## Central Africa: Turning a Tide

dozen lead agencies, including UNHCR and DHA, need to meet, decide if they will accept closures and, if so, work out a feasible means to take care of the humanitarian issues this raises.

Humanitarian concerns could be taken into account by implementing a phased approach to closure (either closing each camp sequentially or reducing operations at each on given dates) would allow for the most orderly means to prepare the relief stations in Rwanda and facilitate the return home.

The returnees should be given incentives for going back, to avoid a situation where they simply drift away or regroup in makeshift camps for the purposes of reorganising a military onslaught on the GOR. Incentives ("resettlement packages") could include farming supplies, extra food, tools and other goods that would help settle them back into civilian life.

## Temporary way-stations

It will be important to ensure that the way-stations in Rwanda not become new refugee camps. Given the tenacity of Hutu extremists, and their organizational skills, it is doubtful that any quasi-permanent settlement, such as a camp, will be able to resist the re-imposition of the extremists' control. The presence of UNAMIR or other international security forces in new camps would not be large enough to prevent this. Therefore, the way-stations should offer only very temporary shelter while facilitating the re-integration of the returnees.

## Face down the extremists

The principal issue is whether Hutu extremists would allow refugees to leave the camps. If they did not, and there were no more food supplies, the leadership would probably face opposition from the refugee population (it would be important to ensure that the leaders themselves received no support or suggestions of support so that they could not prosper while the population suffered). This could provoke more violence, although, since it would be coming from a population which has backed the extremists or at least acquiesced to some degree, it would be of a kind having the potential to remove the leaders. This is not a risk which the leaders have so far taken. If the likelihood of violence is too great, the international community could consider sending military force for very brief periods (such as a few days) simply to "pry open the door" in the camps and permit evacuation to the Rwandan border.

8