

# French Foreign Minister meets with Rwandan official

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UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26 (AFP) - French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine had a "positive" meeting with top Rwandan diplomat Anastase Gasana here late Thursday, Vedrine's spokesman said.

The two discussed issues including the troubled Great Lakes region and bilateral relations in light of Rwanda's need to reconstruct its state, Jacques Rummelhardt said.

Genocide and civil war between

Hutus and Tutsis has left more than one million Rwandans dead and forced more than two million to flee to neighboring countries.

This meeting - the first between the two ministers - appears to be a step in the direction of better relations between the two, which seriously deteriorated after the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front seized power in 1994.

phd/xb/cw