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CASE NO: ICIR-98-41-1
EXHIBIT NO: DNT 239
DATE ADMITTED: 25-5-2006
TENDERED BY: DEFENCE
NAME OF WITNESS.....

ANNEX F ✓

28 JAN 1994; MIR 211: FROM BOOH-BOOH TO ANNAN/JONAH/ELIASSON: MIR
211: VISIT TO CAMP FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AT
NYACYONGA ON 26 JANUARY 1994



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UNAMIR - NIMUAR

CRN-29

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

28/035Z

TO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
JONAH, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
ELIASSON, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

FROM: BOOH-BOOH, UNAMIR, KIGALI

DATE: 28 JANUARY 1994

NUMBER: MIR - 211

SUBJECT: VISIT TO CAMP FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
AT NYACYONGA ON 26 JANUARY 1994

1. As you are aware, ~~the humanitarian aspects of the situation in Rwanda have attracted the heightened attention and concern of the international community, especially as the humanitarian emergency, exacerbated recently by the large-scale arrival of more than 300,000 refugees from neighbouring Burundi following the tragic political/military events in that country last October, appears to be gathering catastrophic proportions.~~

2. Moreover, as Rwanda's overall economic situation continues to worsen and as the current impasse in the peace process persists, the number of people in need of assistance seems to be growing. Bearing this overall development in mind, as you are also aware, the Security Council and the General Assembly have appealed for international assistance to address the humanitarian and emergency socio-economic needs of Rwanda.

3. The people internally displaced as a result of the outbreak of the war here in 1990 have become increasingly restive. According to UNICEF, the number of internally displaced Rwandese, which had reached a high of 900,000 (out of a total national population of some seven million), has recently dropped to about 350,000, due largely to the initial hopes for peace generated by the Arusha Peace Agreement.

4. On 26 January, accompanied by other UNAMIR officials as well as by a representative of the World Food Programme, I visited Nyacyonga, one of the largest camps for internally displaced people (with about 29,000 inhabitants), located about 15 kilometres from Kigali. We were warmly received by the municipal officials responsible for that region as well as by local camp elders and thousands of the residents. Municipal officials from the capital city, Kigali, as well as representatives of some non-governmental organizations and the local and international media, were also present.

5. In their welcoming remarks, both the municipal head ("sous-prefet") of the area and the camp representative expressed the fervent hope for the early and effective implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement which, in their view, would create the

the camp residents:

- the fragile huts in which they live do not provide adequate protection against the weather, in particular when it rains;
- the population needs blankets and clothing;
- of the more than 6,000 school-age children who had arrived with their families at the camp, there were currently only about 3,000 in school. The main problems faced are inadequate availability of school buildings, school supplies and teachers;
- even when food is available, the camp lacks adequate supplies of utensils (pots and pans) as well as firewood for cooking the food;
- inadequate sanitation and medical facilities.

The camp leader also informed me that more than 1,500 people had died at the camp so far.

6. Following the welcoming remarks, some camp residents took the floor to express their views and to address questions to me, concentrating on the concern that the homes and property they had left behind might be usurped by Rwandese returning to the country from outside (most of the recent returnees are reportedly coming from Uganda). Furthermore, as I entered some of the huts to see firsthand how the inhabitants lived, some of them asserted that they had been ignored both by their Government as well as by international humanitarian relief agencies which, according to these residents, had not visited the camp. The living conditions I observed were extremely difficult. In fact, I met a lady who had given birth just a few hours earlier. The baby and the mother were lying together on a piece of cloth on the floor in an obviously leaking hut.

7. In my remarks to the thousands of camp residents who had gathered to welcome us, I reassured them that they had not been forgotten. Our visit, I said, was meant to underscore the solidarity of the international community, including in particular the United Nations system. I emphasized that the United Nations was in Rwanda at the request of the parties to the Arusha Peace Agreement to assist in the implementation of the Agreement. I regretted that the transitional institutions which were expected by 29 December last year had still not been installed. Upon their establishment, I explained, the United Nations would be provided with the appropriate local machinery with which to work to address Rwanda's problems, including the specific concerns raised by the displaced people at Nyacyonga camp. I pointed out that we were working hard with the political leaders concerned to break the stalemate and relaunch the peace process.

8. I found the visit extremely useful. If nothing else, it underscored, in a graphic manner, the high human cost of the continuing instability and the urgent need to find effective and lasting solutions. I plan to share my impressions and the findings from the visit with other colleagues within the United Nations community here, in particular with the Resident Coordinator (who is also coordinating humanitarian matters in Rwanda) to see what, if anything, can be done to address the concerns raised by the residents of

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the Resident Coordinator (who is also coordinating humanitarian matters in Rwanda) to see what, if anything, can be done to address the concerns raised by the residents of the camp.

9. We would welcome whatever ideas or guidance, of a specific or general nature, you may have on the humanitarian aspects of the Rwanda situation.

10. Warm regards.