JACK ANDERSON COLUMN RE BURUNDI POLICY


SOME HUTUS MANAGED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY BUT MOST WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE. MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE MURDERED AT A RATE OF MORE THAN A THOUSAND A DAY-

IN WASHINGTON, MEANWHILE, BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT WERE AWARE OF THE ENORMITY OF THE
CARNAGE, BUT MADE NO PUBLIC PROTEST- INSTEAD, OFFICIAL
WASHINGTON CHOSE "QUIET DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE" WHICH
FAILED UTTERLY TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAGEDY.
NOW A YEAR LATER, A SPECIAL TASK FORCE, FUNDED BY THE
PRESTIGIOUS CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT, HAS RECONSTRUCTED THE

SAD TALE OF U.S. INACTION IN THE FACE OF GENOCIDE.
PROJECT DIRECTOR ROGER MORRIS, A FORMER AIDE TO HENRY
KISSINGER ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, DESCRIBES THE U.S. POLICY
AS "LARGELY A RECORD OF INDIFFERENCE, INERTIA AND IRRE-
SPONSIBILITY."
THE UNPUBLISHED STUDY SINGLES OUT TWO STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS- ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVID NEWSOM AND CENTRAL
AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HERMAN COHEN- AS THE
POLICYMAKERS WHO MADE THE CRUCIAL DECISIONS."
HERE ARE ITS MAJOR CHARGES AGAINST THE TWO OFFICIALS:
1. THE POLICYMAKERS "REJECTED OUT OF HAND" A PROPOSAL
TO PLACE AN EMBARGO ON AMERICAN IMPORTS OF BURUNDIAN
COFFEE, EVEN THOUGH SOME SANCTION ON BURUNDIAN COFFEE
COULD HAVE BEEN USED AS A STRONG BARGAINING TOOL. U.S.
COFFEE PURCHASES ACCOUNT FOR 80 PER CENT OF BURUNDI'S
EXPORT EARNINGS. "THE COFFEE PROPOSAL NEVER RECEIVED A
SERIOUS HEARING," THE REPORT CHARGES. THE PROPOSAL, IN
FACT WAS NOT EVEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH FOLGERS
COFFEE, THE MAIN PURCHASER OF BURUNDIAN COFFEE. THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION HOWEVER, WOULD "HAVE ENJOYED READY ACCESS"
TO FOLGERS "HAD IT TRIED," SAYS THE REPORT. FOR FORMER
TOP WHITE HOUSE AIDE BRYCE HARLOW WAS THEN IN CHARGE OF
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FOR PROCTER AND GAMBLE, THE PARENT
COMPANY OF FOLGERS.
2. THE POLICYMAKERS IGNORED THEIR OWN LEGAL ADVISER
FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, KEITH HUFFMAN,
WHO ADVISED STRONGER ACTION. IN MID-AUGUST, HUFFMAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 110941

PUT HIS ARGUMENT IN WRITING IN AN INTERNAL MEMO. "WHILE
INACTION IN THE FACE OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS MIGHT BE
RATIONLIZED ON THE GROUNDS OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY,
SUCH EXPEDIENCE CANNOT JUSTIFY U.S. ACTION..."
3. THE POLICYMAKERS "REPEATEDLY MISLED CONGRESS." AS
ONE EXAMPLE, THE CARNEGIE STUDY NOTES THAT SEN. TED
KENNEDY (D-MASS.) WAS ASSURED IN MID-JUNE THAT "THE
CIVIL STRIFE HAD ENDED." A WEEK LATER, FROM BURUNDI, U.S.
CHARGE D'AFFAIRE MICHAEL HOYT DESCRIBED THE KILLINGS
AS "SELECTIVE GENOCIDE." AND THE KILLINGS CONTINUED UN-
ABATED THROUGH AUGUST.
4. THE POLICYMAKERS, OVERLY CYNICAL, KNEW FROM THE START
THEIR "QUIET DI