

UNITED NATIONS
ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA

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MISSION POUR L'ASSISTANCE AU RWANDA

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13 JAN 1994

TO: ANNAN
UNATIONS, NEW YORK **ONLY**

FROM: BOOH-BOOH, UNAMIR, KIGALI

DATE: 13 JANUARY 1994 *MIR 95*

SUBJECT: INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN RELATING TO LATEST SECURITY INFORMATION

1. We have taken the following initiatives pursuant to the guidance provided to us in your fax UNAMIR 100 of 11 January 1994.

2. 12 January 1994 - At 10 am the SRSG, FC and Kabia met with the ambassadors of Belgium, the United States and the Chargé d'affaires of France. We shared with them the information we had received concerning the activities of the Interhamwe militia and informed them that we will be making démarche to the President of the Republic immediately following our meeting with them. We suggested that they may wish to consider making a similar démarche. They expressed serious concern about the alleged activities and indicated that they would consult with their capitals for instructions and would act accordingly:

3. At 11.30 am, the SRSG and the FC met with the President of the Republic and informed him that UNAMIR had received information on the activities of Interhamwe militia which represent a clear threat to the Peace process and a violation to the provisions of the Arusha Peace Accord as well as the Kigali weapons-free area. While we assumed the President was unaware of these illegal activities, we insisted that he must look into the situation and ensure that the alleged activities are immediately discontinued. We requested to be informed as soon as possible, as to the measures the President had undertaken in that regard, including the recovery of the arms which had allegedly been distributed. We also advised the President that should any violence occur in Kigali, we would immediately bring to the attention of the Security Council the information we have received on the activities of the militia, undertake investigations to determine who is responsible, and make appropriate recommendations to the Security Council. The President appeared alarmed by the tone of our démarche. He denied knowledge of the alleged activities of the militia and promised to investigate.

4. In the brief discussion that followed, we also protested the harassment of UNAMIR Civilian Personnel and the violence perpetrated against Rwandese Nationals (all belonging to one ethnic group) by the MRND militia during its demonstrations on 8 January. The President said he was unaware of the demonstrations but apologised for any inappropriate behaviour which may have been directed against UNAMIR personnel. He suggested that we meet with the Bureau of the MRND and raise both issues with the Party officials.

5. The President raised the issue of the impasse on the setting up of the Broad Based Transitional Government and informed us that efforts aimed at arriving at an early resolution of the impasse seemed to have reached a dead-end. He was ready for a compromise but there were other forces stubbornly blocking reconciliation. He referred to a recent meeting he had with a

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representative of the World Bank who warned that unless there was a Broad Based Transitional Government in place soon, the financial situation of Rwanda may not be taken up by the Governing Body of the Bank until it meets again in September or October 1994. This was cause for concern due to the precautionous financial situation of the country.

6. At 4 pm, the SRSG, FC and Kabia met with the President and National Secretary of the MRND and told them of the information we had received on the activities their Party militia, relating to the training and deployment of subversive groups in Kigali as well as the storage and distribution of weapons to these groups. We pointed out that these activities were not conducive to making Kigali a weapons-free area and that they were in clear violation of the Arusha Peace Agreement. We also protested the conduct of their Party's militia during the demonstrations of 8 January. Both officials denied that MRND or its militia was involved in the alleged activities. They accepted that some members of their militia had participated in the 8 January demonstrations but were not involved in the harassment of UNAMIR personnel and acts of violence perpetrated against Rwandese nationals. They accused infiltrators and bandits, some wearing MRND party insignia, to have been the culprits. We urged them to investigate the allegations and report back to us as early as possible.

7. 13 January 1994 - At 10.30 am, the FC met with the Prime Minister-Designate and informed him of the initiatives UNAMIR had undertaken within the last 24 hours. He declared support for our initiatives but reminded us of a moral commitment towards the informant because when the source of the leak is identified, the informant will be a dead duck. The FC told the Prime Minister-Designate that we considered our contacts with the informant, informal and without any commitment from the UN. We however took seriously our moral obligations to the individual, subject to the validity of the information he has provided and will continue to provide to us.

8. The initial feedback we have received, indicates that both the President and officials of his political party were bewildered by the specificity of the information at our disposal. The President of MRND seemed unerved and is reported to have subsequently ordered an accelerated distribution of weapons. My assessment of the situation is that the initiative to confront the accused parties with the information was a good one and may force them to decide on alternative ways of jeopardizing the Peace Process, especially in the Kigali area. We will continue to monitor the activities of these and other disruptive elements, and to maintain contacts with our information sources so as to be forewarned as to any security threat to both our military and civilian personnel, as well as the population at large in the Kigali area. We will continue to coordinate our strategies with the ambassadors of Belgium, France and USA and will report to you as the situation develops. Thanks again for your guidance and support.

9. Best Regards.