



Kofi Annan

He was secretary-general of the United Nations and in 1994 headed the U.N.'s small office on peacekeeping operations.

The warning fax that came in from General Dallaire, did you see it? What was your response?

I think the fax came in, and General Dallaire had also been in touch on the phone with General Baril. In fact, [Dallaire] had sent other messages, where sometimes he questioned that "Somebody came and gave me this information. I don't know how sincere it is, whether I am being manipulated or not," because intelligence cannot be used to manipulate you; and knowing also the situation in the Security Council, that we were discussing this in the council.

The decision was to ensure that the Rwandan government knows that we have been tipped off and we knew what was in planning, and they should not proceed. The information was also shared with the ambassadors of the key countries -- the U.S., France, Belgium, and all of them -- for them to go and reinforce that message with the [Rwandan] government to make sure that they do not move, that we know what is happening, that they should not make any attempt in that direction.

Why did we go that route? Often, shining light on [such things] and telling those planning it at the governmental level [in Rwanda] that the international community knows what is being planned-- "We are monitoring, we are going to deal with you harshly, and we know what you are up to," sometimes it is a very good deterrent. Quite frankly, we had no other option, because we knew this mood in the council. You are not going to get them to say, "We are going to send in the brigade." We are not going to rush in to send reinforcements to General Dallaire and his men to stop this.

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