

Attachment 1 to minutes no. 654 of 04.05.94 of the Brussels Legal Detachment

On 04 May 1994 at 11.30 we heard

GEBOERS: Karel Frans, married to Rita Van de Wal
Soldier – born in Lommel on 24.04.54,
Domiciled at 3900 Lommel, Einde no. 104

MU 1 mat. A/38721 – belonging to the
C.T.M. - Sv JSO – EMG at Evere

who stated to us:

“I wish to speak in Dutch and use this language for legal matters.

I am aware of your capacity and the inquiry with which you are concerned.

From 24 August 1993 until my evacuation, mid April 1994, I was part of the C.T.M stationed at Kigali. The Belgian families lived in Niyarutarama. I carried out my professional activities at the Kigali camp itself. These consisted of training musicians.

You are asking me questions concerning events which happened in Rwanda, more precisely on the attack on the presidential aircraft and the murder of 10 Belgian soldiers who formed part of the MINUAR peace force. You are asking me for my personal experiences and the circumstances on this subject.

At C.T.M the propaganda issued by the local station “Mille Collines” was regularly discussed and which was directed against the Belgians in general. For myself, I did not use to listen to these transmissions. But I learnt about them from colleagues. That is how I was told that over the transmitter in question, the natives were advised to look for money there where they were, by making allusions to the Belgians.

As to your questions concerning the start of this propaganda, I can say that it was already the case sometime before the attack against the president. After what I was told it was a Belgian who was the base of the broadcast of these releases. However I was not told the name.

From contacts that I had with the natives, both civil and military, I could at no time deduce that an attack against the President was imminent. The attack on the President was therefore in my view for the most part a complete surprise. I was well aware of the local difficulties such as the formation of a new government – the elections and the fact that the President was considered as a controversial person.

On Wednesday 6 April 1994 at 18.14, I learnt from Dr Pasuck over my own radio network then there was some gunfire in his area. The gunfire was fairly serious since he said that he, with his family and some visitors, had had to take up a position in a corridor without a window.

That must have been fairly close to the time of the attack on the presidential aircraft. After having heard this warning, I went to our local radio station. There from this moment a campaign log was kept.

Around the same time, A C130 was due to land at Kigali. The radio operator had made radio contact with the crew of the aircraft and advised them to continue to Burundi. Relatively quickly after the attack, serious gunfire began in the camp of Kanonbe and Kasyiru, that is in the direction of the positions of the FPR. From the place where we were we had a view over the FPR positions, located around 300 metres further off. These only began to fire when they were under mortar fire.

The members of the FPR showed a lot of confidence. For five days we continue to occupy our quarters at Niyarutarama. Later on we learnt over our own radio network or by CNN, that 10 Belgian soldiers responsible for the security of Prime Minister Agathe were being held. I do not know why they had been captured, but I suspect that it was members of FAR since our Belgian soldiers had been taken to the Kigali camp.

Now that I think about it, I doubt that we had been advised of the day of this capture. That could quite easily have been later. From what source that happened, I cannot be precise. You can find this type of information in the campaign log. Later however I learned that Colonel Dewe had given the order to his 10 men to surrender their weapons and to remain calm. We were not informed of the measures taken and of what the military authorities had done following the capture. As regards the nature of the weapons of the Rwanda army, I can say nothing to you. I have nothing further to state.”

After reading, signs in our information record.