

1039 – 5 Jan 1994

Amb. Kovanda convened the first SC informal consultations of the New Year. They dealt with the SG's report on Rwanda, specifically with the work of the UNAMIR mission. ...

The SG issued the document on 4 Jan 1994, in accordance with the 2nd operative para of res. 872 (1993) of 5 Oct 93, which requested the SG to inform whether significant progress had been attained in fulfilling the Arusha (Tanzania) agreement. According to the resolution, the SG's report would then serve for deciding on

1. Confirming UNAMIR's 6-month mandate, after the first 90 days would have elapsed (para 2 of res. 872)
2. Implementing the next phase of deploying UNAMIR.

The SG's report which drew comments from almost all SC members was universally highly appreciated. All members underscored the considerable progress attained in implementing the Arusha agreement. Nevertheless, they also pointed out certain negative phenomena (continuing tension, not forming the government and the nat'l assembly according to the original schedule and the influx of refugees from Burundi) which were reflected in the SG's report and were pointed out by Amb. Gharekhan, the SG's representative, in the course of the consultations.

As for the principle of "extending" UNAMIR's mandate (it really was only a review of sorts) and its expansion by one unit (which res. 872 anticipated anyway), SC members agreed on that from the start. That is, they all spoke in favor of continuing and expanding UNAMIR. However, the procedural aspect of the matter turned out to be tricky, as a consequence of the complex formulation of paras 2 and 8 of res. 872. Members have so far not agreed to France's initiative which would separate the two matters and issue two documents: a SC President's letter focusing on the mandate, and a resolution focusing on dispatching further troops to Rwanda. Since the ensuing discussion moved to a technical level, Amb. Kovanda decided to interrupt the debate and convene an expert-level drafting group for 6 Jan which would prepare a solution for SC informal consultations to be held the same day in the afternoon.

Inasmuch as UNSC members agree on the political thrust of the issue, one can expect that the UNSC formal meeting will approve the subsequent draft resolution, confirming the expansion of UNAMIR, on the same day.