

The French Amb informed extensively about the possibility of sending French units to Rwanda (R).

- The FR Govt has in principle decided that it is important “to do something” to stop the massacres in R. To that end it is considering (rather: preparing) the dispatch of its military units. France will, however, not send them, unless:
  - a. There’s a truce and the massacres end
  - b. UNAMIR rapidly reaches its agreed-upon level (5500 soldiers)
  - c. Fr finds partners for the contemplated military operation.
- The mission has a humanitarian character. Its objective is to establish safe conditions for IDPs and refugees.
- This should be a multinational force. Certain negotiations are taking place for including “European and African friends”. The participation of Senegal is apparently certain, Ghana’s has been promised. The command, however, will be French – a point emphasized several times. France will seek “the blessing” for such a force from the SC (following the example of UNITAF – Somalia), with a mandate to protect civilian population.
- The rules of engagement will apparently be “unambiguous and robust”. Weapons will be used not only in self-defense but also against any forces that would stand in the way of attaining the humanitarian goals. The Amb openly said that the multinational forces “will be saving Tutsis and evidently also act against Hutu armed groups”. The force will be deployed in areas where massacres are taking place – i.e., especially in Govt-controlled areas. Units should thus not get into contact with the RPF which has expressed considerable reservations concerning the planned humanitarian intervention (according to the RPF, “the French action could reverse its victory”). The Amb. rejected speculation that the deployment of the units should favor either of the parties to the conflict.
- An important point will be the relationship between UNAMIR and the multinational force. UNAMIR should not stay in its barracks but should continue doing its job. Close coordination between the two operations is anticipated. On the other hand, there will be some differences. UNAMIR must remain neutral. There should also be a difference in that UNAMIR is based on Ch. VI of the Charter whereas the multi. force on Ch. VII (an enforcement operation).
- The duration of the operation should not exceed two months. The objective is to bridge the current situation when UNAMIR is at minimum strength to the point when it will attain agreed strength.
- The Amb. emphasized that his Govt is acting in good will. He mentioned that France will gain no political, economic or financial benefit from the planned deployment. The French effort is driven strictly by humanitarian considerations.

- No definitive decision has been reached as yet. The reaction of countries which have been invited to join the operation is awaited. After that decision is made, FR will submit an appropriate draft resolution. (In the event, it was sent out in the evening of 24 June [sic; in reality earlier], as this summary was being written.)

Gharekhan subsequently confirmed that official offers to send troops are faltering on the absence of military matériel (armored troop carriers). UNAMIR will therefore not manage to reach its full strength until 4-6 weeks hence. Gharekhan also confirmed that the SG welcomed the French initiative. (This was confirmed as well in the UN Press Release of 17 June according to which the SG expressed his support that day in a conversation with French FM Juppe.)

In a brief discussion, CZ, SP, Nig, Arg, NZ and Djibouti reacted to the French presentation. Even though these delegations reserved the right not to adopt a final position on the initiative until after their HQ would have seen it, they all welcomed and supported (in varying degrees) the FR approach.

Delegation's comment:

We are requesting HQ to send ASAP our position on the initiative under discussion and instructions concerning it and the Fr draft resolution.

At this point, we are inclined to support the French effort, for the moment informally. (We are aware of how delicate the moment is when we might debating draft resolutions on dispatching units of the UIS [Union of Independent States, led by Russia] into Abkhazia (Georgia) be in parallel with deploying a multinational force in Rwanda.

Whether and how this "humanitarian intervention" will influence the internal distribution of forces in Rwanda will be a delicate question. We believe, however, that stopping the massacres and saving lives should be a priority for us even if, as the RPF fears, the presence of French troops might "encourage" the Govt forces. At any rate we intend to emphasize the need for a high level of coordination between UNAMIR and the planned operation (not only in the field but also in the UN Secretariat) – following the UNITAF example.