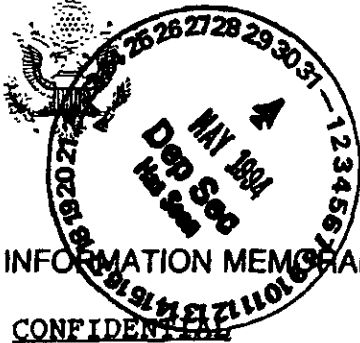


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United States Department of State  
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Washington, D. C. 20520



MNR

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

S/S

CONFIDENTIAL  
DECAL: OADR

May 26, 1994

*AF - Noon*  
*George - How long*  
*this related to*  
*at "threats"*  
*Rwanda?*  
*ambassador?*

TO: The Secretary  
FROM: DRL - John Shattuck  
IO - Douglas J. Bennet  
SUBJECT: UN Human Rights Commission - Special Session on Rwanda

SUMMARY

In a major victory for U.S. multilateral human rights policy, a Special Session of the UN Human Rights Commission adopted by consensus a resolution on the situation in Rwanda. The resolution calls for the establishment of a Special Rapporteur; the deployment of human rights field officers; and incorporates the U.S. view that acts of genocide may have occurred. The outcome of the Special Session is a boost for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights who visited Rwanda and presented a report to the Session with his recommendations.

DISCUSSION

The UN Human Rights Commission concluded yesterday a two-day Special Session on the human rights situation in Rwanda. The session was called by Canada, which worked closely with Cameroon and Nigeria to develop a consensus resolution. With strong U.S. support, the Commission decided to establish a Special Rapporteur, and appointed Rene Degni Segui, Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Abidjan, who will make recommendations to the Commission within four weeks. He will be assisted by field officers and by an existing network of UN special rapporteurs responsible for monitoring torture, disappearances, detention, the internally displaced, and summary and arbitrary executions. His findings will be made available, through the Secretary General, to the Security Council.

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*KCH*  
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The resolution is an important first step in establishing the role of the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and moves toward greater coordination of UN human rights activities by involving the efforts of existing special rapporteurs and human rights mechanisms, as well as field officers. It sets a precedent by requesting the Special Rapporteur to gather information on acts which may constitute breaches of international humanitarian law, "including acts of genocide."

In the past, special rapporteurs have been asked only to report on human rights violations, although recently in regard to Bosnia and Iraq they have incidentally included material in their reports on certain war crimes. This is thus the first time that the UN Human Rights Commission formally has assumed authority for investigating war crimes, an action which has implications for future conflicts.

The UN Human Rights Commission reacted promptly and swiftly to the Rwandan crisis. The resolution adopted by consensus is a victory for multilateral diplomacy, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the special rapporteur mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Commission. It is also a solid achievement for the United States; we worked behind the scenes to ensure that the session was called and worked closely with the Canadians and the Africans to obtain a constructive outcome that would not be perceived as "made in the USA."

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<sup>WV</sup> UNCLASSIFIED <sup>626</sup>  
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