



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

March 18th, 1996

COMMUNIQUE N°44

1. In order to facilitate a dialogue-prone environment and to promote the quick return of peace to Burundi, the CNDD deems it appropriate to lay down the following prerequisites, namely

1.1 the immediate release of some 5000 political prisoners affiliated with the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) who have been incarcerated because of their political opinions;

1.2 the immediate return to the barracks of the rebel government army against democracy;

1.3 putting an end to the persecution of the CNDD leadership and most particularly the unconditional and immediate cancellation of the warrants which the Convention-based Coalition Government issued through INTERPOL for the arrest of MP's Leonard NYANGOMA and Christian SENDEGEYA, respectively Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CNDD.

Only when the above prerequisites are met satisfactorily will the CNDD request the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) to stop fighting.

2. During the cease-fire the CNDD will accept to engage in talks that shall result in abolition of the Convention of Governance which blatantly violates the Constitution as well as article 21, para.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and which unconstitutionally incapacitates the National Assembly to exercise its right to control the action of the Government.

3. The talks will not come to any conclusive results unless they involve only the relevant parties to the conflict through duly mandated delegates.

4. The talks shall address the following crucial issues, inter alia :

4.1 the re-establishment and/or the rehabilitation of the democratic institutions paralyzed and overthrown by both the coup attempt and the Convention of Governance. In other words, we advocate the election of the President of the Republic through universal



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suffrage and the reinstatement of the National Assembly in its constitutional rights.

4.2 the amalgamation between the FDD and carefully-selected elements of the current government army after the puschists and the criminals have been purged from the latter's ranks. The terms of the said merger shall be duly agreed upon and signed by the relevant warring factions involved.

4.3 the promotion of an environment that is conducive to the return and the rehabilitation of the refugees and the internally displaced people, both old and new, regardless of caseloads.

4.4 the prosecution of the masterminders of the coup attempt and the murderers of the late President NDADAYE as well as all those who will be found guilty of crimes against humanity committed and recorded before, on and after October 21, 1993.

5. In order to effectively check the subtle, 'dribs-and-drabs' genocide which the Tutsi monoethnic army continues to perpetrate, the CNDD hereby urges the UN to implement without further delay the UN Security Council's statement issued on January 29, 1996 whereby the Council stood "***ready (...) to consider taking appropriate steps under the UN Charter such as imposing an embargo on weapons and other strategic goods to Burundi (...)***".

We would submit that such an embargo does not apply to food commodities and medicine.

6. It should be noted, however, that for these embargo measures to effectively impact the Burundi situation they should apply to the flow of arms originating from UGANDA and RWANDA as well.

On behalf of CNDD,
Jérôme NDIHO
Spokesman.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ndiho', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.