

At informals, the SG's unofficial report on Rwanda stated being considered. The discussion indicated that the primary task for the SC is guaranteeing the security of IDPs and the distribution of humanitarian assistance on Rwanda territory, regardless of the fact that neither RGF nor the RPF have explicitly expressed their approval of this operation. A subsequent or parallel task will be to pressure the parties in the conflict to start talks about a cease-fire.

Most delegation spoke in favor of separating the humanitarian action from enforcing political objectives – the cease-fire and starting peace talks. There is general support for imposing an embargo on arms and military equipment to Rwanda and for opening the investigation of crimes against humanity and bringing those responsible for them to justice.

The SG's report anticipates the dispatch of some 5,500 soldiers, creating a neutral zone under UN control around the Kigali airport and safe zones in areas with a high concentration of IDPs. The main content of the mandate would be arranging for the safety of IDPs in these zones, the protection of humanitarian convoys and the distribution of humanitarian assistance. The report does not anticipate peace-enforcement, apart from self-defense. UNAMIR HQ would be in Kigali and the airport would be the focal point for receiving and distributing aid.

The US delegation presented a proposal to establish protective zones along the borders with Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire in which IDPs would concentrate with UNAMIR taking care of their safety. According to the US, fewer troops would be needed for this alternative, it would be less expensive and logistically more manageable than from Kigali (as assumed in the SG's report) which is the center of fighting. If this alternative were adopted, the US would be prepared to significantly participate in the financial, lift and equipment support of the operation.

Toward the end, the SC President distributed a draft resolution based on suggestions of NZ and Djibouti, with a view to the SG's report. It will be discussed tomorrow.

The SG's representative informed that fighting between the RPF and the RGF is continuing in Kigali and in other places. RGF is defending against an RPF attack in Kigali but it seems that the RPF has the upper hand. Some 40 people were killed yesterday in Kigali, including three local journalists. On Monday, a Ghanaian UNAMIR member was killed. Fighting is going on 1-2 km from the airport which is intermittently closed. That makes transport of assistance from Nairobi more difficult. Information keeps coming about continuing massacres in areas under the control of militias, though their extent is diminishing. According to Gharekhan, it seems that neither party to the conflict is prepared to cease fire and start talks.

Ayala Lasso, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has arrived in Rwanda. He should be meeting RPF representatives today and those of the RGF tomorrow.