

# Rwandan refugees stay put



KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — The United Nations called off its program to return thousands of refugees to their homes in Rwanda on Wednesday, as U.N. investigators began looking into allegations of revenge killings

by the new government's army.

Officials said they would also investigate how much the United Nations' own refugee agency helped create a new climate of fear in Rwanda.

The U.N. suspended convoys that were to have taken up to 4,000 refugees a day, mostly Hutus, from camps in southwest Rwanda back to their homes in other parts of the country. Officials said there were not enough people willing to go in the convoys.

"We had many indications people were waiting for transport and we thought we wouldn't be able to cope, but something has obviously happened," said Maj. Jean-Guy Plante, the U.N. military spokesman in Kigali. "I think it comes from being scared."

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees last week accused troops of Rwanda's new Tutsi-led government of carrying out reprisal killings against Hutus, the majority ethnic group in Rwanda. The accusation exacerbated fears in Rwanda, where 500,000 people — mostly minority Tutsis — were killed in ethnic massacres earlier this year.

Plante said 20 investigators would go to Rwanda to meet with U.N. human rights monitors about allegations that the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Force killed hundreds of Hutus after seizing power in July. The RPF has denied the allegations and said it would cooperate with the investigators.

U.N. military commanders in Rwanda say they are skeptical that vengeance killings have gone beyond isolated incidents embellished by rumor.

"We're getting numerous reports of the same thing, every one different and you can bet the last one has 50 dead," said Maj. Robert Lidstone, a U.N. operations officer.

**A**n estimated 3,700 refugees have fled to Burundi, Rwanda's southern neighbor, since Monday ...

When Tutsi-led rebels seized power in July, more than a million Hutus fled to neighboring countries, fearing retribution for the massacres of Tutsis. About 400,000 other Hutus took refuge in southwest Rwanda in a safe zone set up by French troops.

U.N. officials have tried to convince the refugees it is safe to return home. But they said this week that more refugees are once again leaving Rwanda than are going back.

An estimated 3,700 refugees have fled to Burundi, Rwanda's southern neighbor, since Monday, and U.N. officials and Western journalists reported a new exodus of Hutus heading west into Zaire. In Tanzania, on Rwanda's eastern border, the number of refugees flowing into the main camp there has doubled from about 300 to 600 a day in the past week, according to military officials.

The UNHCR said last week that it had gathered evidence from more than 200 witnesses of an "unmistakable pattern of killing and persecution" of Hutus in August and early September. Refugees arriving this week in Zaire told of mass killings, arrests and harassment by Tutsi soldiers.

The climate of fear has been fueled by a propaganda campaign by supporters of the ousted Hutu government who don't want refugees to go home.

U.N. troops are still finding piles of corpses, apparently the victims of the Hutu massacres. Plante said the troops hadn't reported finding any mass graves of more recent victims.

The findings of the U.N. investigation will be released after they have been reported to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who ordered the inquiry.

## Oregon State University group cures sick plants

HERMISTON (AP) — Phil Hamm finds it difficult to communicate with his patients.

"Our patients don't talk to us, so we have to use other things to figure out what the beast is," Hamm said. "Plants get diseases just like people do, but they're not the same diseases."

A plant pathologist at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Hamm heads the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory for Oregon State University. There, he and a team determine just what ails crops coming out of local gardens or farms.

"My job is to take those new crops, figure out the problems and combat that problem," Hamm said.

The team works with anything that ails a plant, including many diseases caused by bacteria, fungi and viruses that affect potatoes, onions and melons, three of the most commonly grown crops in the area. In recent months, it has put forth a special effort to identify problems associated with relatively new high-value crops: squashes, peppers, carrots and lima beans.

Recently, Hamm was working on a rotted onion that a grower brought in. The diagnosis was simple, Hamm said, and he quickly determined that the grower had a yeast problem in the crop.

The doctoring process requires identification of signs and symptoms, a check of scientific journals and books that might identify them and then tissue tests, Hamm said.

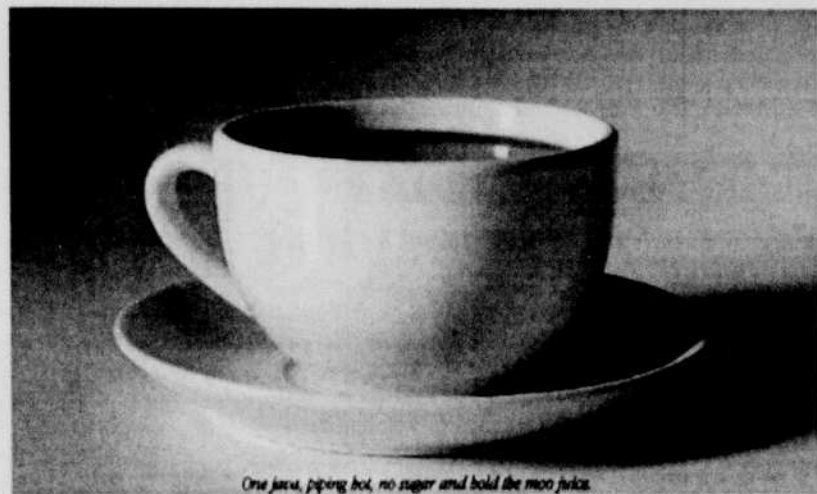
Holding a rotting potato, Hamm couldn't hold back his enthusiasm. "These are nice, if you're a plant pathologist," he said.

Until 1991, the university had only one plant clinic, in Corvallis, and the Hermiston lab sent its samples there. Growers had to wait a week for a diagnosis, Hamm said.

The lab now provides quick, accurate information. On summer days, the lab can have up to 100 callers, Hamm said. Last year, the plant diagnostic team processed more than 7,000 samples — half from homeowners and growers, the other half from Oregon State researchers who test varieties for pest resistance and experiment with chemicals and other means of disease control.

New viruses or diseases will call for much work from the lab. The lab's toughest diagnostic job so far began more than a year and a half ago when a sick pepper plant was brought in. "We found three viruses including one that was never reported before in Oregon," Hamm said.

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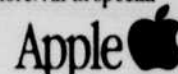


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