

Re: Rwanda Peace Talks

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Following the abortive meeting called by the Facilitator on 23 April 1994, there has been another attempt to have a meeting in Arusha on 3 May 1994 to find a negotiated settlement to the Rwandese crisis.

Unlike the previous attempt where the Rwandese Government delegation did not turn up, this time both parties showed up on schedule and are highly represented. The Government of Rwanda delegation, which includes three Ministers, is led by the Minister for Transport and Communication. RPF delegation is led by its Chairman, Col. Alexis Kanyaragwe and includes Secretary General, Dr. T. Rudasingwa. Also present is the OAU Secretary General, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. All the observer countries are represented at Ambassadorial level (including Permanent Members of the Security Council).

Despite the high presence of the parties, formal negotiations could not take off as envisaged in view of the strong objection by the RPF to sit at the negotiation table with an "illegitimate Government".

Under the circumstances, the Tanzanian Prime Minister and OAU Secretary General have been conducting proximity talks to try to get some compromise about the way forward. The consultations have largely focussed on the urgent need of putting an end to the massacres, the ceasefire and the role of an international force.

Both sides have informally reaffirmed their commitment to an immediate ceasefire and their readiness to mandate their Commanders in the field to work out modalities for a ceasefire under the supervision of UNAMIR. RPF for one is prepared to sign a unilateral statement to this effect to be countersigned by the representatives of the Facilitator and the OAU Secretary General. RPF would also want a time-frame for a ceasefire negotiated as soon as possible at a meeting between the Commanders of the two forces and UNAMIR. Emphasis is put on Commanders as RPF is not in a position to enter into an Agreement with a Government they do not recognize.

The Rwandese Government delegation insists on the legitimacy of its government and hence proposed a ceasefire agreement to be signed by both parties and not unilaterally. As a condition for the said ceasefire, both parties should withdraw to their positions occupied before 6 April 1994. As an interim measure RPF should temporarily return to their headquarters in Mulindi until the Arusha Peace Accord is put into motion.

On the idea of an international force called for by the UN Security Council, the RPF is of the view that it should also have a humanitarian and protective mandate for the civilian population. Its composition and terms of reference should be worked out and agreed upon by the field



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commanders of the two forces. The Government prefers an intervention force to stop the massacres and monitor violation of a ceasefire. It should have a clearly defined mandate commensurate with the tasks to be undertaken. Its composition should also be known and agreed upon by the two parties following consultations between the OAU and the UN.

These are the positions of the two parties as of now. Consultations are still continuing. Efforts are now directed towards having a signed statement of commitment by each party.

4 May 1994

