

+DOKUMENTNOMMER.

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AFHANDELINGSVOORRANG/BELANGRIKHEID

Prioriteit

+KODES.

COD MIN

+LEERNOMMER.

GEEN

+SEKERHEIDSKLASSIFIKASIE.

Geheim

+DATUM.

19981009/11:59

+AFSENDER.

kin000 Charge d'Affaires a.i. : DJ Wiid

+ONTVANGER VIR AKSIE.

AA72 Subdir: East Africa : KC Keepile

+ONTVANGER TER INLIGTING.

AA71 Subdir: Central Africa : CG vd Walt

DCEI Dir: Central, East Africa etc:WLE Brewis

CDEI Chief Dir: Equatorial Africa etc: J Marx

ADDG Dep Director General Africa: AL Mongalo

DIRG Director General : J Selebi

ADJM Deputy Ministry : A Pahad

MINR Ministry :

MA82 Chemical, Biological etc :

+ONDERWERP/VERRYKING.

DRC:ENQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED DELIVERY OF HELICOPTERS TO BURUNDI

VERSEND AAN

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+INHOUD.

1. The following Note Verbale, No 130.Ae/01039/CND/MUP/98 dated 07 October 1998, was delivered to the Embassy late on 19981008 and emanated from the Office of the Deputy Minister :

Quote (office translation)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo presents its compliments to the South African Embassy in Kinshasa and wishes to obtain from the latter clarification regarding information received from different witnesses with regard to the delivery of two helicopters, registration numbers RA 20150 Type AR, RA 20151 Type AR and a third helicopter, type anti-missile Gazelle.

These helicopters were transported to Bujumbura on 11 September 1998 by two ANTONOV aeroplanes which came from South Africa.

Prior to the arrival of these two Antonovs, a commercial plane belonging to the "AIR GRANDS LACS" Company, delivered arms and ammunitions from South Africa.

Taking into consideration the participation of Burundian troops on the side of the Ugandan/Rwandese coalition in the fighting which is taking place in the South-Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its concern regarding the utilization of these arms against the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.

Unquote

2. It would be appreciated if these allegations could be investigated as a matter of urgency and the Embassy be provided with a suitable response. Receipt has not yet been acknowledged by the Embassy.
3. These allegations are being perceived by the Embassy as extremely serious. Already the Embassy has been confronted with accusations at Ministerial level. In separate discussions with both Foreign Minister Okoto and Deputy Minister Mbawkiem, on October 8, they expressed strong disappointment of South Africa's stance against what they perceive as foreign aggression by Uganda and Rwanda and specifically that South Africa did not condemn these countries when the hostilities started. It was mentioned in no uncertain terms that South Africa will have to adopt a position vis-a-vis the ongoing hostilities, i.e. for or against the DRC. These allegations of sophisticated aerial armaments delivered by/via South Africa to Burundi will further strengthen their critical stance towards South Africa. (Separate report to follow)
4. Comments by Dr Brewis (DCEI)

The statement in the abovementioned note that Burundian troops have joined the Rwandan/Ugandan "coalition" in combat operation in the DRC, tallies with intelligence received from the SANDF that two Burundian Infantry Battalions (identified by their Regimental numbers) had crossed into the DRC.

EINDE