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World Briefing: United Nations

ANNAN, AT RWANDA MEMORIAL, ADMITS U.N. BLAME Secretary General Kofi Annan opened a United Nations memorial conference on the 1994 mass killings in Rwanda by accepting personal and institutional blame for the massacre of 800,000 people that occurred after the Security Council declined to send extra troops to bolster a small peacekeeping force. Mr. Annan, who was then head of United Nations peacekeeping, said, "I believed at the time I was doing my best, but I realized after the genocide that there was more that I could and should have done to sound the alarm and rally support." A 1999 report held the United Nations, the United States and other Security Council members responsible. Mr. Annan said, "None of us must ever forget, or be allowed to forget, that genocide did take place in Rwanda, or that it was highly organized, or that it was carried out in broad daylight." Warren Hoge (NYT)

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