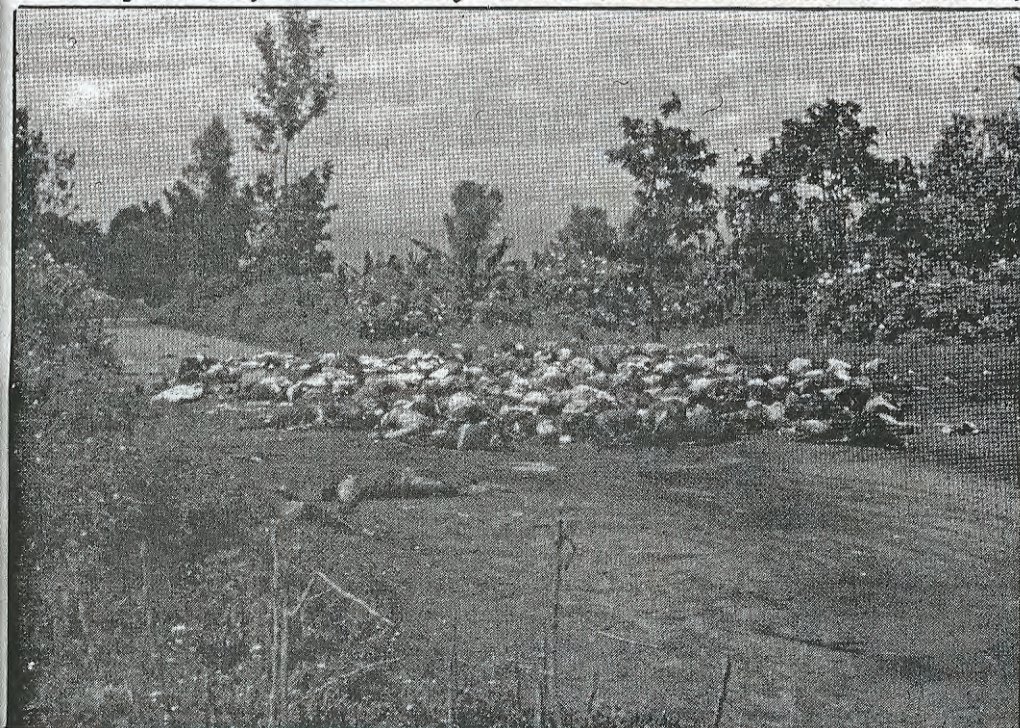
Mr Bagosora had arrived in Seychelles in the company of a Zairean national named as Hunda Nzambo, and a South African businessman, both of whom also resided at the Beau Vallon Bay Hotel. They had meetings with important government officials known to Regar.

The Zairean and the South African businessman departed on June 11th by Air Seychelles to Johannesburg but the Rwandan remained behind and was seen at the airport when the Zairean plane arrived.

The transfer of the arms at Seychelles airport did not go smoothly. It was marred by the objections of Air Seychelles staff who at first refused to load the arms. Glenn Savy and David Savy are alleged to have been closely involved in supervising the loading of the cargo. The reason for the presence of Mr Glenn Savy who appeared to play a principal role in getting the arms on the plane is unclear since he has no official connection with the airport or the army. The loading was completed only after the personal intervention of the President.

Two further flights have been cancelled since Regar came out with the information.

This image of Rwanda has shocked the world - and should remain imprinted on our minds. Both sides in the conflict are responsible for similar atrocities. Selling arms to one of them is a shameful taint on our conscience. (The picture is from an Amnesty International advertisement in The Times.)



How much is left of the Malo arms?

The cargo taken into custody by the army comprised over 10,500 cases of ammunition and 389 cases of weapons, taken to Grand Police and Bel Eau army camps. Some of the arms and ammunition was pilfered from the vessel while it was docked at the port and are known to have gone on sale in Victoria. It is now time for a public enquiry into how much of the arms has been sold, at what price, and how much is left in the custody of the government.

The following is the list of arms taken from the Malo:

Ammunition Transferred to Grand Police:

Bullets - 7.62 mm: 6109 cases	Bullets - 9 mm: 4 cases
Bullets - 12.7 mm: 240 cases	Bullets - 14.5 mm: 95 cases
Bullets - 23 mm: 715 cases	Mortars - 60 mm: 694 cases
Mortars - 82 mm: 1200 cases	Mortars - 106 mm: 620 cases
Grenades - Anti Tank: 150 cases	Grenades - Fragmentation: 383 cases
Grenades - Rocket propelled: 307 cases	

Weapons transferred to Bel Eau army camp

Sub-machine guns: 250 cases	Machine guns: 99 cases
Rifles: 34 cases	Shot guns: 4 cases
	Pistols: 2 cases