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SIDE A

Speaker: Jean-François NSENGIYUMVA, Radio Rwanda journalist

...on their side, the RPF had proposed in Arusha, a unilateral ceasefire which in principle come into force at midnight this Monday.

At a press conference yesterday in Kinshasa, on his way back from Gbadolité, Casimir BIZIMUNGU, the Rwandan Minister of Health, stated that President HABYARIMANA's plane, which was also carrying the Burundi Head of State, Cyprien NTARYAMIRA, was shot down by missiles as it approached Kanombe Airport and that the Rwandan Government was accusing the Belgian troops of being involved in the attack. (musical interlude)

Radio Rwanda, 1.21 p.m.. In Burundi, a fresh attempted coup d'Etat has just been foiled. The Army Headquarters in Burundi asserts that this fresh outrage was attributable to a small...

(French news signature tune)

Speaker: Gilbert RWAMATWARA, Radio Rwanda journalist

- ...repatriated from Rwanda, also accuse Uganda of supporting the RPF in the atrocities it is committing;
- Mobilisation of aid from humanitarian organizations becomes increasingly pressing;
- The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs returns from a mission in Bujumbura;
- And the Burundian army is still power-hungry, and bent on seizing it by force.

Those were the news headlines. (musical interlude)

The Rwandan Armed Forces are still in full control of the situation on all the fronts. The RPF who tremble at the mere sight of the uni....the Rwandan Armed Forces, are resorting to attacking defenceless civilians. Ephrem RUGILIRIZA.

Ephrem RUGILIRIZA, Radio Rwanda journalist:

The Rwandese Patriotic Front, which resumed hostilities in total disregard of the Arusha accords, is continuing to clash with the determined Rwandan Armed Forces and the keen vigilance of the Rwandan people. The situation was relatively calm in Kigali city this morning, even though the Patriotic Front tried, as usual, to provoke panic in the afternoon by hurling rockets on the capital. An attempt that is doomed to fail, for everybody knows the RPF tricks.

Nothing to report from the Ruhengeri operations sector. In the other sectors, the Rwandan Armed Forces are fiercely resisting any attempts by the Rwandese Patriotic Front to make further advance. Sadly enough, when they survive the wrath of the Rwandan Armed Forces, the RPF troops attack defenceless civilians. In Byumba, specifically, the *Inkotanyi* fighters carried out cold-blooded killings of civilians who were hiding in their homes. That is how the Patriotic Front teaches us how to respect human rights.

The high command of the Rwandan Armed Forces commends the people's vigilance and calls upon the civilian population to refrain from any involvement in acts of violence. Neither the Rwandese Patriotic Front, nor anybody else in the world shall ever invent a weapon as potent as the force of a united, vigilant people.

Gilbert RWAMATWARA, Radio Rwanda journalist:

The Rwandan people are not the only ones to denounce Uganda's attitude towards the war sparked off by the RPF. Several Danish Baptists who were repatriated from Rwanda

last weekend have also accused Uganda of ...training and furnishing financial support to the Rwandese Patriotic Front rebels and are asking Den....Denmark to review....and those repatriated people, I beg your pardon, have asked Denmark to reconsider its assistance to that country. "When we know that the Rwandan population was attacked and invaded by armed rebel forces from Uganda, the Danish government must be very careful with the regime it is supporting", said one the repatriated people.

The resumption of the war has made tens of thousands of displaced people and refugees who require immediate assistance. They have joined hundreds of thousands of famine-stricken people in several *préfectures* in the southern and western parts of the country. In an effort to mobilise the required assistance from humanitarian aid agencies, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr. Jean de Dieu HABINEZA, has just concluded a mission to Bujumbura, Burundi. It will actually be recalled that most of the humanitarian assistance organisations in Rwanda left for Bujumbura on the day following the resumption of the hostilities by the RPF.

Minister HABINEZA, who returned to the country yesterday, reports his mission through the microphone of our colleague Jean-Batiste BAMWANGA:

Jean de Dieu HABINEZA, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs:

Em...this mission is part of the effort to confirm one of the government's set objectives, er...that is, assisting the war-displaced people and the famine victims. Em...as you are already aware, most of the humanitarian agencies that used to work in...em... Rwanda and mostly based in Kigali, left the country following the events...em...that followed the death of our late Head of State.

Em...but...er...the same humanitarian agencies are now in Bujumbura, Burundi. I ...indeed went to...meet the representatives of those humanitarian agencies....in order to find out how they can assist the needy, from Bujumbura.

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Em...I met the representatives of er...UNDP, UNICEF, em...WHO, Caritas, em...the Belgian Red Cross, em...ICRC, *Médecins Sans Frontières*. And I am happy to inform you that...er...all the people I met were enthusiastic about coming as urgently as possible to...assist the needy people, be they war or famine victims.

And...the only recurring thing...er...in our discussions with...er...all the representatives of...the humanitarian agencies was the cessation of the inter-ethnic massacres. Er...they said they would not like to...er...to come and assist a country in which the people...er...are massacring one another, Er... I on that point I confirmed to them that the government was doing everything possible to...er...work out all possible peace initiatives. Er...I convinced them that field visits to the villages...er...would be organised, with a view to disseminating peace messages and that if necessary, we would also enlist the assistance of the political parties to bring the message home.

Honourable Minister, you are returning from this mission at a time when the relations between the Rwandans and the Belgians are still characterised by an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion, and yet...er...some of the...humanitarian agencies employ Belgians, did they not...raise the issue of...their personal security?

Yes, I felt it...er...when I had to meet with...er...some of the representatives...of humanitarian agencies who are of Belgian nationality. And even those who are not of Belgian nationality evoked the issue of the disagreement with Belgium. I explained to them that...er...the government was...er...to ensure that relations with Belgium were maintained. I...er...also drew their attention...er... to the fact that...er...probably what was heard was the opinion of the press, or even the words of an individual, but that...er...the government never made any official criticism against Belgium.

For...the rumours that were going around...er...I...convinced the representatives of agencies that...Rwanda was determined to establish the truth, ...er...particularly with regard to the missile attack on the presidential plane, in which both the Presidents of

Rwanda and Burundi died, and that an international probe should be immediately set up to establish responsibility; and that the...Rwandan government and people...er...had nothing against Belgium. Er...Rwanda...insists on maintaining cordial relations with Belgium. Er...everything possible should be done to establish responsibility in order to...dispel any doubts, and that...er...in any event, it will not be with the Rwandan government approval...and...that...any possible act may be committed against...er...the Belgians.

Um...all this is to confirm that everything shall be....done: security is guaranteed, er...law enforcement agents are available. And...I reassured them that all...the staff, er...whether Belgians or...whatever other nationality, shall be treated on an equal footing and that the population would be educated to that effect. By the way, I am going to send out an announcement urging all the people to recognize the significance of the flags flown by the humanitarian agencies, and telling them that whether it is a flag of the ICRC or of the United Nations,er...what matters is the flag, irrespective of who is carrying it. What matters in the first instance is to know that we....are dealing with a benefactor, who's objective is to solve a specific problem. Er...what is important is the end result, no matter....who has brought the assistance.

But, Honourable Minister, there was talk of some humanitarian agencies collaborating with the enemy. Em...how....will you ask the population to ...er...allow such benefactors to move about freely within the country?

Er...collaborating with the enemy...er...I think that...we should have....some confidence and avoid suspicion as much as we can. Em...the humanitarian agencies that will come to assist us will....come withspecific assistance items: medicine, foodstuffs or blankets. Er...it is very easy to identify the items in the assistance package, er...if the agencies come with....er...well defined items, as long as they are not....as long as....no arms are hidden in these items, which I do not believe will happen, for I have not yet heard of cases, where arms have been found hidden among humanitarian assistance material. And I personally believe that all we need is a minimum of confidence, avoid

any suspicion, ...er...so long as the assistance package contains easily identifiable items, goods that are easy to identify.

(Musical interlude)

Gilbert RWAMATWARA, Radio Rwanda journalist:

More attempted coups d'Etat in Burundi... Once again, some members of the Burundian Armed Forces tried to seize power yesterday. The foiled coup-d'Etat comes twenty days after the death in Kigali on 6th instant, of Burundi President Cyprien NTARYAMIRA. Burundi had remained calm after the tragic death of their President.

According to the Burundi Army Headquarters, seven people, including four officers, have been arrested. Four others are on the run. Diplomatic sources in Burundi indicate that before the coup attempt, trucks went to various barracks in a vain effort to mobilise other soldiers to join the venture.

Gunfire was still being heard by this morning in the suburbs...in the northern suburbs of the Burundian capital, where, for several days now, the army has been engaged in an armed confrontation with armed Hutu militiamen. Military sources, however, say that the fighting is not linked to the attempted coup d'Etat. The rest of the city and the other parts of the country were reported to be calm. According to one diplomat, the ongoing agitation among some Tutsi military extremists who have never accepted the ascent to power by...er...up to this date...the ascent to power by...the Hutus, which power has up till now monop...er...the ascent to power by the Hutus, which power had up till now monopolised by the Tutsis.

Some Tutsi soldiers had already attempted to stage a coup d'Etat on 21 October, killing President Melchior NDADAYE, the first ever Hutu to rule the country after being elected to office in June 1993.

(French news signature tune)

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Anastase NZABILINDA, Radio Rwanda journalist:

Good afternoon everyone. The news headlines:

- Shooting continues, in spite of the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire by the RPF.
 - Voting begins this morning in the first ever multi-racial elections in South Africa.
- Sixty....(musical interlude)

The news in detail:

The unilateral ceasefire announced by the RPF should have come into force at midnight last night, but it never did, as the Rwandan Army headquarters confirms that the RPF troops have continued to attack the positions held by the Rwandan Armed Forces. They are continuing with their infiltration, massacring innocent civilians.

The UNAMIR spokesman, Abdoul KABIYA, told AFP that the RPF *Inkotanyi* yesterday bombed Grégoire KAYIBANDA International Airport, which is under the joint control of the Rwandan Armed Forces and the United Nations. The United Nations vigorously protested to the RPF. At least two mortar shells landed at the airport, one near the hangar and the other on the runway, but caused no damage and no injuries were reported, Mr. KABIYA added. He further said that the UN Special Representative, Mr. BOOH-BOOH, this morning sent a message to the belligerents urging them once again to conclude a general ceasefire.

Still on the national scene, while on a mission through Paris, the Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA, accused the RPF of the death of President HABYARIMANA and held them responsible for the massacres and the war. He pointed out that the Rwandan Armed Forces were only defending themselves in the face of RPF aggression and that the government was still pursuing its efforts to calm

down the population and restore security in the country. The following is the Minister's statement to our colleague Dominique DECOURCELLE of RFI:

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:

....since the government started calling for peace, since it instructed the *gendarmerie* to deploy *gendarmes* to stop the massacres and looting, we have achieved some results: the massacres have abated throughout the country. So, if the government had not taken such action, we think the damage would have been much more extensive.

Dominique DECOURCELLE, RFI:

But you are saying that the massacres are now abating in Rwanda?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:

They are abating drastically, they are abating drastically, but the problem we are facing is that the RPF-*Inkotanyi* are perpetrating atrocious massacres in the area under their control, in the north of the country. For example, in the Mutara sector, an estimated 20,000 people have been killed by the RPF fighters. What the RPF is doing is complicating the situation for our government.

Dominique DECOURCELLE, RFI:

Honourable Minister, in principle you seem to be saying that the RPF is doing all the bad things, that the RPF committed massacres, that the RPF bombed Kigali city and that the RPF in fact brought the war to Kigali. Should everything be blamed on the RPF? Was it the RPF that started the massacres after the death of President HABYARIMANA?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

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Yes. Why? Because immediately after President HABYARIMANA's death, ...you know how the Rwandan Head of State died, ...the RPF immediately launched an attack on Kigali. Their troops which had camped in the CND complex in Kigali left the place and their forces launched an attack on the northern front. And it was because of this attack that the massacres spread across the entire country.

Monique DECOURCELLE:

Are you aware that many people are saying that it is basically the army that is responsible for the massacres, and particularly the Presidential Guard?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

Many of those things being said are, in reality, false. It was not the Rwandan government that violated the Arusha Peace Agreement by resuming the fighting; it is the RPF. So, everything stems from the killing of the Head of State, which we blame on the RPF and the other powers supporting them. On the military front, we notice that the RPF is supported mainly by the Ugandan army. We estimate a total of five battalions of Ugandan troops backing up the RPF, in addition to the Ugandan soviet-made army helicopters made available to the RPF. Therefore, the killing of the Head of State, followed immediately by an attack on the northern front and within Kigali, all make us believe that the RPF is the cause of all these problems, of all the massacres that are still going on in our country.

Dominique DECOURCELLE:

So, as far as you are concerned, the *Gendarmerie*, the Army, the Presidential Guard, are innocent?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

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Er....Certainly there are some elements of the Rwandan army who committed reproachable acts, particularly the assassination of some dignitaries. But we cannot blame such acts on the entire army, or the entire Presidential Guard. For it would have been impossible for the Rwandan army to be countering the RPF aggression and massacring people at the same time.

Dominique DECOURCELLE:

Honourable Minister, the RPF called this government , and I quote: “a band of murderers, an illegitimate government”. You are saying that the RPF is....responsible for all the trouble. It would seem that there is no possibility of a dialogue between the two warring parties.

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

We invited the RPF immediately the government was put in place. We invited them to come for discussions on how to pacify the country, how to set up the broad-based transitional institutions. The RPF refused, saying that they did not recognise our government.

As a matter of fact, they do not have to recognise us, because our government was put in place in accordance with the 10 June 1991 Constitution of Rwanda, pursuant to the protocol of agreement between the par...the five coalition parties. So, the RPF does not have to recognise us. The govern....our government is supported by the entire Rwandan population and by the Rwandan army. We are, therefore, asking the RPF to negotiate with us in order to restore peace, agree on a ceasefire and set up this government which every Rwandan is looking forward to see. But so far, we notice that the RPF are still not accepting peace, preferring to wrench power by force of arms. It will not be possible for

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the RPF to negotiate directly with the Rwandan army, without involving the government, if that is what they want.

On the other hand, if the RPF wish to negotiate with soldiers delegated by the govern....Rwandan government, I think we can make the necessary arrangement, we can allow such dialogue to take place. But the RPF will not impose their wishes on us, simply because they have not recognised our government.

Dominique DECOURCELLE:

Do you believe in the ceasefire declared by the RPF?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

Well, in my opinion, the RPF are not sincere when they talk of a unilateral or bilateral ceasefire. If they had been sincere, they would not have resumed hostilities on 6th7th April this year. But if, this time around, the RPF, seeing the evolution of things on the military front, seeing the changes in the political situation in the country, change their mind and show interest in a real ceasefire and come up with sufficient guarantees, we are ready to talk to them. But we have no confidence in what they say.

Dominique DECOURCELLE:

But you too, the government, declared a unilateral ceasefire. What exactly is happening?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

On the invitation of....the President of Zaire, we....made a proposal for a ceasefire; we hope that the Zairean President will send it to the RPF and that the latter will accept it,...adopt it.

Dominique DECOURCELLE:

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But you are optimistic that it will work out?

Jérôme BICAMUMPAKA:

We are optimistic about a solution, be it a negotiated solution. Therefore, whether we fail or not, if the RPF continues fighting, we hope to defeat them militarily.

(Musical interlude)