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RELEASE IN FULL

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Statement
Regarding the Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Rwanda regarding the Status of Personnel of the United States in Rwanda.
Signed at Kigali July 5 and 11, 2005.
Entered into force July 11, 2005.

This Agreement provides for legal status of United States military and civilian personnel of the U.S. Department of Defense in Rwanda in connection with the military airlift of Rwandan military forces in support of operations in Darfur and future mutually agreed activities.

The Department of Defense requested that U.S. military and civilian personnel sent to Rwanda be accorded an appropriate legal status while in that country in connection with such activities. In the absence of an applicable status of forces agreement, U.S. Armed Forces and civilian personnel are generally fully subject to local law. Consequently, an international agreement is desirable in order to resolve practical difficulties that may arise. The general practice in those cases where there is no applicable status of forces agreement is to conclude an agreement which provides that such individuals be accorded the status equivalent to that accorded to administrative and technical staff of the United States Embassy under the April 18, 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Legal Authority

The President's Constitutional authority as Chief Executive to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, as well as his authority as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (Article II, Sections 1 and 2).

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