

## Aid reaches starving refugees in Zaire

### United Nations and UNICEF are working to provide relief to millions of Rwanda.

GOMA, Zaire (AP) — Security guards with sticks beat hundreds of hungry residents back from the entrance to a food warehouse Wednesday, as Zairians scrambled for the crumbs of the first aid to arrive in more than two weeks.

Nearly a month after fighting broke out in eastern Zaire between Tutsi rebels and the Zairian army, neither food nor medical aid has reached the 1.1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees.

Sixteen trucks and jeeps came in from neighboring Rwanda on Monday,

but the 16 tons of beans and rice they carried were just a drop in this region's ocean of need.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Wednesday that Canada has agreed to lead a military contingent that could bring up to 20,000 troops to try to restore calm and aid refugees in eastern Zaire.

He said details of the proposed Canadian-led military intervention are still being settled.

"People are taking between 10,000 and 20,000 (troops)," Boutros-Ghali told reporters, speaking in Rome the day before the opening of the U.N. World Food Summit. He would not estimate when the first soldiers could arrive.

Canadian officials say they have committed 180 soldiers in a Disaster

Assistance Response Team and expressed a willingness to provide 1,500 additional troops.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien spoke to 15 world leaders over the weekend, trying to firm up participation in the force, his aides said.

Desperation was increasing even among Goma's 80,000 residents, thought to be slightly better off than the refugees.

"We come here every day just in case there are some beans or rice for us," said Muhima Kishuba, a 35-year-old Zairian teacher and father of four.

"There's hardly any food at the market, and we have no money to buy it with anyway," he said, as he stood outside Goma's main food aid compound. "There are many hungry people in Goma."

Michele Quintaglie, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Program, said aid representatives were negotiating with the rebels who control Goma, as well as the Zairian cities of Bukavu and Uvira farther south, to try to get the food to the people who need it.

"At this pace, it's going to be nearly impossible to get aid to the thousands who need to be reached," she said.

International aid workers fled the chaos in Goma and Bukavu more than two weeks ago and have not yet been allowed back in.

An estimated 100,000 Hutu refugees scattered in the hills above Uvira need food but are afraid to come down, and more than 60,000 refugees are reported to be converging on Kisangani, 330 miles northwest of Goma, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

UNICEF and other aid agencies now plan to airlift emergency aid from the Zairian capital of Kinshasa to Kisangani, U.N. spokeswoman Ruth Marshall said.

At Goma's main hospital, workers struggled to get by without electricity, running water, medicines or supplies. More than half the staff has fled. Shelling wrecked the last ambulance, and the hospital's 40 remaining patients lay in rancid-smelling wards.

Issues of politics, sovereignty and security all stand in the way of getting aid to the hungry Zairians and the Rwandan refugees.

U.N. agencies and international aid organizations have flown supplies into neighboring Rwanda, but delivery has been stalled by lack of access to the area and security problems.

## Senator calls for buyer awareness

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Americans watch their children unwrap gifts this holiday season, they should think of the youngsters who probably made them for pennies a day in foreign countries, Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin said Wednesday.

He and consumer advocate Ralph Nader asked parents to avoid buying toys and other gifts that could have been made in countries with widespread abusive child labor.

"It's ironic that when consumers buy a can of tuna fish, they know if dolphins are protected, but when they buy their holiday gifts, they don't know if children are protected," Harkin, a Democrat, said.

"In this country, child labor is illegal," Nader said. "But child labor abroad can produce items like carpets and sell them legally in this country."

Harkin advised shoppers to:  
• Look for a "Made in the USA" label. While such a label does not guarantee a product wasn't made through "child exploitation or other labor abuses," he said, child labor is largely a problem with foreign-made goods.

• Ask retailers what steps they're taking to stock products that are not made by children and urge them to carry products that are certified "child labor free."

• Contact manufacturers directly and the celebrities who endorse their products to ask what they're doing to ensure their products were not made with child labor.

• Call trade groups and local chambers of commerce to urge them to support independent monitoring efforts. Tell friends and neighbors about the problem and urge them to get involved.

• Ask their elected officials to support a bill Harkin will introduce that would ask manufacturers to voluntarily label their sporting goods and clothing products as free of child labor.

About 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working in developing countries, according to the International Labour Organization. About 61 percent of child workers are in Asia, 32 percent are in Africa and 7 percent live in Latin America, the group said.

"The caring consumer must be willing to inquire, to suggest or to protest."

U.S. REP. GEORGE MILLER

"The caring consumer must be willing to inquire, to suggest or to protest," Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., said in a written statement. "If enough consumers take these steps, companies will respond."

Harkin said he also will reintroduce another bill that would ban importation of goods made through abusive child labor when Congress reconvenes in January. The bill drew little support during the 104th Congress.

## Russia, NATO negotiate new ties

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Russia accepted a NATO overture Wednesday to negotiate ties with the military alliance but denounced its plans to expand eastward as likely to divide Europe again.

"We continue to be against NATO enlargement," Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said at a joint news conference with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana. "This is based on the firm belief that enlargement of NATO will lead to a new division of Europe."

He added: "We think security should be individual; security should extend to all of Europe."

But Primakov said Russia was willing to hold talks with NATO on a new relationship with the alliance provided the result is a document that "deals with our concerns."

He did not appear to be mollified by NATO's pledge Tuesday not to deploy nuclear weapons in Central and Eastern Europe when former Soviet

allies are accepted as members.

Solana, for his part, said he had reaffirmed to the Russian minister NATO's intention of building "a good partnership with our Russian friends."

Solana said NATO would like to have the relationship worked out by this summer's planned summit meeting when potential new members are invited to begin bargaining for membership. The summit is set for Madrid July 8-9.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Warren Christopher assured a nervous Russia that nuclear weapons would not be deployed in Eastern and Central Europe if NATO proceeds with an eastward expansion.

But the former Soviet allies would be backed by the nuclear-armed United States and the rest of NATO if they are attacked, American officials said.

Christopher offered the assurance to Russia in his ninth and final speech to the North Atlantic Council. He is retiring next month.

"We are declaring that in today's Europe, NATO has no intention, no plan and no need to station nuclear weapons on the territory of any new members," Christopher said. "We are affirming that no NATO nuclear forces are presently on alert."

In a meeting Tuesday night with Christopher the Russian foreign minister did not shrink from criticizing NATO's plan. "We treat this negatively," he told Christopher in an 80-minute meeting at NATO headquarters.

Under the NATO charter the United States and the 15 other current members "will enjoy the protection that comes with NATO membership," including nuclear weapons, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said later.

Burns also stressed NATO would not be deterred from expanding eastward, whatever Russia's views. "No country will have a veto," he said.

## Study shows drop in campus crime rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — With three out of four campuses employing police officers with arrest power, the nation's colleges have far lower violent and property crime rates than the country as a whole, the Justice Department reported Wednesday.

In its first study of campus law enforcement, the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics found that there were 64 violent crimes and 2,141 property crimes reported to police for every 100,000 students in 1994, the most recent year with complete data.

By comparison, in the nation as a whole that year, there were 716 violent crimes and 4,656 property crimes for every 100,000 residents.

The bureau surveyed public and private four-year institutions with 2,500 or more students last year. These schools enrolled four out of five of the nation's nearly 9 million college students.

"The reason the campus crime rates are so low is that colleges and universities have recruited huge numbers of security personnel to protect students,"

said Jack Levin, a professor of criminology and sociology at Northeastern University in Boston. "You can't sell an expensive college education to parents who believe their children aren't going to be safe, so colleges in urban settings have become armed camps. And it's working very well."

Colleges and universities last year employed nearly 11,000 full-time sworn police officers, who had been given general arrest powers by a state or local government, the statistics bureau found.

## New law relies on others for getting rid of guns

The Associated Press

A new federal law to take guns away from anyone ever convicted of domestic abuse may have to rely heavily on the honor system for enforcement.

Experts estimate there are hundreds of thousands of people with past abuse convictions. No one can say for sure how many of them have guns.

And the law, which took effect Sept. 30, doesn't actually require federal, state or local police agencies to look for the weapons.

Many such agencies just don't have the time, the manpower, the records or the practical means to systematically find and seize the guns.

"I don't know how we would do that," said Sgt. C.L. Williams, chief of the Dallas Police Department's family violence unit. "Call up Mary Jones and say, 'Hi, does Steve still have a gun in the house?'"

If a convicted abuser gets caught with a gun after running afoul of the law again, police can, of course, seize the weapon. But as for the other hundreds of thousands of people subject to the law, police departments can only hope that those gun owners will get rid of their weapons on their own.

The law applies to anyone with a misdemeanor conviction for using or attempting to use force against an intimate partner or family member. Violators can get up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The first known use of the law occurred Wednesday, involving a man who bought a gun at a pawn shop and wounded his wife two years after being convicted of assaulting her, said Stephen Rapp, U.S. attorney in Iowa.

William M. Smith, 20, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was charged with violating the gun law. He was already under arrest in the shooting.

Catching violators in any sys-

tematic way would be difficult, however. State computer records often don't list misdemeanors, and many don't specify whether a crime was domestic violence.

The law will mostly come into play as domestic violence cases and other crime investigations arise, said Drew Diamond, a retired Tulsa, Okla., police chief now with the Police Executive Research Forum.

"I wouldn't see police departments going and contacting everybody who's been convicted of domestic violence and asking if they have a gun," said Diamond, who is working with the Justice Department on improving police response to domestic violence. "I haven't heard anybody suggesting that."

John Magaw, director of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, has recommended simply that people affected by the law be "encouraged" to give up their guns.

Nicholas Gess, the Justice Department director of intergovernmental affairs, said it's up to the gun owner to decide exactly how to do that.

"There's nothing that says you can't sell or can't give it to your favorite nephew," Gess said Tuesday. "The law prohibits you from possessing the firearm. How you dispose yourself is entirely up to you."

Gess, who works with local and state police, added: "The goal here isn't to charge them. It's to get them not to have a gun in their possession."

The law also applies to law enforcement officers and military personnel, who use guns in their work. The Pentagon is awaiting advice from the Justice Department on how to apply the law, and some police departments have begun disarming officers.

Lawrence Sherman, chairman of criminology at the University of Maryland, estimated 100,000 to 150,000 people last year alone could be subject to the new law, for a total of several million Americans.

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