

22 OCT 1990

RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT

INKOTANYI

PRESS RELEASE

The allegation by the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr. Wilfried Martens, after his talks with the Rwandese President in Nairobi, Kenya, that RPF's "rebel leader Fred Rwigyema was not interested in a peaceful solution", is a saddening inversion of the truth.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) -Inkotanyi- wishes to reiterate most strongly that :

- (i) The RPF leader, Major General Fred Rwigyema is not a rebel leader but a nationalist and liberator.
- (ii) The resort to armed struggle is an option forced upon RPF by the Habyalimana ruling clique, which for the last 17 years has blocked all avenues to a peaceful solution to Rwanda's chain of socio-econo-political ills.

Over the last 10 years, RPF has sent numerous petitions, calls and memoranda to the Habyalimana clique demanding for peaceful solutions to Rwanda's general malaise under his leadership. Copies of these communications were made available to the international community. The international community is well aware of the disdain and arrogance with which each of RPF's peaceful overtures were dismissed. It is almost incredible to believe that Belgium and its Prime Minister are unformed of this.

During contacts with several of Belgium's ambassadors, RPF has clearly explained its objectives; its raison d'etre. At no time, did RPF indicate rejection of a peaceful solution to the present conflict. Indeed the Front has explained its readiness to take any option, provided that that option brings true and viable solutions to Rwanda's problems.

It is difficult to imagine that the Prime Minister has not been appraised of this by his ambassadors; and if he has as he should have, his allegations must be viewed by the international community with the greatest of suspicion.

Lavish laddling out of twisted propaganda by Habyalimana will compound rather than resolve the present conflict. Lies can never lead to solutions, let alone sustainable solutions that RPF seeks.

RPF would like the world to know that:

- a) Rwanda's political crisis did not start on September 30, 1990 with RPF's assumption of armed struggle against the Habyalimana dictatorship.
- b) The crisis started when Habyalimana chose to run Rwanda as his private estate.

c) It started when, like his predecessor, he found it politically expedient to deny about two millions Rwandese their right to a homeland.

d) The crisis began when he thought that an iron-grip and the power of the gun rather than good counsel would sustain his leadership.


Further, RPF would like the world to know that:

a) Those who give support to Habyalimana suggest that the survival of one man's office and power is more important than the lives of several millions of Rwandese.

b) Our cause is genuine and serious, and to dismiss it as a tribal uprising is to make a grave error.

c) RPF solely originated this struggle responding to extreme cases of injustices by Habyalimana's regime against Rwandese. Uganda and its President have nothing to do with our struggle and its execution. For anyone to claim that we are not Rwandese or that this is not our struggle is certainly to demonstrate a frightening hight of absurdity.

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