

## UN Secretariat Item Scan - Barcode - Sign

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In Container 'S-0039-0001-057 (Souleymane Soukouna)' since 12/12/2006 at

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S-0039-0001: EOSG - General

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Note to the Secretary-General (through Mr. Riza) Ref: meeting on Rwanda, 26 March

Down JG

- 1. As you may be aware, the governments of Canada and Rwanda have asked you to be the "lead" speaker at a conference which they are jointly hosting at UNHQ on 26 March, with a view to generating press interest in coverage of the issues raised by the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.
- 2. We had been treating this as simply one of a number of events leading up to 7 April (the international day of reflection on the genocide, as decided by the GA), and accordingly DPA had suggested that Mr. Gambari could represent the UN.
- 3. On closer examination, however, it is clear that the two governments attach considerable importance to this event, which will be co-chaired by their foreign ministers, and in particular to your presence at it. I believe the Canadian PR may have spoken to you personally about this.
- 4. At present, you are due to leave New York for Tunis (via Paris) on the evening of 26 March. If that arrangement is confirmed, I strongly recommend that you agree / to attend the beginning of the conference and make a short opening statement.
- 5. If it turns out that you have to leave New York sooner than that, my sense is that the hosts of the conference would prefer to be able to show a short video message from you, rather than have you represented by the DSG or another official.
- 6. You are due to record three video messages on 16 March. One of these is for an event on 4-7 May, and therefore could presumably be recorded in April if necessary.
- 7. May I suggest, therefore, that unless you are able within the next few days to confirm that you will attend the 26 March event in person – you postpone recording the May video message until April, and record a short one on the lessons of the Rwanda genocide instead?

8. Please advise.

**Edward Mortimer** 10 March 2004

CENTRAL

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