

K0359886

IDENTIFICATION : A - 906 0060 10/04/94

DURATION : 60 MIN.

QUALITY : GOOD

TRANSMISSION : RADIO RWANDA

DATE OF TRANSCRIPTION : 8/03/2000

TRANSCRIBED BY : Drocella ICYTEGETSE

FILE NAME : 0060.wpd

DICTAPHONE : SANYO : BO - 760/19  
Model : TRC-8080

- SIDE A :**
- \* Statement by Mathieu Ngirumpatse, Chairman of M.R.N.D, on the resumption of fighting by R.P.F..*
  - \* Statement by Frodouald Karamira of M.D.R on what R.P.F. described as «coming to punish the murderers ».*
  - \* Message from the Interior Minister calling upon the local authorities to collaborate with the people in order to restore peace..*
  - \* Message from the President of the Republic, Théodore Sindikubwabo, urging the people to support the government to enable that it to achieve it's objective of ensuring the safety of people and their property.*
  - \* Press release from M.R.N.D, M.D.R, P.S.D, P.D.C and P.L. political parties inviting the people, especially their own members, to support the government.*
  - \* Message from the Prime Minister, Jean Kambanda to the people, the Rwanda Armed Forces, political parties, expatriates, administrative authorities and R.P.F. aimed mainly at restoring peace and maintaining security.*
- FACE B:**
- \* Message from the President of the Republique, Théodore Sindikubwabo urging the people to support the government and to help it restore peace. Jean Kambanda reminds the Government and political parties of the objectives of the Rwandan Armed Forces, adding that he needs their collaboration. He requests foreigners not to abandon Rwanda, but to help the country to restore peace.*

## SIDE A

***Speaker: Mathieu Ngirumpatse, Chairman of MRND party.***

It is true that this is not a good thing... (*coughs*), because Article 1 of the Arusha Peace Accords states that the war has been brought to an end. This is why we think that the resumption of hostilities is a violation of the Arusha Accords. I stressed that RPF wants to call the Accords into question, which is against our wishes. They say that they will come and punish us. I do not know whether their attitude will remain the same. Whenever something happens in Rwanda, are they going to come and punish us? As far as the killings are concerned, we have asked RPF to try and tone down their language, because they killed many innocent people.

I said that no political party ordered its members to kill. The military leaders did not send anyone to kill. Rwandans will not welcome the Inkotanyi from outside the country if they say they are coming to punish them or to warn them. Pride and scorn are the main cause of ethnic dissension in this country.

We would like these people to stop perpetuating outmoded practices; to try to understand that the situation has changed, that people must talk to each other, consult each other and live together. This habit of wanting to punish people, as if they were animals or fools, is not good.

We therefore request them to respect the Arusha Accords because, as far as we are concerned, we have not violated any agreement. If there are people who have committed errors, the authorities must look into their case. However, that should not be a pretext for violating the Arusha Peace Accords. In our opinion, the resumption of hostilities is a violation of the said Accords. We are not, however, using that as a pretext to call to question the Accords. Their implementation therefore depends on RPF. If they change their conduct, the Accords will be implemented; but if they continue the war, it is obvious that we are not going to let ourselves be captured out of fear of violating the Arusha Accords. Whoever violates them will be accountable to the history of Rwanda and to the world as a whole.

***Speaker: Jean Baptiste Bamwanga, Radio Rwanda journalist***

Froduald Karamira of MDR party has something to say as well concerning RPF's statement that they are coming specially to punish and to warn the killers.

***Speaker : Froduald Karamira, MDR***

My opinion is that this statement is very bad, just like the fact that they started the war. Instead of saying that they are coming to punish people, they should punish themselves because all these problems have been caused by the war that they started and their improper statements. It will be recalled that during a meeting which I attended, one of the speakers said that he was fighting so that people like him could be given posts. We should remember that Rutaremara said that the refugees whom he recognized were those of 1959 and 1973, which means that they are the ones who are fighting and for whom he is fighting. When they (the Inkotanyi) say that they are coming to punish [people] he [Rutaremara] should know that such comments are not constructive. He should punish himself instead. The

questions you are raising right now concern the issue of how to protect the people, calm them down and prevent them from giving in to grief so that they should ensure their own security.

But the Inkotanyi say that they are coming to mete out punishment. They have embarked on a wrong path, for with the ongoing war, it is obvious that the people are getting more and more angry. Their [the Inkotanyi] statements only make people more angry. Let them consider the situation of the war-displaced persons, all those problems that we are trying to solve while they [the Inkotanyi] are doing all they can to make the situation worse. So, as you can see, the Inkotanyi are the ones endangering the security of the population by severely testing the wisdom and patience that they (the population) have shown during this war. Within our political parties, especially MDR, we have tried to make everyone understand that they had the same rights as their fellow men. But as you can see, RPF will not hear of it. They must undertake to find ways and means of implementing the Arusha Accords., which means that they must first put an end to hostilities. Then they must stop making the kind of statements which they criticize other political parties of using, claiming that they are aimed at preventing RPF from acceding to power.

*(classical music)*

***Speaker : unidentified***

...1994, the Head of State, His Excellency Juvénal Habyarimana who was returning from a meeting in Dar es Salaam and his colleague, Cyprien Ntaryamira, President of the Republic of Burundi, and his suite, killed by criminals.

The death of the Head of State has plunged the entire country into mourning and created a power vacuum. I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the armed forces who took the initiative to do their duty, namely, to guarantee security and territorial integrity. I also wish to thank the field officers for their quick decisions which made it possible to set up the other administrative bodies. As you know, His Excellency, Dr. Théodore Sindikubwabo became President of the Republic in accordance with the Constitution.

As part of the effort to set up administrative institutions, His Excellency Jean Kambanda was appointed Prime Minister and he has presented his government, which started working after being sworn in before the President of the Republic.

The main objective of the present government is to restore security by guaranteeing the safety of property and persons. This is why I am requesting you to give this government your unwavering support and help it achieve its objectives.

Fellow Rwandans,

During this period when we are faced with problems caused by the hostilities started by the Inkotanyi in Kigali town and the areas surrounding the positions held by the Rwandan Armed Forces, you are requested to avoid whatever could divide you and dissipate your efforts which you need during this time of war.

That is why I am asking the *préfets, bourgmestres, conseillers de secteur* and *responsables de cellule* to go about their normal business of serving the people and to take the necessary measures to guarantee security in their respective areas.

Fellow Rwandans,

Let me stress once again that we are living in a period when we have to work hand in hand to guarantee our security. In that way, we shall have supported the government and the President of the Republic.

That was a press release from the Minister of the Interior and communal development.

*(Classical music).*

***Speaker: Unidentified journalist***

...and the President of the République. The new Prime Minister, Jean Kambanda, was also present. The main decisions taken at that meeting were communicated to us by the Prime Minister in a press conference which he held with journalists of Radio Rwanda and of the independent press at the Hôtel des Diplomates here in Kigali, at around 2.30 p.m. We are currently preparing this interview, which is, incidentally, quite long. You can listen to it in full at around 2.30 p.m.

We would now like to bring to you the address by the President of the Republic of Rwanda to Rwandans in Kinyarwanda. For those who understand only French, we shall re-broadcast the same address later. Listen to the address by the President of the Republic, Théodore Sindikubwabo.

***Speaker :The President of the Republic Théodore Sindikubwabo***

Address by the President of the Republic to all Rwandans:  
Fellow Rwandans,

It is barely two days ago, that our Government was formed and started its activities. You listened to the address by the President of the National Development Council to Rwandans concerning the decision to form a new Government, which was taken by the leaders of the parties participating in the transitional Government, following the death of the Head of State and the Prime Minister. We ourselves want this government. That is why the Cabinet meeting, which we chaired today, and the one chaired by the Prime Minister yesterday 9 April, focused on the objective of restoring peace and ensuring the safety of people and their property.

All the necessary instructions have been issued and all the ways and means of achieving this objective have been looked into. We resolved to achieve this objective quickly so that the other objectives of the government can also be achieved, particularly negotiations with RPF and the solution to the thorny issue of the hunger prevailing in several regions of the country.

What contribution do we require from you therefore, people of Rwanda? Your contribution will be to understand that nobody, whoever he may be, has the right to cause harm to his fellow human being's life or to appropriate or damage his property. This is why security officers at all levels have been instructed to be more vigilant and to mete out exemplary punishment to anyone who commits such criminal acts. Everyone must be a guardian of peace. Unauthorized roadblocks must be pulled down immediately. The small groups of bandits and other criminals whose only aim is to fish in troubled waters must disappear. Everyone must show security officers the places where criminals may be hiding. Thus, if we all rise up as one man, peace and security will soon be restored and we could deal with other duties that seem to have been abandoned at the moment.

Fellow Rwandans, dear inhabitants of Rwanda,

We once again thank those who conducted themselves properly in these difficult times and ask them to continue in the same way. We once again condemn and disapprove of those who attacked their fellow compatriots and those who still harbour these ill sentiments.

We once again and publicly thank our armed forces. We ask all those of you who are grateful and who love peace to join us in thanking them. As we said on 9 April, after the Government had been formed, if the leaders of the armed forces had not met to take the necessary measures to defend our country and its people, the disturbances would have taken another dimension and would have been difficult to contain.

Fellow Rwandans, inhabitants of Rwanda,

Once again, we commend the noble and urgent objectives that the government aims to achieve. That is why we are seeking your support once more, hoping that most of you will respond. We request you to support your government by respecting the laws and instructions issued by all the administrative authorities. That way, you will help to bring about peace and all the benefits that such peace brings. That is what we expect of you.

May you live long!

*(musical interlude)*

***Jules-Maurice, Radio Rwanda journalist***

...and examining the current situation. After exchanging views, the leaders of these political parties resolved to issue the following statement to Rwandans:

First: the political parties urge all Rwandans and foreigners in Rwanda to calm down and understand that it is necessary to guarantee the safety of each and every person. That is why the participants at the meeting asked their members to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner and to work towards the restoration of national security, regardless of the parties to which they belong and their ethnic or regional belonging.

Secondly: the participants at the meeting request the administrative bodies at the grassroots level to do everything possible to put an immediate end to the disturbances, killings and looting throughout the country, especially in the urban centres, and to ensure that the security services punish anyone who fails to comply with the law or instructions

aimed at guaranteeing security. In particular, the participants at the meeting request the government to urgently find ways and means of making the *Conseillers, responsables de cellule* and « *nyumbakumi* » [heads of ten households] aware of the need to collaborate with members of the public and the armed forces in order to guarantee security and thereby safeguard the rights of everyone.

Thirdly: the participants at the meeting sincerely thank the armed forces who continue to fight for our country's integrity and the safety of its inhabitants. They urge those Rwandans who can to make a material contribution to the armed forces. They request the government to determine how this contribution will be collected.

Fourthly: the participants at the meeting urge all Rwandans, particularly members of various political parties, to remain patriotic by supporting the government which has been formed to get the country out of the deadlock and restore security.

Fifthly: the leaders of MRND, MDR, PSD, PDC and PL political parties seize this opportunity to thank the army high command for helping them to set up the administrative bodies without delay.

This press release was signed by Mathieu Ngirumpatse of MRND, Chairman; Edouard Karemera, first Vice-Chairman; Froduald Karemera of MDR, second Vice-Chairman and Donat Murego, Secretary General; François Ndungutse of PSD, member of the policy committee and Hyacinthe Nsengiyumva Rafiki, member of the policy committee; Gaspard Ruhumuliza of PDC, member of the policy committee, Justin Mugenzi of PL, Chairman and Agnès Ntamabyariro, first Vice-Chairperson.

This was a press release from the leaders of MRND, MDR, PSD, PDC and PL political parties concerning the decisions taken at a meeting held today.

*(Musical interlude).*

***Speaker: Jean Kambanda, Prime Minister of the Abatabazi Government***

*...of... of Major General Juvénal Habyarimana of 6 April at around 8.30 p.m. To those who are not familiar with Rwandan culture and African culture in general, an African head of state should be considered more like a father of the nation, whatever one may say, than me... merely a personality. It is therefore deplorable that when one person dies, people want.. euh...the death of one person to lead to the death of several people, but given the African mentality in general and that of Rwandans in particular, this is understandable, although... although that cannot justify the events that occurred after the death of the head of State.*

*Following the death of the head of State, there were riots almost throughout the country, especially in Kigali town - in which several personalities, including Her Excellency the Prime Minister, Mrs Agathe Uwilingiyimana, and ministers, heads of parties and an unknown number of other people.*

*The riots are reportedly going on at the moment, euh... going on, I... I am not sure, but they have not stopped, according to the information coming in.*

*The crisis...committee set up by the...Minister of Defence was set up following the incompetence... the institutional vacuum. Indeed, both, the President of the Republic and the head of the government had died, and, consequently, the government could no longer meet. Therefore the Rwandan Armed Forces, and I wish to take this opportunity to commend them for their courage - I shall come back to that later on - the Rwandan Armed Forces tried to maintain national peace and security by setting up the crisis committee.*

*The crisis committee then invited the political parties in the transitional government to euh...re-form, so to speak, with a view to setting up a new government. One may wonder why the... Arusha Peace Accords were not implemented immediately. I would say that the Arusha Peace Accords were not implemented immediately for two main reasons. The first one is legal. From a legal point of view, the incident that occurred, namely the death of the head of State before the setting up of the transitional institutions, had not been provided for in the Accords. The only provision was for the replacement of the President of the Republic once the accords... the peace accords were... euh... once the acco... the peace accords were implemented. The death of the head of State was not expected before the inauguration... of the transitional institutions.*

*Practically speaking, and it is... according to the information received from the party which was supposed to provide the... president of the Republic, according to the Arusha Accords, particularly M.R.N.D party, practically to appoint a candidate for the post of president, M.R.N.D had to hold a congress. And considering the situation which prevailed in the country, the situation was almost impossible... say that... euh... that it was impossible to hold the con... euh the party congress. And another reason I did not cite is that in any case, euh... the... the security, the p... the problems caused by insecurity within the country called for urgent measures to designate an interlocutor so that the... the people would not be abandoned. And that is the reason the government was formed euh...formed and sworn in... yesterday.*

*This government immediately held its first session in which a number of decisions were taken, mainly in a bid to restore security. Although it... it had euh... three... three main objectives, namely security, setting up of the transitional institutions and the... the problem of famine, they... it especially, the government council meeting held last evening – focused mainly on the problem of security and sent a number of messages to security officials. There was a message to the Rwandan Armed Forces. It was noted with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of the Rwandan Armed Forces had remained disciplined and had done all they could to maintain peace and security, although there were a few individuals who had participated in the disturbances, who had participated in the killings and... but, as I said, these were just a few individuals and not an organized force as some would like to think.*

*We request that the Minister of Defense, in collaboration with the... Chiefs, Chief-of-staff of the Army and of the Gendarmerie do all that is in their power to stop the massacres immediately, and that those who are guilty, those who are caught red-handed, be punished.*

*We call on the political parties to... do all that is in their power to ensure that those of their members who may have been participating in the massacres and disturbances stop doing so. The political parties were invited, and in this connection, I can announce that they have already held their first meeting and that probably between... by this evening, they will*



*have issued a press ... press release, the political parties were therefore requested to help pacify the people with a view to restoring security.*

*A message to expatriates: we the people of Rwanda have appreciated their assistance in times of peace, but will appreciate their assistance in times of difficulty even more. That is why, instead of rushing to the airport to go back home, we request them to stay and support us in these difficult times. We request them to give us all the advice they can in order to restore peace and tranquility in this country. However, if some of them wish to return home, that is their right. The government undertakes, in collaboration with their diplomatic missions, to facilitate, to... to facilitate...the...the... their decision.*

*A message to the administrative authorities: the préfets to.. will soon be invited to a meeting with the... the Minister of... of the Interior and perhaps the entire government to take urgent measures to pacify the people in the entire country, particularly in Kigali town. They are also requested to hold meetings to pacify the people in their respective préfectures and communes, so that by the end of next week, by the end of next week, at least one meeting will have been held in each commune. A pacification meeting.*

*Our message to R.P.F is that... war cannot solve the political problems facing our country, and that only dialogue and consultation can help to restore real peace. That is why the government undertook... (interruption) implemented, so that the transitional institutions can be set within 10 wee... within six weeks, in line with the decisions of the United Nations. We therefore call upon R.P.F to stop all attempts to resume hostilities, so as to embark resolutely on the path to peace, through the Arusha Peace Accords.*

*We request the Minister in charge of Security, including the Ministry of Justice, we request the Ministry of Justice to call an urgent meeting of the offices of the Public Prosecutors so that investigations can be conducted immediately to find the culprits. And we request that all those who participated in the massacres be punished in accordance with the law. Urgent measures must be taken, we are aware that the people, the people of Kigali in particular, are currently starving. This is why we are going to reopen some markets, in collaboration with the Ministries of Defence, Interior and, particularly, the préfet of Kigali town and the Ministry of Commerce,. The Minister of Defence will be requested to take care of the security of these markets and some shops, particularly food stores. So, that is the message that I wanted to...convey to journalists and, through them, to the Rwandan people and to the na... to our foreign friends.*

***An unidentified speaker, Radio Rwanda journalist***

*So the... Prime Minister, Jean Kambanda opening his press conference with journalists this afternoon. We will, moreover, have the opportunity to bring this press conference to you in its entirety once we have edited the text, euh... that is, to remove the blanks and hesitations of course. And... I am going to say goodnight because I am going to rest and once again request you, our listeners, I request them to... I apologize for these hitches, which are due to this sit... (interruption).*

*(Musical interlude).*

**Speaker: Théodore Sindikubwabo**

...(inaudible) Rwandans, inhabitants of Rwanda, it is only two days ago that your government was formed and started functioning. You listened to the speech by the President of the National Council...

End of side A.

## SIDE B

**Speaker: President of the Republic, Théodore Sindikubwabo**

..... after the passing of the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister, there has been a decision to form another Government to take our country out of this gridlock. Since the institutions of the broad-based transitional Government were not yet in place, we explained that, to succeed in forming that government it was necessary to apply the provisions of Article 91 of the Constitution of 10 June. That is what we did and the President of the National Assembly [*Conseil national pour le développement*] succeeded his Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Juvénal Habyarimana, deceased. We informed you of everything that followed.

In this speech, we basically wish to tell the Rwandan people and the international community, especially the countries which provide assistance to us, that the main reason behind our forming that government, whose responsibilities are quite clear, is to restore and maintain the peace and security which began to be disturbed throughout the country, especially in Kigali. That disturbance was due to the grief and anger felt by Rwandans after their enemies killed the Father of the nation.

Rwandans, and inhabitants of Rwanda, our Government and we personally, will take on that primary responsibility. That is why during the Cabinet meeting we chaired today and the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister yesterday, 9 April, we underscored the importance of that responsibility to restore and maintain the security of people and their property. All the necessary instructions have been given. We must look for every way and means to attain that objective. We are resolved to attain that objective quickly so that the government may proceed with its other programs. Those programs primarily include negotiating with the RPF and dealing with the thorny problem of the famine that has ravaged several regions of our country.

What are we asking you to do therefore, fellow Rwandans?

You can help by understanding that no one has the right to harm the life of others, to take their property, or cause damage to it. For that reason, directives were given to those in charge of security, at all levels, for them to become even more vigilant and mete out exemplary punishment to anyone who commits that type of criminal act.

Each person must be a guardian of peace. Roadblocks not authorized by the authorities must be taken down immediately. Gangs of criminals and those who want to fish in troubled waters must be neutralized. Everyone must point out to security authorities areas where criminals may be staying. Accordingly, if we stand up as one man, peace and stability will come quickly back. Then we can begin to carry out other tasks that have been neglected up until now.

Fellow Rwandans, residents of Rwanda,

Thank you, again, those of you who have set the example with your good conduct during these difficult times. We ask you to continue down that great path. We reprimand and publicly condemn, once again, those who have attacked others and those who are still driven by those evil feelings.

We ask all those who feel grateful and desire peace to join us in thanking, once again publicly, our armed forces. As I said on 9 April after the government was set up, our country would have sunk into a cycle of grave chaos, had it not been for the army officials who came together to adopt strict measures to defend the country and the population.

Fellow Rwandans, residents of Rwanda,

Once again, we are proud of the difficult program your government set up and commits to carry out quickly. That is why we ask you once again for your support which we hope to have. We asked you to support your government by respecting the laws and directives from every administrative level. As such you will be the architects of peace and all the benefits it comes with. This is our wish.

*(Classical music)*

***Unidentified speaker, Radio Rwanda journalist***

... had a discussion with MDR and MRND political party leaders which we will listen to later. I will let you know also that we are going to listen to a press conference given by the Prime Minister and other ministers, in particular the Minister of Information, Eliézer Niyitegeka.

Now let's listen again to the interview that Jean Baptiste Bamwanga had with the leaders of the MRND and MDR political parties.

***Speaker: Minister of Information Eliézer Niyitegeka.***

... of his Excellency the President of the Republic, Major-General Juvénal Habyarimana occurred Wednesday last week when his airplane crashed to the ground. The Cabinet [*Conseil des ministres*] was not able to meet on Thursday to discuss the matter. Some members of the government died and others were not available because of the disturbances. Senior officers put together a committee called the *crisis committee* to lead the country in this time of crisis.

Friday, leaders of the five political parties, making up the transitional Government, gathered and declared that the senior officers did well by creating the crisis committee, adding that they too were available and that they were ready to work together to find ways and means of setting up the institutions which could enable the transitional Government, including the RPF, to become reality. They met Friday night and decided that each political party would propose ministers according to the number of seats allotted them under the agreement reached among the parties.

The members of the Government were sworn in last night and then held their first meeting. Today, starting at 9 a.m., that cabinet continued its work. We believe that it would

be wise for the media, of all leanings, private and public, to be informed of the Government's activities. Journalists should come and put their questions to the Prime Minister regarding the two missions I believe I mentioned. The said Government is determined to do its best to deal with the famine which is ravaging the country. So there is the problem of security, of continuing with the Arusha Accords, of famine, and, of course, all the other problems the government must solve.

You can therefore ask questions about those problems and the decisions taken regarding them last night during the Cabinet meeting. I attempted to give a brief summary of that Cabinet meeting last night on Radio Rwanda, for those who were listening.

The Cabinet which has just ended ..... its meeting essentially dealt with the security problems. Certainly, I cannot claim more than the Prime Minister who chaired the meeting together with the President of the Republic, give details on the agenda examined. The Prime Minister is here with us. The Minister of Justice is going to speak to us about security issues. We had hoped to have the Minister of Defence with us, but he was not available because he has a very busy schedule these days. He is dealing with security matters; besides, he just returned from a mission yesterday.

We had also hoped to have the Minister of Interior and Communal Development with us, but unfortunately, he has not yet returned from his trip abroad. However, the Directeur de Cabinet for MININTER can respond to any urgent questions.

Lastly, the Minister of Foreign affairs will answer questions regarding the relations between our country and the international community, and will explain how the government must promote good relationships with other countries and continue the negotiations [regarding the Accords].

In short, you are free to ask questions regarding the Government which was set up yesterday. Do not hesitate to ask any question – speak freely – no one will be left out of the discussion, and everyone will have an opportunity to speak.

I learned that some [of you] only speak English and not Kinyarwanda, which is a problem. Those people should seek assistance from those who speak French, English, and Kinyarwanda. Regarding the French version, the Prime Minister will speak in Kinyarwanda, and then he will speak with you briefly in French about the important issues.

So, dear journalists, we give the floor to you, for this first press conference with the Prime Minister and ministers of the government. But first, before we give you the floor, it would be appropriate to first give it to the Prime Minister. Thank you (applause).

***Speaker: Jean Kambanda, Prime Minister***

Thank you.

As the Minister of Information has just said, the political parties that set up this government have assigned it the following three objectives:

- Restore security in the country
- Follow up the implementation of the Arusha Accords.
- Assist those struck by the famine and the displaced persons.

During this press conference, we are mostly going to talk about the problem of security, as it concerns all Rwandans at present, and even foreigners living in this country or their home country. To better understand the situation, we must go back over some of the events.

You will all remember that on 6 April, at around 8:30 p.m., the airplane transporting the Head of State back from a meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, was shot down on its approach to Grégoire Kayibanda International Airport.

Some people heard the news the same night, but all Rwandans heard it the next [morning] 7 April. Many things happened in quick succession thereafter. The people, especially those living in Kigali, began to attack one another, people were killed, including the Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana, some ministers, and many other people. Others were looted of their property.

Those disturbances continued on 7, 8, and 9 April, and even today they continue. And yet, if you look at it closely, you notice that some people, especially foreigners, do not clearly understand the cause of those disturbances. They wonder why people are fighting one another, after the President of the Republic's plane was shot down, instead of looking for those responsible and punishing them. We realize that those who say such things know nothing of African mentalities or cultures, in general, and of Rwandan culture, in particular.

People, especially foreigners, must understand that the President of the Republic is no ordinary individual. He is different from others. If he dies, we will not say that so and so killed him, for he is like a family member who has died. He leaves many orphans behind, both those who love him and those who do not. That is the major cause of the disturbances, and we would ask people to try to understand.

Also, at the heart of those disturbances is underlying tension in population which has existed for some time. That tension, was mostly linked to government activities that were, at best, mediocre. We can even ask ourselves if that government was really functioning. Accordingly, the members of the population seem confused and showed their anger, the cause of which is unknown to us. That is why it is difficult for them to contain their anger after the loss of the Head of State.

I do not say this to justify that it was necessary for such a number of people to die, following the death of the Head of State, but just to make people understand why this anger existed and the ensuing criminal acts were committed.

As the Minister of Information told you, a crisis committee comprising senior officers of the Rwandan Armed Forces was set up. Its mission was to attempt to ensure the security of the population. That committee urged political party leaders to help to re-establish administrative bodies and appoint a new President of the Republic and a Prime Minister.

Some of you are asking why, we did not instead, directly implement the Arusha Peace Accords, which were already signed, or why we did not request the party which had designated a candidate for the presidency, to designate another candidate, since the

candidate it had chosen just died, and then urge the Prime Minister of the Broad-based Transitional Government to set up a government.

Such thinking would not take into account the reality of the situation, because it would have been impossible. There are two reasons for that. First, a legal problem. Legally-speaking, the death of the Head of State, before implementation of transitional institutions, was not provided for in the Accords. As such, there is no legal provision for designating a replacement.

The second reason has to do with the prevailing political context. The party which had to designate a candidate was the MRND, but according to information from that party, under its statutes, to designate a presidential candidate, a congress had to be organized. All members' representatives had to be present, but given the situation in the country, it was difficult to organize such a congress at a moment's notice.

The third reason I forgot to mention is that it was urgent to set up an administrative bodies, especially since members of the population were left to their own devices. They were killing each other and had no guidance. Therefore the political party leaders, along with senior military officials, took the noble decision to set up administrative bodies.

We applied the 1991 constitution, which stipulates that in case the Head of State is incapacitated, his temporary replacement is the President of the National Assembly [*Conseil national pour le développement*]. That is exactly what happened, since the latter indeed became provisionally President of the Republic. He also appointed a Prime Minister, pursuant to the 1992 agreement between political parties.

The Prime Minister, in turn, consulted with party leaders. The leaders gave him a list of candidates for the different ministerial posts. They agreed on a list of candidates and formed the Government. As I told you, that Government has three main objectives, the most important of which is to ensure security. For that reason, I am going to speak specifically about that objective.

As the President of the Republic told you, Friday night, the members of Government were sworn in yesterday and immediately held their first cabinet meeting, during which they took certain decisions to ensure the security of the population.

We hope to address all Rwandans very shortly, regarding restoration of security in the whole country. The message will be for all those in charge of implementing the initiative to restore security quickly to the entire country, each at their respective level.

There was a message for the Rwandan Armed Forces. There have been reports that the soldiers were among those people perpetrating the killings. Let me take the opportunity to explain that in general our armed forces are not killing members of the population.

In general, the Rwandan Armed Forces have continued to ensure the security of the population. That does not mean that all soldiers are disciplined. There is a [Rwandan] proverb which says that the faults of one become the faults of his entire group. Some soldiers have attacked members of the population, killing them and looting their property. Such things have happened, but in general, we continue to say that our forces are concerned with security matters, and are doing their best to restore that security. Let me take this

opportunity again to ask the Minister of Defence, as I said in my speech yesterday, to spare no efforts to restore the security of the population. We have asked him to instruct the armed forces to catch and punish anyone caught killing or looting, and make examples of them. They must be punished severely to discourage anyone who may have ideas to do such things. We made that request during the Cabinet meetings today and yesterday.

The Minister of Defence and senior officers in the armed forces have committed themselves to abide by our request. It is encouraging to see that in most neighbourhoods they have begun to implement those instructions.

Another message is for the political parties. I would like to inform the journalists that the political party leaders have understood our message. This morning, we held a meeting with them to come up with a message for the Rwandan people. This is understandable because most of the killers and looters are party members. The Political parties therefore have a role to play in pacifying the country and restoring security.

Political parties, especially those represented in the government, were asked to do all they can, with assistance from the Ministry of Defence, to go into all neighbourhoods of this city and tell the party leaders in each area that they must ensure security, and stop their members from killing and looting, so as to restore security in the country.

Leaders of Political parties and the army, in general, would like security to be restored as quickly as possible so that the killing of innocent people stops, or in order for people to stop killing one another. What is done is done, nothing can be done about that, but we must instead find ways to build, instead of destroying our country.

I have another message for expatriates. The expatriates living in our country have been seized by fear and many of them want to return home; in fact, some of them have begun to leave the country. They say that we are killing people in this country, that no one is spared, and that they want to go back home. We wish to inform the expatriates that we are doing our best to restore sustainable security, and we are truly doing what we can to deal with their situation. We wish to tell them that, more than in the past when the situation was better, we need their support during this difficult time. Accordingly, we ask them, instead of trying to go home, stay and help us, and advise us on what to do to restore security. Nevertheless, in respect of each and every person's rights, the government will assist, to the extent possible, all expatriates who wish to return to their countries, with, of course, the assistance of the expatriates themselves and their embassies. Otherwise, in reality we...

End of Side B.

END OF CASSETTE

-----