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Republic of Rwanda

Kigali, 12 October 1992
N° 1152/G2.1.2

Ministry of National Defence
Rwandan Army
Staff Headquarters
G2

The Minister of National Defence
Kigali

Sir,

Subject: Security in the Muvumba Commune

In his security report, the Commanding Officer of the Mutara OPS Sector, gave me an account of the Muvumba Commune Security Council meeting of 25 August 1991. This meeting, which was presided over by the Sous-Préfet of Ngarama, was also attended by the Bourgmestre of the Muvumba Commune, SRS officers of Ngarama and Muvumba, the Commanding Officer of the BYB squad and the Commanding Officer of the Mutara OPS Sector.

The agenda included:

- Cross-border trade between Rwanda and Uganda.
- Fate of Inkotanyi accomplices.
- Movement of vehicles and pedestrians in the Muvumba Commune.
- Night patrols.
- Arming the civilian population.
- Security on the Oyonyo and Cyabayaga ranches
- Other business.

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Consideration of the various agenda items:

1. CROSS-BORDER TRADE

The Bourgmestre of the Ruvumba Commune informed participants that cross-border trade existed over the past few days between Rwanda and Uganda in spite of the current conflict between the two countries. Some inhabitants of the Kiyombe and Muvumba Communes have an interest in this fraudulent trade whereby Rwandans export soap and salt to Uganda from where they import tobacco, Kanyanga and mats.

Ugandan products already flood Rwandan markets near the border, particularly, the Muhambo and Karama markets in the Muvumba Commune.

Meeting participants unanimously stigmatized as risky the promotion of such a trade nowadays, for this type of trade would encourage enemy infiltrations, whereas Rwandans involved in it are NOT even able to gather minimum intelligence on the enemy.

Given that the trade harms our country, the meeting recommended that it be stopped and that people involved in this trade network be identified in order to possibly detect those are in connivance with the enemy. The Bourgmestre of the Muvumba Commune was requested to undertake such identification, assisted by SRS Officers operating in the region.

However, the Muhambo and Karama markets should NOT suffer as a result of this unlawful situation. They will continue to function so as to enable inhabitants of the region to get fresh supplies of essential products, provided that on established market days, the authorities discreetly look out for possible suspects.

2. FATE OF INKOTANYI ACCOMPLICES

Shortly before and immediately after the Inkotanyi attack in the Centre of Rukomo on 5 August 1991, voices rose everywhere amongst the displaced people currently residing in Rukomo in condemnation of accomplices who collaborated, from far or near, to carry out the attack.

During its meeting, the Committee considered five files prepared by the SRS Nyagatare, following denunciations made to it by the population. After deliberations, Committee members unanimously resolved to:

- Release Kimenyi Joël, Damali Evariste, Ntambara Isaac. The first, former tax officer of the Muvumba Commune, is precisely accused of having been in Uganda during this war. The second is alleged to have a family member among the Inkotanyi. The third is suspected of complicity with the enemy, for he has many relatives who emigrated to Uganda a long time ago.

The above persons were therefore released from the communal cells and were allowed to return to their families on the Oyonyo ranch, though a close watch was kept on their activities.

- Return Semugaza Etienne, student in Rukomo, to his native Rutare Commune where he must be confined. He lived in Rukomo with his brother who was arrested among the accomplices.
- Investigate thoroughly the cases of Titumwa Surayimani and Becukura from Uganda, charged with unlawful entry and stay in Rwanda. Their unlawful situation coupled with non-possession of identification documents give the impression that they are spying out for the enemy.

3. MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN THE MUVUMBA COMMUNE

While elsewhere the security situation is returning to normality, it is different in the Muvumba Commune where uncontrolled enemy infiltrations and movement of the population are continuing.

This situation should attract the particular attention of law and order officials operating in that commune. To do so, one of the measures recommended is to stop the free movement of taxis in the area, while keeping a strict control of commercial vehicles. This therefore means that taxis are NOT yet authorized to ply the combat area and that only motorcyclists on duty may move about or transport persons serving the same cause.

Considering that persons separated from their property tend to escape from the tents at dusk to go and spend the night in the homes of outsiders, the security committee has decided to ban any such movement beyond 6 pm.

Thus, after this time, NO person will be allowed to leave his tent or dwelling to go and spend the night elsewhere. Night watchmen and patrol will receive clear instructions in this regard.

4. NIGHT PATROLS

At the moment, the entire section of the land located to the north of the Karama-Shonga-Kaborogota-Tabagwe road, has been vacated owing to enemy mortar fire and night raids that the Inkotanyi are pursuing out there.

To avoid the kidnapping of the civilian population like that which has been condemned hitherto, the security committee members decided to ban provisionally the region's inhabitants from carrying out any activities to the north of this highway.

Similarly, persons wishing to go there must take the access roads controlled by our forces in order to avoid any confusion between the bush combatants and our own people.

Below the above-mentioned highway, night patrols must step up vigilance, particularly, in Cyenkwanzi (near Karama), Rurenge (near Nyagatare) and Gashura (near Rukomo).

To this end, military positions established near the above-mentioned places will lend support to the population through frequent night patrols. But it will be strictly forbidden for night watchmen and patrols to come together in order to engage in night orgies.

5. Arming the population

During grass-roots meetings, residents of the Muvumba and Ngarama Communes CONTINUE to request weapons for self-defence as per statement made by the President of the Republic on his visit to the Rwandan Armed Forces in Mutara in November 1990.

In their turn, the administrative authorities yielded to this temptation by vehemently supporting this request from the masses.

The Commanding Officer of the Mutara OPS Sector intervened by showing the participants the complexity of the problem at the economic, geo-political and organizational levels.

Following lengthy discussions, security committee members recommended that this issue be examined by the competent bodies but that in the meantime a few people selected in this connection on the basis of their good conduct, life and morals should receive these weapons and be trained to operate them.

The said persons would be chosen from a list presented by the duly formed communal security committee, comprising, *inter alia*, the Bourgmestre, the Criminal Police Inspector, Councillors and the Sergeant.

As to persons likely to benefit from this measure, the meeting proposed, in particular, the official authorities (Members of Parliament, Bourgmestres, Magistrates), Councillors, big traders, Inspectors of Schools, ...etc. The meeting was of the view that such an approach could attenuate the strong feelings of the population while guaranteeing minimum security, since persons targeted by this measure are spread throughout the Commune.

6. TRAINING OF A PRO-INKOTANYI NUCLEUS IN NGARAMA

A report of the Ngarama SRS Officer indicates that there exists at the headquarters of the Sub-Prefecture, an impenetrable group composed of pro-Tutsi Inkotanyi. Some of them were recently released among the accomplices and others openly show their support for the enemy cause.

Members of the said group are:

- Kabanda Evode, Pharmacist in Ngarama, native of Kibuye.

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- Rutagengwa Charles, employee of CARE INTERNATIONAL in Gituza, native of Kibuye.
- Hakizimana Vénuste, Chief Accountant with CO-DERVAM, native of Kibuye.
- Munderere Antoine, employee of CO-DERVAM, native of Ngarama.
- Rutayisire Pascal, employee of CO-DERVAM, native of Kibuye.
- Buhire, Gituza Commune agronomist, native of Rutare but his wife is native of Gitarama.
- Karemera, employee of CO-DERVAM who lived in Nyagatare, native of Butare.
- Sinayobye Adrien, Governor of Ngarama prison, native of Kibuye.
- Rudahunga Emmanuel, driver with CO-DERVAM, native of Syanda-Butare.
- Mazimpaka Félicien, Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor, native of Rusatira-Butare.

This heterogeneous group obviously has access to information in all places and allegedly works for the enemy within and outside the country.

Security Committee members recommended the group's neutralization and immediate disbandment, by transferring to other places civil servants who are members thereof and by confining to their native communes those whose presence in Ngarama has NO justification.

Pending the transfer measures recommended supra, the security committee decided at its level to immediately shut down the bar where the said group usually met and instructed the Ngarama SRS and the Byumba squad to keep a discreet watch on it.

Nevertheless, it is important to point out that among the proposed transfers, that of the Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor posed a procedural problem in that, in principle, as a Magistrate he may ONLY be transferred by a Presidential decree after the opinion of the Judicial Council which it is said can NOT sit at the moment.

WITHOUT however waiting for application of this long procedure to the said official, the security committee was of the opinion that it would be good to transfer the other members of the above-mentioned group for the interest of security in Mutara.

7. SECURITY ON THE OYONYO AND CYABAYAGA RANCHES

Located immediately to the south of the former Nyagatare detachment, these ranches now harbour 7, 000 people displaced during this war from West Muvumba where most of them collaborated with the enemy. In fact, with very few exceptions, all these people have a relative, a friend or an associate among the Inkotanyi. This was verified on

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several occasions during the attacks perpetrated in the region following the movement of these people towards the said ranches. In fact, it appeared that all the incursions were always facilitated or guided by scouts who had fled our country soon before the war but have close relatives in the combat area.

As an example, mention could be made of the case of Mbayiha Aloys, former civil servant assistant to the Muvumba Bourgmestre, who was among the attackers during the enemy attack on the Rukomo Commercial Centre on 5 August 1991. His sister still lives on the Oyonyo ranch.

Concerning families with relatives among the Inkotanyi, the meeting was of the opinion that it was necessary to keep a close watch on their activities by placing them at all levels under the authority of reliable officials, and by grouping them so as to be able to check their movements and that of their visitors. It goes WITHOUT saying that grouping them should be done with the utmost discretion in order NOT to appear discriminatory in the eyes of the world.

Concurrently with this action, the security committee decided to group in a few herd the livestock still existing on the ranches in order to better ensure their custody, for it appeared that the dispersal of cattle throughout the same ranches facilitates the famous enemy operations for provision of fresh supplies.

Places thus chosen shall be kept under constant surveillance by a detachment of the Gendarmerie Nationale and a detachment of the communal Police established in Gakirage within the context of area defence led by the Mutara OPS Sector.

As supplement to the above-mentioned measures, it was also resolved to:

- Send back to their native communes all those who unlawfully entered Mutara before the war, allegedly in search for employment with OVAPAM.
- Facilitate the return of small-scale stockbreeders to their homes on foot with their cattle WITHOUT their having to take a vehicle, which is expensive, hence inaccessible to them.
- Restrict movements between the ranches and the Centre of Rukomo.

This Centre, which mostly holds Burundian refugees most of whom NO LONGER hide the wish to return to their country, is a bedrock of subversion and a favourite place for enemy reconnaissance operations.

The Commanding Officer of the Mutara OPS Sector moreover felt that it was owing to such movements that enemy mines were being transported in the region. Such a restriction would certainly be accompanied by mitigating measures. In this respect, natives of the Muvumba Commune who had been moved from West Muvumba to the

ranches located in the Ngarama Commune would finally be considered as fully-fledged inhabitants of the Ngarama Commune.

The Bourgmestre of Ngarama was instructed to draw up a list of the people concerned and issue them with appropriate documents.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- Conduct of Sister Anastase

Sister Anastase lives in the Bénébikira Convent, Ngarama, where she performs the duties of a bursar. She was born in the Rukorota ranch near Nyagatare and several of her family members are refugees in Uganda.

The said family includes the following known persons:

- Niyoyita André, his brother who, like his parents, was a refugee in Uganda, then in Burundi, before returning to Rwanda with a restoration permit N° 708/89 issued by the SCR. Upon his return to Rwanda, in July 1990, Mr. Niyoyita applied to teach in a private secondary school in Rukomo. He was rebuffed but accepted at the *Collège St. André* by Father Kiwanuka, Principal of this Institution. He has just been released among the Inkotanyi accomplices.
- Ms Mugambira, whose husband was released among the accomplices, died recently.

Out of this family circle, Sister Anastase has cordial relations with such renown Pro-Inkotanyi figures as:

- Father Kayitakirwa, Chaplain of the *maison générale des Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes* in Rome.
- The Priest of Rukomo, Otto Mayer of the *Pères Blancs*, known for his hostility to the Hutu cause, in general, and strong opposition to the FAR, in particular.

It should be recalled that this missionary is a radio enthusiast who made tendentious broadcasts on Rwanda at the beginning of the war. He has just been transferred to Kigali.

At the moment, Sister Anastase is accommodating within the Convent an outlawed group of Tutsis who are kept there shut away. Intelligence officers of the Sub-Prefecture affirm that this Sister conveys with venom information on our country to places hostile to Rwanda.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the Bourgmestre of Ngarama be instructed to identify all persons living in the Ngarama Convent off this Sister, and possibly apprehend the outlawed, while the Sous-Prefet will take necessary steps with whoever is concerned to have the Sister transferred elsewhere.

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Those particularly charged with this offence include Ruboneza living at the Karama Commercial Centre, as well as his brothers-in-law Munyehambwe, Rwasubutare and Ngenkimana, who carry defensive grenades under conditions yet to be clarified. This situation particularly attracted the attention of the meeting participants, more so as Rwasubutare attempted recently to steal at the Muhambo Commercial Centre with a grenade, which seriously injured his foot.

According to unverified information, a group of Gendarmes defending the Nkana and Karama positions allegedly gave these grenades to Mr. Ruboneza in circumstances yet to be clarified.

The Commanding Officer of the Byumba squad was instructed to look into the matter.

Mr. Minister, I would like to request you to intervene at the level of the competent departments so as to disband the Ngarama group mentioned in the present report as well as transfer Sister Anastase. In fact, your intervention is necessary, for it would be useless to meet and take good decisions, which remain a dead letter.

AND WITHOUT AT ALL underestimating the good measures put in place by some departments, it has appeared that the procedure is often bogged down by excessive bureaucracy, which is NOT likely to establish security in a troubled region.

Accept, Mr. Minister, the expression of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

for

Habyarimana Juvénal
Major General

Serubuga Laurent
Colonel
Rwandan Army Deputy Chief of Staff

Copied:

Rwandan Army Staff Headquarters.