

Rwandans face horrors, fears on return home

KIGALI, Rwanda—Melanie Nyiranzabonimana had to choose between two fears—the certain horror of what she knew and the horror rumored to await her if she returned to Rwanda. She decided that nothing could be worse than what she'd lived through. On Tuesday, she was one of about 800 to board yellow trucks for the trip home. "All our husbands died of cholera or dysentery in the camps," said Nyiranzabonimana, 38, who also lost five of her seven children. "I'm more afraid of famine." Though she said she was happy to be back in Kigali, she admitted she didn't know how her group of about 30 women and children would find food or shelter.

"There are so few men. Most of them were killed," she said. The returnees were ferried Tuesday the 90 miles from near Goma, Zaire, by about a dozen yellow cargo trucks. As many as 30,000 people have died of disease and famine in refugee camps near Goma.

Most of the returnees were women and young children, survivors of the 14-week civil war in which Tutsi rebels toppled the Hutus and installed a new government. The new leaders' vow to prosecute for war crimes and unsubstantiated rumors of new atrocities have frightened many Hutus from returning.

A high-profile project to repatriate 144 Hutus from the Mugunga camp, home to the defeated Rwandan army, was canceled Tuesday after they refused to leave.

Camp elders and soldiers, who see repatriation as treason, "said they would kill them if they left," according to U.N. spokesman Panos Mourtzis. "They wanted to see the list" of refugees wanting to leave.

Even the estimated 5,000 people crossing back to Rwanda daily is only a tiny fraction of the estimated 800,000 remaining refugees who fled the civil war last month.

Altman quits as deputy treasury secretary

WASHINGTON—Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman, accused of misleading Congress with his Whitewater testimony, resigned today, the White House said. The Treasury's top lawyer, Jean Hanson, also is expected to step down.

White House Press Secretary Dee Myers said Altman, an old friend of President Clinton, told Clinton about his decision.

Meanwhile, administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Hanson has told colleagues she will step down, but not immediately. The officials said the resignation is expected this week.

Rejecting suggestions that Altman was forced out, Myers said, "This was Roger Altman's decision."

The two are the latest casualties in the Whitewater affair, which stems from a real estate venture between the Clintons and the owner of a failed Arkansas savings and loan.

Altman, who spoke today at cere-

monies where a postage stamp was unveiled, declined to comment when questioned later by reporters about his future.

Altman, a former Wall Street investment banker, is a close friend of the Clintons from their days at Georgetown University. He was an early star in the administration when he helped steer the president's budget through Congress last year. At one point, he was mentioned as a possible successor to Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

Earlier in the week, the administration floated the name of Frank Newman, undersecretary of the Treasury for domestic finance, as a possible replacement for Altman.

Altman and Hanson have long been rumored to be leaving. A third Treasury official under fire, Joshua Steiner, apparently will remain as Bentsen's chief of staff. There is a slight possibility he could be reassigned, aides said.

Hanson testified that Altman or-

dered her to brief the White House about the confidential Whitewater investigation involving the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Altman said he did not recall giving her that direction.

She also was rebuked for not immediately correcting Altman's testimony about White House contacts with Treasury officials, which later proved to be incomplete.

Republicans have accused Altman of giving confidential information about the Whitewater investigation to White House aides last February. Altman originally acknowledged a single contact on Whitewater but later information showed there were at least 40.

Testifying this month, Altman said he regretted that his original statement "may appear too narrow or perhaps incomplete."

Administration officials pointedly questioned whether Altman could restore his credibility with Congress.

Republicans demanded his resignation. White House officials have privately pressed for Altman's resignation.

Key senators, including Sen. Don Riegle, D-Mich., and Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., told White House officials two weeks ago that Altman had to go.

The resignation makes Altman the latest casualty of the Whitewater affair. Another old Clinton friend, Bernard Nussbaum, resigned under pressure this spring as White House Counsel. Arkansas lawyer Webb Hubbell resigned as associate attorney general amid questions about his involvement.

The jobs of two other Treasury Department officials, counsel Jean Hanson and Joshua Steiner, chief of staff for Bentsen, are in jeopardy. A group of Republicans urged Bentsen to fire them last week.

The official said Hanson's resignation was not expected as soon as Altman's.

Baseball owners won't turn to replacement players

NEW YORK—Unlike the NFL owners did in 1987, baseball owners won't use replacement players.

"It's not something anybody has considered seriously at all. It's not about to happen," management negotiator Richard Ravitch said Tuesday. "Both the players and the owners found in football the public wasn't terribly interested."

Baseball's longest midseason stoppage since 1981 entered its sixth day today, wiping out 14 games and raising the total canceled to 74.

If there's no settlement by Friday—and a quick deal doesn't appear likely—the strike would become baseball's second-longest in terms of canceled games. The 1981 strike wiped out 712 games.

No new talks are scheduled, but Ravitch said the federal mediators probably would call a meeting for later in the week. The sides haven't met formally since last Friday, the first day of baseball's eighth work stoppage since 1972.

"It's not uncustomary in a labor negotiation after a strike begins," Ravitch said.

Executive council chairman Bud Selig, speaking by telephone from his office in Milwaukee, agreed with Ravitch's view that replacement players wouldn't be a solution for baseball owners, saying his negotiator's view was correct.

Replacement players were used by NFL owners for three weeks during the pro football strike of 1987, causing the union to end the strike and fight its battle in court. But baseball teams play six times a week instead of once, making it more expensive to open stadiums if crowds and television ratings are small.

Ravitch said the situations of the NFL and major league baseball weren't ripe for comparison.

"Baseball is the quintessential American sport. Everything is highlighted," he said. "If there's a dispute in hockey or basketball, do you think that the federal government is excited about it?"

With the slow progress of negotiations, players and owners are prepared not to come back this season. The Toronto Blue Jays held their end-of-season organizational meetings Tuesday.

"In some ways, I guess it did feel like the end of the season, but we were just taking advantage of available time," assistant general manager Gord Ash said. "We all want to see a completion to the season, but those of us who went through this in '81 are aware there's different phases."

Meanwhile, Seattle Mariners pitcher Jim Converse became the second player on strike to be sent to the minors, joining Chicago Cubs pitcher Steve Trachsel, who was sent down

STRIKE SCOREBOARD

Baseball owners ruled out the idea of using replacement players during the strike.

DAYS LOST	PAY LOST since strike (highest-paid player)
7	Bobby Bonilla, N.Y. Mets \$5,700,000 \$218,033
GAMES LOST	PAY LOST since strike (minimum salary)
86	Minimum salaried player \$109,000 \$4,169

Salaries listed do not include prorated shares of signing bonuses or other guaranteed income, or incentive bonuses earned or money lost because of lost opportunities for incentive bonuses.

Firefighters work to contain California fire, but some areas are too dangerous

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.—A blaze that raged across 65 square miles of central California was one-half contained today, but some hot spots in the rugged, hilly area remained too dangerous to attack.

Calmer winds helped the 2,300 firefighters battling the 45,500-acre blaze, which has destroyed 31 houses and six mobile homes and caused about \$10 million in damage. An arsonist started the blaze Sunday at a campground.

"Baby pictures, everything. My whole life is gone," said George Sullivan as he picked among the ruins of his home. "It's like being an undocumented person."

Hundreds of people who had been forced to flee as flames raced through the oak-studded canyons were allowed to return Tuesday night. Highway 101, a major north-south route, was reopened. Highway 41 remained closed along a 10-mile east-west stretch.

Firefighters dropped water by aircraft and dug fire lines to combat the blaze—California's largest this year—about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. At least 13 firefighters sus-

Western wildfires

States currently having uncontrolled or uncontained fires:



1. Washington
2. Oregon
3. Idaho
4. Montana
5. California
6. Utah
7. Arizona

tained minor injuries.

Twenty-seven major fires have burned more than 388,000 acres in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington state, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Lawyers clash over Simpson DNA

LOS ANGELES—Rival attorneys in the O.J. Simpson double-murder case clashed angrily today over a slip-up over DNA testing that prosecutors said could result in critical genetic evidence not being ready in time for trial.

In the most emotional sparring of the case, defense attorneys suggested prosecutors have been lying

to the Simpson camp and asked the judge to force prosecutors to explain why they shouldn't be held in contempt of court.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, her voice wavering at times, said she hasn't been withholding evidence from the defense.

Lawyers argued after Clark revealed that, unknown to her, some of

the blood samples collected by authorities weren't delivered to a Maryland laboratory and still needed to be tested. She wanted some of those untested samples to be analyzed at a state lab in Berkeley; it wasn't clear in the discussion why that lab was chosen.

Shapiro said he doubted whether Clark was telling the truth.

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