

Secretariat information

The situation is getting ever more complicated. According to the Secretariat it is chaotic, the killing continues. The provisional government has left Kigali for Butare in the south of the country. Only the defense minister has stayed on in Kigali. Disturbances are spreading to other parts of the country. The private radio station in Kigali (it is unclear whether it is the only one there) sides with the government and is militating against foreigners, especially Belgians.

RPF units arrived in Kigali from the demilitarized zone in the North of the country and control all important points, except for the airport. They do not recognize the defense minister. (Note: In a very sharp letter to the SC President, the New York representative of the RPF described the transitional government as one of criminals. He didn't mention a word about the Arusha peace agreements.)

The evacuation of foreigners went well. The RPF has given the French-Belgian expedition until 1900 hrs local time on 14 April to pull out of the country – because after that it intends to attack government units at the airport.

UNAMIR absolutely hasn't managed to induce the parties to a cease fire or a truce. Both parties, however, assure the force that it is safe. SG's recommendations, based on the analysis of his SRSR – Booh Booh from Cameroun – will be available tomorrow.

Discussion

The core of the discussion concerned the future of UNAMIR. In other words: Will the UN leave Rwanda to its catastrophic fate or will it continue to be involved there in some way? The non-aligned are preparing a draft resolution which will be available on 13 April but any suggestions will still have to follow from the SG's recommendations.

The contribution of the UK was the most useful one. It clarified four possible alternatives:

1. Strengthen UNAMIR and give it a new mandate (note: one which would of course have to be based on Ch VII of the Charter, as we mentioned earlier). This would be difficult according to the UK.
2. Pull out completely – which, however, would send a negative signal about UN's involvement
3. Leave UNAMIR as is - but what could it do?
4. Leave some elements of UNAMIR in Rwanda, as earlier in Angola – which might be the safest solution, a signal that the UN continues to be engaged.

Before the UK spoke, France had considered only alts. 2 and 3, then he spoke off the top of his head and only on his own behalf, without instructions from home. SP clarified that the "Angola solution" may seem to be the best but it has its own problems: "It is easy to squeeze the accordion but it can be difficult to stretch it later." He also drew attention to the possible problem of troop contributors which will have to be consulted.

The US were a shade more skeptical to UNAMIR's continuation. If it were to stay with its current mandate, it could become a destabilizing factor. "It may become necessary to withdraw UNAMIR but that should not mean we'll stop being concerned with Rwanda. Perhaps we should have this force ready somewhere so that it could return straight away." Arg. agreed with this view.

Amb Kovanda pointed out that events in Rwanda will also necessarily influence the situation of UNOMUR – another Rwanda-related PKO but operating in Uganda. The Secretariat confirmed this.

Delegation comment

A representative of the Belgian delegation telephoned Amb Kovanda requesting that tomorrow we support in the SC the withdrawal of UNAMIR and suspending the operation. In his view, this alternative will be submitted by the US or the UK. The Belgians are in contact with the SG who should tomorrow formulate a recommendation to this effect. In their [Be] view, any other alternative is unrealistic. He stated that they are fully aware of the fact that this proposal will likely not be acceptable for the non-aligned. We are therefore requesting instructions on how to proceed.