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JACK ANDERSON COLUMN RE BURUNDI POLICY

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 EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY JACK ANDERSON APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST ON JUNE 8. UNDER THE CAPTION QUOTE, U. S. CRITICIZED IN BURUNDI MASSACRE END QUOTE, THE ARTICLE STATES QUOTE, FAR FROM THE TUMULT OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, IN THE AFRICAN STATE OF BURUNDI, THE MASSACRE OF A QUARTER MILLION PEOPLE WAS REACHING FULL HORROR A YEAR AGO.

FROM EARLY MAY THROUGH AUGUST, THE STATUESQUE TUTSI NOBILITY UNDERTOOK THE SYSTEMATIC SLAUGHTERING OF THEIR ETHNIC RIVALS, THE HUTUS. THE TUTSIS LITERALLY WENT UNCLASSIFIED

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CRAZY WITH REVENGE OVER THE ATTEMPTED HUTUS COUP. WHEN AMMUNITION RAN SHORT, THE TUTSIS USED SLEDGEHAMMERS AND EVEN BULLDOZERS TO MASSACRE THE HUTUS. 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 IRRESPONSIBILITY."

THE UNPUBLISHED STUDY SINGLES OUT TWO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS- ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVID NEWSOM AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HERMAN COHEN- AS THE POLICYMAKERS WHO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

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PUT HIS ARGUMENT IN WRITING IN AN INTERNAL MEMO. " WHILE INACTION IN THE FACE OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS MIGHT BE RATIONZLIZED 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' AFFAIRES MICHAEL HOYT DESCRIBED THE KILLINGS AS " SELECTIVE GENOCIDE." AND THE KILLINGS CONTINUED UNABATED THROUGH AUGUST.

4. THE POLICYMAKERS, OVERLY CYNICAL, KNEW FROM THE START THEIR " QUIET DI

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(<https://www.torproject.org/>)



Tails is a live operating system, that you can start on almost any computer from a DVD, USB stick, or SD card. It aims at preserving your privacy and anonymity.
(<https://tails.boum.org/>)



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(<https://www.couragefound.org/>)



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