

April 11, 1994

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**1. TRAGEDY IN RWANDA:** Civil war in Rwanda affected our entire missionary program, all church entities, and nearly 300,000 believers in that country.

At the time of writing, nearly all of our international personnel as well as foreign students from the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) were evacuated.

Reports indicate that most of the missionaries from Kigali and Mugonero Hospital, traveling in two UN-organized convoys, reached Bujumbura, Burundi. From there, several families have been already airlifted to Nairobi, Kenya, where church personnel are waiting to assist the arriving missionaries.

According to Nils Rechter, AUCA business manager, Belgian, and French paratroopers arrived on campus early Sunday to evacuate some 270 international students, faculty, and staff. Leaving in two convoys they safely arrived in nearby Goma, Zaire, to be met by division officers and Dr. Robert Pierson, AUCA president.

A token staff remained at the university as well as 70 students. The local municipal official insisted that the university not be completely abandoned and has offered protection.

Late last week more than 500 local residents crowded onto the university campus seeking refuge. Early Sabbath an armed mob stormed the campus killing hundreds of the refugees as well as eleven students enrolled at our university.

Fourteen missionaries are still in Rwanda. Of these, 13 are arranging evacuation with their respective embassies. ADRA-Rwanda director, Carl Wilkens, chose to remain in Kigali.

A special General Conference taskforce has been working around the clock to oversee the Church's response, to assist denominational personnel affected by the crisis, and maintain contact with international and government agencies.

We deeply regret the loss of life and continue to be concerned for our believers in Rwanda. Church members around the world are praying for the safety of those caught up in strife and commend their faithfulness and dedication.

**2. SABBATH SUCCESS IN EGYPT:** For the first time the

Ministry of Education of the Arab Republic of Egypt shortened the "second-chance," six-day examinations for ninth graders to five days. About one million Cairo students will take their "first chance" ninth grade exam this year, but only a few thousand are expected to re-take them. Adventist ninth graders will, therefore, be able to keep the Sabbath holy. This miracle is the culmination of years of persistent efforts by Dr. Hanna Malaka Hanna, Principal of the Zeitoun Adventist School, and the prayers of the Church. Although the decision applies only to Cairo, the blessing will be extended to other Adventist youth in Egypt who will register with the Zeitoun School for exam purposes. In a related development, Cairo education authorities changed the time of a competition on Egyptian culture to after sunset on Sabbath, to accommodate the fifty Zeitoun students taking part in it. Zeitoun Adventist School, with an enrollment of 1,350 Moslem and Christian students, is rated among the top contenders for the first prize in Egypt.

**3. DATELINE KELOWNA, CANADA:** About 1,500 attended the Global Mission weekend program in Kelowna, British Columbia. This was the first of two similar programs planned for British Columbia. The second will be next Sabbath in Abbotsford.

**4. ADRA-LAOS:** ADRA just completed a successful project which provided nearly one quarter of all the wells and latrines produced in the country during 1993. Now the Ministry of Health has asked that we provide English language training to all those who are involved in providing health care in Vientiane. Traditionally, only French and Russian have been taught.

**5. NEW AWR SERVICE TO NORTH AFRICA:** AWR-Europe and the Euro-Africa Division have agreed on a proposal to broadcast to Morocco from a medium wave station located in Europe. The project, which will be jointly financed by AWR and the Division, is still being negotiated with the government. Programming in the French and Arabic languages will be produced in Paris and will compliment the shortwave broadcasts from AWR-leased facilities in Russia and Slovakia.

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