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RNA:ln

7 December 2006

Department of the Senate
Senate Standing Committee
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed a copy of a thesis written by myself as part of a Post-Graduate Degree following Peacekeeping Service in Rwanda. I was the organiser of the first six months of Specialist Teams and took the first rotation myself as an Orthopaedic Surgeon immediately following the genocide.

I strongly believe that timely intervention for a man-made or natural disaster is the very essence of either prevention or maximising the saving of human life and limb. I suggest that our Peacekeeping structures both Civilian and Military are coordinated through a strong UN structure.

Many thanks for your consideration

Yours sincerely

ROBERT ATKINSON RFD
Brigadier
Emeritus Consultant in Military Surgery
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Adelaide
Councillor of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons