

WEST



RWANDAN refugee and his daughter, their ravaged bodies defeated by cholera, wait for treatment yesterday.

Boy rescued from mass grave dies

GOMA, Zaire — A 5-year-old Rwandan boy, rescued from a mass grave seconds before a bulldozer was about to bury him alive, has died at a French military hospital, doctors said yesterday.

"He died last night. It was too late to save him," said a French nurse in the field hospital where the orphaned boy, identified only as Dibadirig, was being treated. "He said nothing before he died."

The boy had been saved

Tuesday when a French Foreign Legionnaire saw movement in a pit full of bodies which bulldozers were about to cover.

Aid workers said Dibadirig apparently was suffering from cholera and that he must have wandered for days about the apocalyptic camps before Rwandan grave diggers assumed the emaciated little figure was dead and tossed him into a passing body truck.

Reuter

Americans give \$39M for aid

BOSTON — Americans have contributed at least \$39 million in aid to Rwandan refugees, from dollar-bill donations from 11 senior citizens to \$30 million in medicine from the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co.

"There's been a tremendous response from the American public," said Mike Kiernan of InterAction, a coalition of more than 150 humanitarian groups.

Donations surged in the past week as television broadcast images of Rwandans starving and suffering from cholera in Zaire.

"The heart-wrenching images that exploded on television last week have created a phenomenon that we have not seen in a long time," said Oxfam America spokeswoman Peggy Connolly.

The Associated Press

HIT ON RWANDA

Relief big calls response weak

By **MICHAEL O. ALLEN** in Nairobi, Kenya and **RICHARD SISK** in Washington
Daily News Staff Writers

United Nations relief officials lashed out yesterday at what they viewed as the timid, pinch-penny response of the U.S. and its allies to the desperate plight of Rwanda's refugees.

All member states of the UN must share the blame, but among the Western allies, "many are worried about their budgets. They think it costs too much," said Peter Hansen, the UN's undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs.

"Some are worried about being dragged into something where they might get hurt, there might be trouble and, 'Gee, what if another soldier gets shot?'" Hansen said in a reference to U.S. reluctance to become involved after suffering casualties in Somalia.

Hansen, who spoke in Nairobi after returning from a fact-finding mission to Rwanda and Zaire with international aid groups, described scenes of suffering and macabre indifference.

The human tragedy brought on by the flight of more than a million Rwandan refugees to the border town of Goma, Zaire, also has triggered resentment among local Zairians, who have demonstrated in recent days to protest the burden on their scarce resources.

"Many [Western countries] are worried about their budgets."

Peter Hansen

"You have heard of different ways people set up roadblocks? In Goma, they made roadblocks with corpses. That was what was most easily available to the people in Goma," Hansen said.

However, in Washington, Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, insisted that the U.S. was doing all that was possible to fight the cholera epidemic killing nearly 2,000 daily in the refugee camps.

He said the best way to wind down the crisis was to encourage the refugees to return home in safety.

"Time is of the essence. The greatest hope they have is to leave those camps," Shalikashvili said, but, "we don't want to get into a situation where we are forcing them to go home."

The general said the U.S. was considering targeted relief airdrops along routes back to Rwanda to give the refugees sustenance for the journey.

He would not say exactly how many U.S. troops might be involved in the humanitarian campaign — which is expected to be up to 4,000 — because it still is "at a concept plan stage."

Meanwhile, Army Lt. Gen. Daniel Schroeder also arrived in the Rwandan capital of Kigali to assess the possibility of having U.S. troops use the airport there as a base for relief operations.

But time was running short, and an already dire situation could get even worse. Peter Walker, director of disaster policy for the International Red Cross, said in Nairobi.

The refugees, "if they are going to harvest their crops, have to go home in the next two weeks," Walker said. "If they are going to plant for next season, they have to go home by September. These are very tight deadlines."



ISRAELI pediatrician Dr. Ronen Arnon gingerly examines a desperately ill young patient while he sleeps at an Israeli field hospital on Lake Kivu near Goma, Zaire.



REINFORCEMENTS: American soldiers Greg Leach (left) and Todd Owens help set up a command post on an open space at the airport in Goma yesterday. Dozens more GIs are expected to land in Zaire by the end of the week.