

U.N. ends transport of Rwandan refugees

By Hrvoje Hranjski
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KISANGANI, Zaire — The United Nations said this week it has stopped using a railway to transport thousands of Rwandan refugees out of the jungle, one day after 91 people suffocated or were trampled to death in packed boxcars.

"We suspended the train operation until we can control an organized, orderly movement of people," said Paul Stromberg, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. "We cannot continue like this."

In Washington, the head of the U.N. agency, Sadako Ogata, said: "We will not agree to further use of the train until clear control procedures are established."

She added that despite the tenuous political situation in Rwanda, returning the refugees home was the "least worse option" because the "refugees are better off there than where they are now...in

total insecurity."

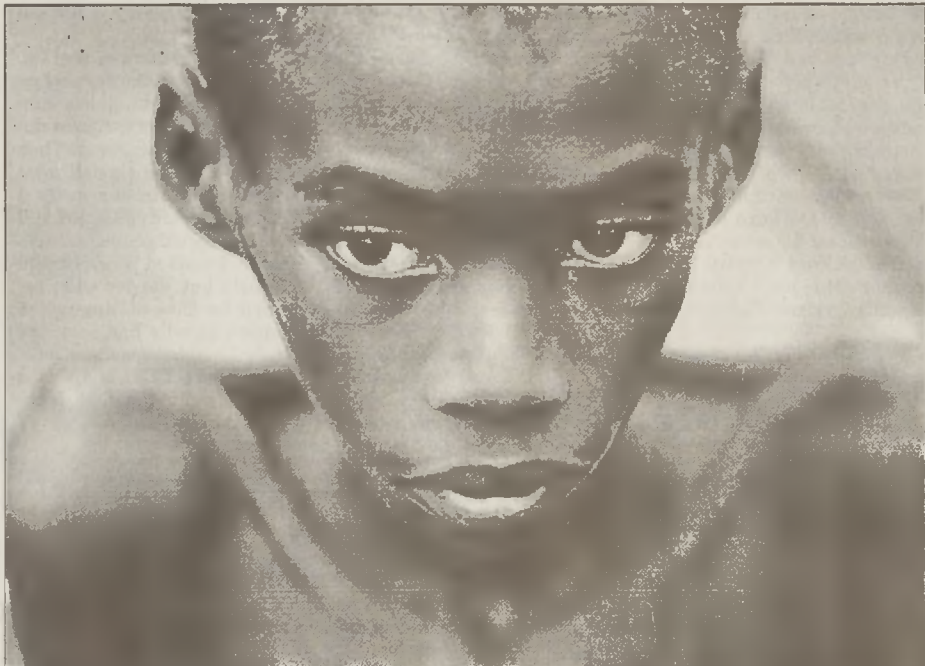
The 78-mile railway is the only efficient way to transport the Rwandans to Kisangani

for an airlift home.

The U.N. agency had been using the railway to evacuate refugees from a squalid camp

in Biaro, 25 miles to the south, since late April, when rebel leader Laurent Kabila

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ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/JOHN MOORE
A young malnourished Hutu refugee sits in a transit camp near Kisangani, Zaire Monday, Monday. The United Nations evacuated 2,600 Rwandan refugees Monday from Kisangani to Rwanda for repatriation.

N.C. slips in rankings

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Family Resource Centers and Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies have benefited kids and parents. However, we must make certain these programs are available everywhere, especially in our poorest communities.

Nationally, America's 7.1 million children growing up in poor communities are too often served by the worst schools according to the study. The Casey Foundation recommends fundamental educational reforms to provide better learning opportunities for poor children.

"The lives and potential of too many children are being compromised by inexcusably ineffective schools," said Douglas Nelson, president of the Casey Foundation. "The tragic irony is that we know how to create better schools in low-income communities. Our national challenge is to put these ideas into practice on a meaningful scale."

Wilkinson

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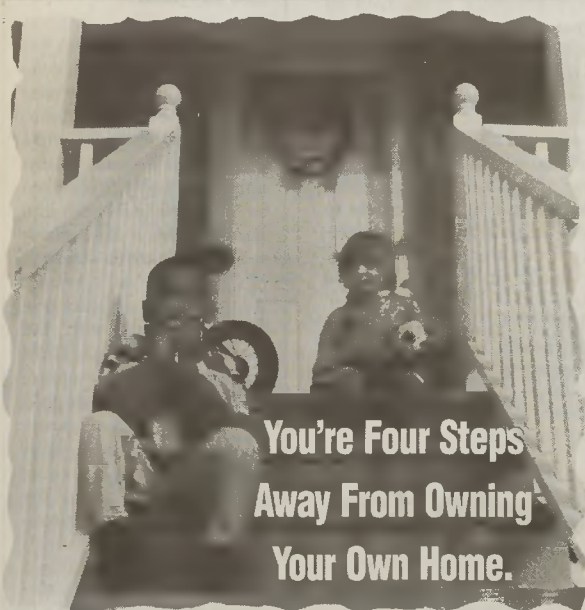
Insurance executive Bill Simms, a member of the 24 UP group.

According to the Chamber, the business park will: promote business expansion and retention; provide job opportunities for inner city residents and promote minority business ownership.

The Wilkinson Boulevard development would be the first in a number of similar efforts to revitalize commercial corridors in the CWAC, perhaps through a new CWAC Development Corporation.

The Chamber recommends public investment to overcome the cost of revitalizing CWAC corridors by providing incentives. A systematic redevelopment plan would be drawn by a partnership including the city, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, private investors, merchants and residential associations.

The business park would include a service center for small and minority-owned businesses complementary to the park and the surrounding community.



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