

TANZANIA- BURUNDI SITUATION - Date: 1973 March 23, 12:50 (Friday)

https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1973DARES00987_b.html

1. TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN RESPONDED MARCH 22 TO ALLEGED STATEMENT BY BURUNDI FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE THAT BOMBED VILLAGES ARE INSIDE BURUNDI " ABOUT 500 METERS FROM TANZANIAN FRONTIER". GOT SPOKESMAN SAID ON- THE- SPOT CHECK BY KIGOMA REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ASCERTAINED " BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT" THAT VILLAGES IN QUESTION ARE INSIDE TANZANIA. SPOKES- MAN ADDED THAT GOT HAS PUT PLANE AT DISPOSAL OF BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA SO THAT HE CAN VISIT BOMBED VILLAGES AND SEE FOR HIMSELF.

2. ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS BURUNDI HAS ACCUSED TANZANIA OF HARBORING BURUNDI GUERRILLAS. MOST RECENT OCCASION WAS VISIT TO TANZANIA EARLY MARCH BY SIMBANANIYE (DAR ES SALAAM CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 02 DAR ES 00987 240516 Z 809). FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 22 THAT GOT HAD RECENTLY FLOWN SIMBANANIYE TO BORDER AREA IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT ALLEGATIONS HAVE NO BASIS. GOT IS, THEREFORE, PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY THAT CHARGES PERSIST.

3. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT NUMEROUS BURUNDI REFUGEES -- UPWARDS OF 10,000 -- ARE RESIDING INSIDE TANZANIA ALONG TANZANIA- BURUNDI BORDER. KNOWLEDGEABLE REFUGEE OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOME OF THESE REFUGEES ARE CROSSING INTO BURUNDI " TO SETTLE OLD SCORES". THIS MAY BE KIND OF ACTIVITY WHICH IS CAUSING SO MUCH CONCERN WITHIN GOB.

4. TANZANIAN REACTION TO BOMBING OF VILLAGES REMAINS AMBIVALENT. EDITORIAL IN MARCH 23 TANU- OWNED, SWAHILI- DAILY UHURU POINTED OUT THAT BURUNDI AND TANZANIA HAVE TRADITIONALLY ENJOYED FRIENDLY AND NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT " BURUNDI REFUGEES, LIKE OTHER AFRICAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA, HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROTECTION IN NAME OF HUMANITY. PROTECTION OF THESE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT SERVE AS PRETEXT BY BURUNDI TO ATTACK US. BURUNDI IS VERY CLOSE TO US, COUNTRY WHICH WE THOUGHT WAS FRIENDLY, COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAD CO- OPERATED IN EARLIER DAYS. TANZANIA WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSURED BY BURUNDI' S MILITARY GOVERNMENT THAT ITS FRIENDSHIP IS VALUED".

5. MARCH 23 UHURU ALSO RAN STORY CONCERNING RADIO UGANDA ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY SAID UGANDA PROMISED TO ASSIST BURUNDI BY PROVIDING MILITARY AID SHOULD BURUNDI BE ATTACKED BY TANZANIA. IN REPLY TO THIS REPORT, GOT SPOKESMAN SAID PUBLICLY THAT " WITHOUT DOUBT UGANDA' S MILITARY REGIME IS LOOKING FOR PRETEXT TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI".

6. LOCAL NEWSMAN WHO HAS BEEN DISCUSSING INCIDENT WITH VARIOUS TANZANIAN SOURCES REPORTS THAT SOME TANZANIANS ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS COLLUSION BETWEEN UGANDA AND BURUNDI AGAINST TANZANIA. NEWSMAN ADDED THAT GOT IS ESPECIALLY ANGERED BY BURUNDI CHARGES THAT TANZANIA IS ASSISTING IN TRAINING OF BURUNDI GUERRILLAS.

7. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THERE IS ANY COORDINATED EFFORT BY BURUNDI AND UGANDA AIMED AT TANZANIA, BUT BELIEVE IT IS CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 03 DAR ES 00987 240516 Z SIGNIFICANT THAT SOME TANZANIANS PERCEIVE THIS TO BE CASE. WE ALSO BELIEVE GOT WISHES TO CLOSE FILE ON THIS INCIDENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT MAY BE RESTRAINED FROM DOING SO BEFORE OBTAINING ADMISSION FROM GOB THAT IT BOMBED VILLAGES INSIDE TANZANIA. CARTER CONFIDENTIAL

TANZANIA- BURUNDI INCIDENT - Date: 1973 March 26, 12:45 (Monday)

https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1973DARES01023_b.html

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF INCIDENT NEAR TANZANIA/ BURUNDI BORDER CONTINUE TO BE CONTRADICTORY, GOT IS MORE INSISTENT THAN EVER THAT ATTACK TOOK PLACE INSIDE TANZANIA. WHEREAS GOT WAS INITIALLY ANXIOUS TO END MATTER, IT NOW TAKING MORE STRIDENT LINE AS RESULT OF BURUNDI' S FAILURE TO ADMIT GUILT AND OFFER APOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2. **GOVERNMENT- OWNED DAILY NEWS REPORTED MARCH 26 THAT 45 PERSONS, NOT 36 AS NOTED EARLIER, WERE KILLED IN RAID ON TANZANIAN VILLAGES.** KIGOMA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, PETER NDOBHO, SAID IN DAR ES SALAAM ON MARCH 25 TOTAL OF 56 HOUSES WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 02 DAR ES 01023 261952 Z DESTROYED AFTER BEING ELIBERATELY SET ON FIRE BY GROUP OF TUTSI WHO WERE ACTING AS COMPLEMENTARY FORCE TO " **STRAFING AIRPLANE**". NDOBHO GAVE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS: AT MUBARAZI, BILLAGE ABOUT ONE- QUARTER MILE FROM BORDER, 22 PEOPLE WERE KILUPD AND 22 HOUSES BURNED DOWN, KIBUTI VILLAGE, ABOUT ONE MILE FROM BORDER, LOST 19 PEOPLE AND 30 HOUSES. KIHORO VILLAGE, AL ONGEST RUNWAY 60 H FACILITIES AND SERVICING: BL4 FUEL OCTANE: 100/30 REMARKS: ATTENDED 0700-2100 LOCAL TIME. CUSTOMS AVAILABLE 0830 - 1730 DAILY. SPEAR UNCLASSIFIED

TANZANIA PROTESTS TO FRANCE - Date: 1973 March 28, 11:35 (Wednesday)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Bureau of African Affairs | Burundi | Commander in Chief
European Command Vaihingen Germany | France | Kenya | Rwanda | Secretary of State |
Uganda | United Kingdom 2835

[https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1973DARES01053_b.html]

1. GOT FONMIN MALECELA SUMMONED FRENCH AMBASSADOR DESPARMET MARCH 27 AT WHICH TIME HE EXPRESSED TANZANIA' S GRAVE CONCERN AT REPORTED ARMS SALES TO UGANDA. MALECELA OUTLINED DANGER SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE FOR PEACE OF REGION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED GOT INDIGNATION AT REPORT THAT **FRENCH PILOTS FLEW BURUNDI MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH ATTACKED TANZANIAN VILLAGES TWO WEEKS AGO**. ACCORDING TO FONMIN STATEMENT, FRENCH AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO CONVEY THESE POINTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. GOVERNMENT- OWNED DAILY NEWS CITING SOURCES " CLOSE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT" REPORTED MARCH 28 THAT GOF HAS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 02 DAR ES 01053 281405 Z YET AUTHORIZED ARMS SALE TO UGANDA. SOURCES SAID IT IS EASIER, THEREFORE, FOR GOF TO BLOCK ORDER OR ABROGATE DEAL THAN IF GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY COMMITTED ITSELF.

3. EDITORIAL IN MARCH 28 DAILY NEWS HIT HARD AT PROPOSED UGANDAN ARMS PURCHASE NOTING THAT SALE WOULD " DRASTICALLY ALTER MILITARY SITUATION IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA". PROPOSED SALE WOULD GIVE AMIN CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT SOME OF HIS THREATS AGAINST NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY TANZANIA AND RWANDA. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: " **FRENCH DISPLAYED CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR PLIGHT OF AFRICANS IN THEIR DECISION TO CONTINUE TO SELL ARMS TO FASCIST SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. LET THEM CORRECT THEMSELVES THIS TIME ROUND. FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHOULD PREVENT DELIVERY OF THESE ARMS WHICH WOULD SO GRAVELY THREATEN ALREADY DELICATE PEACE IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**".

4. COMMENT: SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIAL ADMITTED TO EMBOFF MARCH 27 THAT TANZANIA HAS LOOKED OTHER WAY, EXCEPT FOR COMORO ISLAND ISSUE, WHEN FRANCE HAS TAKEN ACTION CONTRARY TO INTERESTS OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN NATIONS. SHOULD FRANCE APPROVE ARMS SALE TO UGANDA AND SHOULD ALLEGATIONS PROVE CORRECT CONCERNING INVOLVEMENT FRENCH PILOTS IN ATTACK ON TANZANIAN VILLAGES, OFFICIAL IMPLIED THAT TANZANIA' S ATTITUDE TOWARD FRANCE MAY BECOME NOTICEABLY MORE CRITICAL. EDITORIAL NOTED ABOVE MAY BE HARBINGER THIS CHANGED ATTITUDE. CARTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE *** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a *** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BURUNDI APOLOGIZES TO TANZANIA - Date: 1973 April 4, 12:10 (Wednesday)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Brussels, Belgium | Bureau of African Affairs | Bujumbura, Burundi | Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo | Nairobi, Kenya | Kigali, Rwanda | Secretary of State | Kampala, Uganda | London, United Kingdom | United Nations (Geneva) | United Nations (New York) 3249

https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/1973DARES01135_b.html

1. APRIL 4 TANZANIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTED **BURUNDI APOLOGY FOR MARCH 15 ATTACK ON TANZANIAN VILLAGES WHICH LEFT 74 PEOPLE DEAD**. BURUNDI AMBASSADOR MANGONA, FOLLOWING RECENT VISIT TO VILLAGES, CALLED ON GOT FONMIN MALECELA APRIL 3 IN ORDER CONVEY GOB " SINCERE APOLOGIES" OVER INCIDENT. MANGONA ADMITTED THAT ATTACK TOOK PLACE INSIDE TANZANIA, ADDING THAT BURUNDI SECURITY FORCES HAD ORDERS TO CONDUCT POLICE OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS INSIDE SOUTHERN PART OF BURUNDI. UNFAMILIARITY WITH BORDER LED TO ATTACK IN TANZANIA. MANGONA SAID GOB WILL DO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 02 DAR ES 01135 042155 Z EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENT AND WILL PAY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.
2. MALECELA SAID TANZANIA ACCEPTS GOB APOLOGY, ADDING BARB THAT TANZANIA' S BORDER WITH BURUNDI IS WELL MARKED. HE SHARED MANGONA' S VIEW THAT INCIDENT WAS ISOLATED ONE BUT EMPHASIZED " IT SHOULD NEVER BE REPEATED".
3. GOVERNMENT- OWNED DAILY NEWS REPORTED ON MARCH 31 THAT TANZANIAN VILLAGERS ALONG TANZANIA- BURUNDI BORDER IN KIGOMA REGION HAD APPEALED TO TANU AND GOVERNMENT FOR MILITIA TRAINING IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ENEMIES. KIGOMA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER SAID PLANS ARE UNDER WAY TO PROVIDE REQUESTED TRAINING. VILLAGERS ALSO URGED GOVERNMENT TO MOVE BURUNDI REFUGEES FROM BORDER AREA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
4. EMBASSY UNABLE TO CONFIRM RUMOR APRIL 3 THAT TANZANIA HAD QUIETLY STOPPED ALL TRANSIT OF GOODS TO AND FROM BURUNDI, PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRESSURE FOR OBTAINING APOLOGY FROM GOB.
5. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW TANGOV HANDLED THIS INCIDENT WITH USUALLY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR IN DEFT, SKILLFUL MANNER. TANZANIA CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED SITE OF ATTACK BEFORE ACCUSING GOB. WHEN BURUNDI FONMIN DENIED CHARGES, TANZANIA SLOWLY STEPPED UP VERBAL CHARGES AND INSISTED THAT BURUNDI AMBASSADOR IN TANZANIA VISIT SITE. DURING INTERVAL BETWEEN BURUNDI AMBASSADOR' S AGREEMENT TO VISIT SITE AND DELIVERY OF HIS APOLOGY TO GOT, TANZANIA RELAXED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, THOUGH MAY HAVE HINTED EFFECTIVELY AT POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC BLOCKADE GOODS DESTINED FOR BURUNDI. ULTIMATELY, TANZANIA NOT ONLY RECEIVED GRACIOUS APOLOGY BUT PROMISE BY GOB TO PAY COMPENSATION. EMBASSY BELIEVES BURUNDI- TANZANIAN RELATIONS WILL QUICKLY RETURN TO NORMAL, BARRING ADDITIONAL UNEXPECTED INCIDENTS. CARTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE *** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a *** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE