

49.1 Internal Memorandum de la National Team Inquiry

2

This document was created by UN investigator Michael Hourigan in January 1997 in order to brief Judge Louise Arbour, the head of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The document is a summary of what three high level source told the UN's 25-man National Team investigating war crimes in Rwanda. The sources implicated Rwandan President Paul Kagame, in the shooting down of a plane in April 1994 that was carrying the then president of Rwanda. The plane crash triggered the genocide.

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NATIONAL TEAM INQUIRY

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

Information

Sources have advised that a highly secret attack team formed from a cell within the former RPF known as the "network" was responsible for the rocket attack upon the President Habyarimana's Falcon aircraft killing the President of Rwanda, the President of Burundi and other VIP's on board.

◆ Source 1

Contact through [REDACTED] This person is a current senior commissioned officer in the Rwandan Government Forces (RGF). He has advised that he is still a member of the secret RGF "network". He acted as an aviation consultant for the attack team.

◆ Source 2

Contact through [REDACTED] This person is a current soldier in the RGF and also a serving member of the "network". He was a team member of the attack team on the President.

◆ Source 3

Contact through [REDACTED] This person is a former member of the "network" and a member of the preparatory team for the attack on the President.

Informant Sources

Investigators from the ICTR National Team [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Michael Hourigan) have been in recent contact with sources (3 male persons) in Kigali Rwanda.

These sources have provided crucial information concerning the fatal rocket attack upon the Rwandan Presidential aircraft at about 2030 hours on 6 April 1994.

The Network

Sources advise that the former RPF, now known as the RGF, has within it a cell of elite soldiers who are activated and deactivated from time to time to

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conduct special operations. One such operation was the successful rocket attack upon President Habyarimana in 1994.

We have been advised that the same cell is being reactivated to conduct high level assassinations of major Genocide offenders currently living in and around Rwanda.

We have also been advised that there is a distinct possibility that the same cell was responsible for the recent murders of Medicine Monde staff (3 persons) in Ruhengeri in January 1997 and UN Human Rights staff (5 Persons) in Cyangugu. However at this time there is absolutely no corroboration for this last piece of intelligence.

The Network Members

The Intelligence Network working in Kigali during late 1993 and early 1994, was comprised of the following 10 persons:

- 1- Capt. [REDACTED]
(Working out of CND HQ, he was a Ugandan and in charge of Intelligence Operations in Kigali)
- 2- Capt. [REDACTED]
(He was a Burundian and second in charge of Intelligence Operations in Kigali)
- 3- Lt. [REDACTED] (N) *Ed. L...*
(He was a Ugandan and in charge of Administration)
- 4- Adjutant [REDACTED]
(He was a Rwandan)
- 5- [REDACTED]
(He was a Zairian)
- 6- [REDACTED]
(He was a Ugandan)
- 7- Sgt. [REDACTED]
(He was a Burundian)
- 8- Sgt. [REDACTED]
(He was a Rwandan)
- 9- Sgt. [REDACTED]
(He was a Rwandan)
- 10- Sgt. [REDACTED]
(He was a Ugandan)

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According to the source, this group was advised to put in place a contingency plan to eliminate President HABYARIMANA on or about 15 Mar. 84 as the Arusha talks were not progressing to the extent hoped and anticipated. Their assignment consisted of setting-up five (5) deployment points, 2 in Kigali and 3 around the airport perimeter in the areas of Maseka, Kanombe and Gasogi. This assignment was communicated through meetings; never was there a specific written directive to carry out this task.

Of the two (2) groups, RPF and FAR the chain of command was as follows:

R.P.F.

1- Col. [REDACTED]
(Chairman of RPF and now Minister of Internal Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister)

2- Paul KAGAME
(Chairman of the Military High Command and now Vice President of Rwanda)

3- Col. [REDACTED]
(Deputy Chairman of the Military High Command and now a retired businessman in the transport business)

4- Col. [REDACTED] - Approximately 37 yrs. old
(Head of Intelligence Network whom Capt. [REDACTED] in charge of Kigali Intelligence Operations, reported to directly)

F.A.R.

1- President HABYARIMANA

2- The Minister of Defence

3- Col. [REDACTED] (MOD)

4- Lt. Col. [REDACTED]
(Director of Military Intelligence)

One of the Military Intelligence operatives under Lt. Col. [REDACTED] who often went with Pres. HABYARIMANA to Arusha to attend the negotiations, was Lt. Col. [REDACTED] now head of Rwanda's G-2 Army Intelligence Unit.

The implication with these chains of command is that Capt. [REDACTED] as i/c of Intelligence Operations in Kigali for the RPF and

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reporting to Col. [REDACTED] would have received cautions for his operations from the 3 key figures above him namely, NDUGUTE, KAGAME and KANYAREMUNGU.

Two sources advise that the current Vice President, Paul KAGAME and the Minister of Internal Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister, Alex [REDACTED] were part of the plot to eliminate the President.

The Rocket Attack

The sources have all confirmed that the "network" under the Command of General Paul Kagame planned and executed the rocket attack upon President Habyarimana.

*** The Sites**

3 rocket sites were identified to investigators. First, [REDACTED] (SAM) and used by the attack team. Second, [REDACTED] (SAM) and used by the attack team. Third, [REDACTED] (RPG) and not required to be used by the attack team.

• Control Posts

3 command posts were used. Operations were controlled overall out of [REDACTED] field control in Kigali was maintained at a second post and initial control regarding the president's aircraft schedule was controlled in Arusha at a third post.

• Rocket Firms

Two FAR soldiers fired the SAM's from Muzaka and Gasogi Hills. One survives and may be available to the ICTR through the intervention of the sources.

• Attack Plan

Sources advise that they can provide the ICTR with hard copy evidence of the attack plan. To date the ICTR has requested that this not be provided.