

HEARING REPORT

Attachment A/1 to Minutes No. 1223 of 09/11/95

Legal police service at the Military Court

On 09/11/95 at 14.05 hours heard by me the reporting officer:

IDENTITY:

Surname and Christian names: VICENT Andre, Jules Alex

Place and date of birth: BRUXELLES on 07/10/41

Profession: Career soldier Civil status: Married

Address: Chemin du PACHY 10 1380 LASNE

For servicemen

Rank and roll number: Col 94689

Unit: SGR

Who has stated:

I wish to express myself in French and choose this language for legal proceedings.

Question 1: Can you confirm the information that appeared in "DE MORGEN" on 04 and 06 November 1995 presenting the fact that certain Belgian officers, including yourself, continued to have close relations with key figures in the regime, during the period of the MINUAR.

Reply 1: Given that the mission was down to cooperation (CTM) it was a vital and logical that I should maintain contact with those responsible for various institutions there, in particular the army. Certain Belgian officers assumed certain functions within the Rwandan army. They were heads of certain cooperation projects which were known within Belgian ministerial circles.

Question 2. Apart from your mission for the CTM did you also exercise the functions of information officer for the benefit of SGR?

Under this heading did you transmit reports to your chiefs in BRUSSELS?

Reply 2. Yes, I looked after information missions for the benefit of SGR, but I must state that I did that since I carried out functions within the CTM in Rwanda. This mission was not specific to the presence of the MINUAR. As regards the reports, it is true that I communicated any interesting information to SGR and by various routes. I wish to state that CTM was independent of MINUAR, it depended upon JSO/G/C as regards everything, logistics and personnel management, except as regards the management of information which was transmitted to SGR.

Question 3. Is it true that you were in contact with superior Rwandan officers, in particular Colonel NDINDILIHIMANA, to the point that you helped some of these officers to find refuge in BELGIUM after the events?

Reply 3. It is true that I was in contact with this Colonel who became General, commander-in-chief of the police but I never helped this person nor any others to go to BELGIUM. Besides I did not have the resources and I no longer had the power to do it

Question 4. What were your contacts with Colonel MARCHAL during the period of December 1993 to April 1994?

Reply 4. The contacts were limited following directives issued by the General Chief of staff, demanding that we limit these contacts in order to guarantee neutrality of MINUAR in its actions. CTM being close, given its actions, to the Rwandan army it was necessary to avoid our contacts with MINUAR being interpreted as taking a MINUAR position in favour of the current regime.

Question 5. Did you keep Colonel MARCHAL up to speed with the changing situation?

Reply 5. From a professional point of view I never had contact with Colonel MARCHAL. I respected the orders of the commander-in-chief. Any contacts that I had with him were limited to private contacts. I only met him officially once or twice at the time of the meeting at the embassy, at the start of his presence.

Question 6. Did you inform Colonel MARCHAL of the following:

- Blockage of the peace agreements (see statement Lt Col BEAUDOIN (meeting one or two months before the attack, 10 days before the attack) and PV 651*)
- Anti Belgian slogans (PV 651)
- Mission that became impossible to carry out
- Imminent civil war

Reply 6. It is true that on 09 February 1995 I attended a meeting organised together by General NSABIMANA and myself, where also present were the Belgian Ambassador, Colonel MARCHAL, President HABYARIMANA, the Rwandan defence Minister BIZIMANA, as well as some Rwandan and Belgian officers. The aim of the meeting was to calm the actions of the RTLM which was attacking not only MINUAR but also all of the Belgian community. The result of this meeting was disappointing. At the time of the meeting the Rwandan President put forward the principle of freedom of the press and media. What Lt Col BEAUDOIN has stated would have been said during group discussions at which I was not a party.

You have read me the statement of Lt Col BEAUDOIN regarding the meeting one week before the attack and of what he said in particular about the refusal by officers of the Rwandan army of the ARUSHA accords and their desire to suppress the FPR and the possibility of eliminating the Tutsis, I can reply to you that it is true that for them the ARUSHA accords meant the hand of the FPR in institutions there given the planned division of portfolios within the government and of seats within the national assembly. In these agreements after 22 months general election were planned at all levels, town, legislative and presidential. After the elections the accords did not set out anything. FPR, not being able to win these elections and constituting an ethnic minority, would find itself reduced to the same portion, a situation that it could not accept. Consequently, during the transition the FPR would try to have a dominant position allowing it not to proceed with these elections. In the absence of guarantees of the holding of the elections and the result of the elections the Hutus did not accept the ARUSHA accords. In summary the ARUSHA accords were obsolete given the absence of guarantees after the elections. As to the effect that the problem of elimination of the Tutsis was mentioned I did not attend this discussion and I did not hear this view, at that time. I did not inform Colonel MARCHAL about this. He never asked me,
[line(s) missing]

Attachment A/3 to Minutes No. 1223 of 09/11/94
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Question 7. Did you attend a dinner on 05 April 94 at the time of the Senegal National fair? Were you aware of what was said there by Colonel BAGOSORA?

Reply 7. No, at that time I was on leave in Zanzibar from 03 April to 11th April 94.

Read and signed hereunder at 15.40 hours

Signature

6/646