

NEW ZEALAND MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK  
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Date: 6 July 1994

|     |             |     |      |                       |
|-----|-------------|-----|------|-----------------------|
| TO: | WELLINGTON  | No. | 2908 | PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE |
|     | WGTM UNSC ✓ | No. |      | PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE |
|     | PARIS       | No. |      | PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE   |
|     | DEFENCE     | No. |      | PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE   |

LD: SFAT (MEA, UNC, LGL, EUR, ISAC, DSP3, DSP1, EAB)  
DEFENCE HQNZDF (DSIA, DDI, OPS)  
DEFENCE MOD (GENTLES)

Page 1 of: 15

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SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Our accompanying message refers.

2 Following are:

- (a) our speaking notes as used at today's informal consultations;
- (b) French progress report on Operation Turquoise;
- (c) French map showing extent of humanitarian zone;
- (d) latest RPF letter to the Council President.

- we welcome the written report provided by France on its operation in Rwanda; we particularly welcome the oral briefing provided this morning by Ambassador Merimee which addressed many of the concerns raised by the proposal to establish a humanitarian zone in Rwanda
- we recall that New Zealand's abstention on resolution 929 related to the reservations we had about the means chosen for external intervention in Rwanda, and the likely effect that the parallel deployment of a separate force with a different command structure and authority would have on UNAMIR
- we have fully shared France's humanitarian objectives and have been reassured by France's continued emphasis on the impartial nature and humanitarian objectives of their mission as authorised by resolution 929
- that said, we have been cautious about the initiative to set aside a large humanitarian zone in the south-west of the country
- it had not been our understanding when we adopted Operative para 4 (a) of resolution 925 providing for the establishment of secure humanitarian areas that the Council was contemplating setting aside such large tracts of land; the focus was more on providing protection for specific concentrations of persons at risk
- we have been concerned that the establishment of such a large zone, with boundaries close to the line of confrontation between government and RPF forces, risks jeopardising the neutrality of the intervention force, and risks the force becoming an interpositional force which would be at variance with what was authorised in resolution 929

- we are particularly concerned at the potential that the establishment of the zone may have for complicating the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR and the hand over from the international force to the UN force
- we welcome the assurances provided this morning that the zone will not be allowed to be used as a safe haven from which armed forces can pursue their military objectives
- we are reassured by the reports of contacts between France and the RPF and we urge them to pursue their dialogue
- we encourage continuing close consultation with UNAMIR and its contributors
- we have urged the RPF to avoid confrontation with the French-led force and to make every effort to lower the level of tension in the country
- such a lowering of tension is the best means of relieving the impact of the war on the Rwandan people and of promoting the deployment of the expanded UN force, an objective sought by the RPF, France and, we believe, the entire membership of the Council
- we look forward to the oral report from the Secretary-General which is to be presented to the Council tomorrow



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LETTER DATED 5 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

You will find attached, in implementation of paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 929 (1994) of 22 June 1994, the first report on the implementation of Operation "Turquoise". I should be grateful if you would have this letter as well as the annex to it circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MÉRIMÉE

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Annex

Operation "Turquoise"

1. Troop contingent

The troop contingent for operation "Turquoise" has been placed under the command of General Lafourcade, who has at his disposal an inter-service theatre command post (PCIAT), which has been established in Goma and is linked to the Paris Inter-Service Operational Centre.

The troop contingent is made up of the following components:

- (a) A north forces subgroup composed of three combat units in Kibuye;
- (b) A south forces subgroup made of two combat units in Cyangugu;
- (c) A specialized subgroup consisting of four units in Bukavu;
- (d) A detachment of fighter aircraft in Kisangani;
- (e) Three transit bases in Bangui, Libreville and Douala.

The troop contingent currently numbers 2,300 French soldiers and 32 Senegalese soldiers.

2. Composition of the Force (expected strength)

2.1 Inter-service means

- (a) An inter-service command post (PCIAT - 305 troops);
- (b) A rapid intervention military medical unit (EMMIR - 46 troops);
- (c) A specialized detachment with five helicopters (220 troops);
- (d) Three detachments of the Armed Forces Petrol Service (35 troops).

2.2 Means of the Air Force and Navy

A unit of four Mirage F1CR, four Mirage F1CT, one Atlantic, two C135 FR, two Casa 235, five tactical cargo aircraft (C130, C160), two SA330 (SAR) helicopters. Total strength is 340 troops.

2.3 Means of the Army

- (a) Four motorized infantry companies (580 troops);
- (b) A 12-vehicle light armoured car squadron (130 troops);

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- (c) A six-piece heavy mortar section (70 troops);
- (d) An Engineers section (25 troops);
- (e) A logistical support battalion that has been partially dispatched and is being deployed (expected strength - 450 troops);
- (f) A detachment of Army light aircraft (ALAT) with three Puma helicopters (60 troops);
- (g) A logistical support battalion that has been partially dispatched and is being deployed (expected strength - 450 troops);
- (h) A detachment of Army light aircraft (ALAT) with three Puma helicopters (60 troops);
- (i) Two tactical headquarters (62 troops);
- (j) A command and service company (150 troops).

#### 2.4 Means of the National Gendarmerie

A provost detachment (10 troops).

#### 2.5 Foreign troop strength

A Senegalese infantry section (32 troops).

Other units provided by various African countries could be integrated into the Force. A Belgian advanced surgical unit is expected.

### 3. Sites and method of deployment

Initially installed in Goma and Bukavu on 22 June 1994, the Force subsequently reconnoitred several main routes:

- (a) In the north, from Goma towards Kibuye and the Ndaba pass;
- (b) In the south, from Bukavu in the area of the Nyugwe forest and as far as Gikongoro and Butare.

The operation consisted of:

- (a) Preliminary actions (measures to alert and pre-position forces in central Africa) from 16 to 21 June 1994;
- (b) Initial actions:
  - (i) Establishment of an advanced operational base in Goma and an air platform in Kisangani from 21 to 24 June 1994;

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7/18

- (ii) Reconnaissance of refugee camps in Cyangugu and western Rwanda from 22 to 25 June 1994;
- (iii) Progressive deployment of the Force on the aforementioned advancement routes from 24 June to 4 July 1994.

#### 4. Evaluation of the situation

The humanitarian mission entrusted to France is proving to be delicate, particularly in the centre and the south of the area reconnoitred by the "Turquoise" Force.

Until 2 July 1994, our troops had been able to operate without incident within the government zone from the Zairian towns of Goma and Bukavu.

Subsequently, the advance by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) led to a further flow of refugees. This made us define a safe humanitarian zone for the refugees within the Cyangugu-Kibuye-Gikongoro triangle.

The humanitarian problem in this zone is today assuming considerable dimensions, which require the involvement of the entire international community. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Tutsi and Hutu persons require emergency assistance. The protection provided by France should make it possible to provide such assistance as speedily as possible.

#### 5. Humanitarian actions undertaken

##### 5.1 Protection and organization of refugee camps

The "Turquoise" Force is carrying out action to provide protection around two camps:

5.1.1 Nyarushishi, an already existing camp containing 8,000 persons (Tutsi). Protection is being provided by the Rwandese Armed Forces (RAF) and soldiers from the "Turquoise" Force (one section).

5.1.2 Biserero, a camp set up and protected by French forces (1,000 Tutsi as of 1 July).

##### 5.2 Humanitarian activities

###### 5.2.1 General situation

Since the arrival of the "Turquoise" Force in Rwanda, the number of refugees spread out among more than 50 camps in the government zone is estimated at 850,000.

In the south of the country, many refugees are moving towards Gikongoro (westward movement) and towards Burundi (southward movement).

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During his visit to the area, Mr. Arturo Hein, Director of the United Nations Emergency Office for Rwanda (stationed in Nairobi), gave a very favourable assessment of the mission and operating methods of Operation "Turquoise".

#### 5.2.2 Actions carried out

Establishment of a rapid-intervention military medical unit (EMMIR) in Cyangugu (as of 5 July).

Delivery of 37 tons of humanitarian aid from the French Government and its distribution in the Kibuye and Gikongoro regions. Four hundred tons are expected in the next few days.

Evacuation of 1,325 persons.

The Western European Union has been requested to provide the following means:

- (a) A reserve of 35 tons of medicine (renewable every three weeks);
- (b) 400 tons of non-perishable foodstuffs;
- (c) Clothing and blankets for 200,000 persons.

Flagrant human rights violations have been directly observed by French soldiers and have been reported by the civilian population. Thus, the "Turquoise" forces discovered mass graves in the Cyangugu and Kibuye regions. Furthermore, bodies likely to be of persons of Tutsi origin were found near Biserero.

All relevant information collected will subsequently be transmitted to the experts on the Commission of Inquiry established under Security Council resolution 935 (1994) of 1 July 1994 and to the Special Rapporteur.

#### 6. Assessment of the implementation of the operation and possible difficulties to be encountered

Operation "Turquoise" is being implemented in accordance with Security Council resolution 929 (1994).

The French forces have demonstrated impartiality in the field by rescuing many Hutu and Tutsi Rwandese from certain death. This impartiality is beginning to be recognized by the RPF, which permitted the evacuation of 1,000 persons from Butare, even though a minor incident took place.

Certain difficulties remain. For the time being, non-governmental organizations and international institutions are doing very little to take over work carried out by the "Turquoise" forces, particularly in the south. In this field, as in the area of participating in the logistical support for our intervention, few promises have been carried out. While our contingent serves

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9/16

S/1994/795  
English  
P. 6

to deter the militias and armed forces involved in the conflict, it is still insufficient in view of the number of displaced persons to be assisted.

Furthermore, the difficulties involved in controlling the extremely tense military situation are not insignificant. Thus, possible hostility on the part of the RAF and the Hutu militias against our contingent may increase the dangers which our forces are already facing from RPF. Participation by third countries in the operation would constitute appreciable assistance to our efforts.

Lastly, the military effort borne almost entirely by France could not be extended without the serious prospect of relief by UNAMIR II. Most of the contribution offers are still uncertain or accompanied by conditions or time-limits that are incompatible with the taking over of our mission in the next two months. France therefore calls upon all Member States to ensure that the deployment of the reinforced UNAMIR is speedily carried out.

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Appendix I

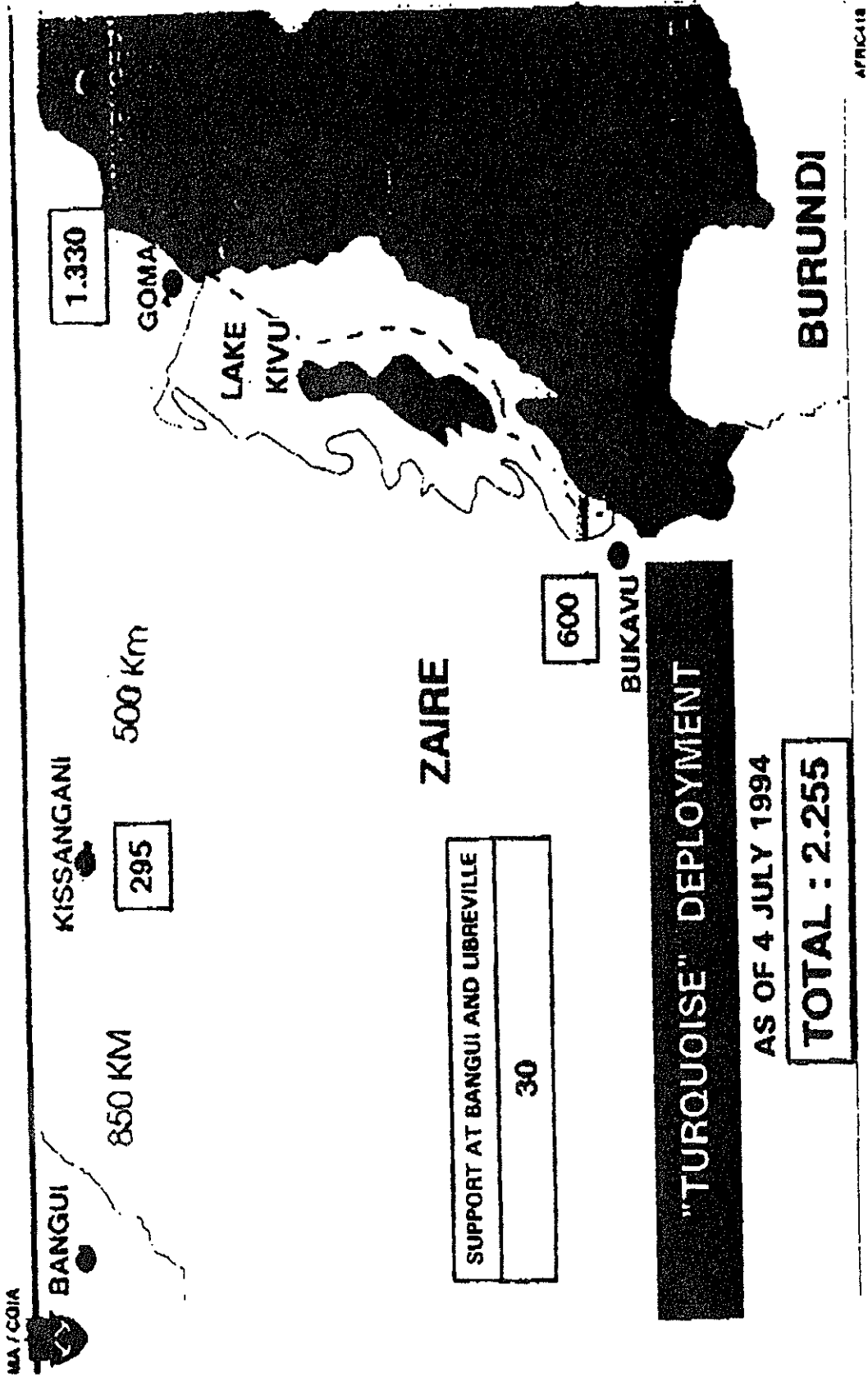
Evacuations carried out  
(as of 4 July 1994)

| Date    | Place of removal  | To              | Persons concerned    |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 28 June | Kibuye            | Goma            | 35 nuns<br>8 orphans |
| 29 June | Kibuye            | Goma            | 1 nun                |
| 30 June | Gishyita          | Goma            | 94 Tutsi             |
| 2 July  | Butare            | Goma            | 16 nuns              |
| 2 July  | Kibuye and Butare | Goma and Bukavu | 130 civilians        |
| 3 July  | Butare            | Burundi         | 262 persons          |
| 3 July  | Butare            |                 | 700 TDH orphans      |
| 3 July  | Butare            |                 | 30 nuns              |
| 4 July  | Gikongoro         | Goma            | 14 persons<br>3 nuns |
|         | North<br>Kigeme   | Gikongoro       | 1 nun<br>31 Tutsi    |
| Total   |                   |                 | 1 325                |

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11/16

Appendix II





**FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS**  
**RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT**

New York, 6 July 1994

H. E. Jamsheed K.A. Marker  
President of the Security Council

Your Excellency

With reference to the situation in Rwanda, we trust that you have received our letter written to you dated 4 July 1994 and take this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the developments in Rwanda over the last few days.

Your Excellency, you will, by now, have heard that the Rwandese Patriotic Front has taken over the capital, Kigali. We are, consequently, the new authority in the country.

We wish to inform the Members of the Security Council that we shall, in the course of the next few days, formally set up a new Administration. This new Government would be broad-based, encompassing the broad spectrum of Rwandese political opinion. It would be formed in the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement to which the Rwandese Patriotic Front reaffirms its commitment, but will exclude the perpetrators of genocide.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front shares the concern of the Security Council about the humanitarian situation in south-western Rwanda. We have taken successful measures to restore law and order in most of the country. The south-western part remains unstable, largely as a result of the activities of the former Government's troops, the militia and the threatening hate propaganda broadcast by radio stations under the control of extremists in the former Government. We anticipate, your Excellency, that the installation of the incoming government will stabilise the situation in the remaining parts of the country.

In our letter addressed to you and the Secretary-General, dated 4 July, we wrote at length on the apparent decision by France to extend its mandate under resolution 929/1994 by constituting itself into an interposition force for the protection of the former Government army and the militia. We have, however, stressed that we intend to do everything possible to avoid confrontation with French troops. Our leadership has indicated its willingness to discuss its role in Rwanda. Indeed, several meetings have already taken place between representatives of the French Government and our leadership. We welcome the assurances we have received that French troops will only limit their role to the humanitarian mission approved by the Security Council.

We remain convinced, Your Excellency, that the security zones in question are absolutely unnecessary. The advance of Rwandese Patriotic Front does not in anyway threaten the security of innocent civilians, as millions living in other parts of the country would testify. Nevertheless, the Rwandese Patriotic Front does not, in principle, object to the setting up of such security zones if the international community recommends their establishment on a temporary basis.

We would stress that no agreement whatsoever has been reached with France on the concept of the humanitarian security zones. Our view of such zones remains that:

1. They should be established in specific geographical locations where concentrations of displaced people presently exist.
2. They should be small in size and be only of such number as the size of the displaced population warrants.
3. They should strictly be for the use of civilians.
4. Any troops or members of the militia entering the zones should be promptly disarmed: the zones must be safe areas and French troops, and later UNAMIR, must accept the responsibility for policing them.
5. Perpetrators of acts of genocide and other human rights violations living in the security zones should be apprehended as information of their complicity in atrocities becomes available from the Commission of Experts established by Resolution 935.1994, investigations by the Special Rapporteur or any other source.

- 6 They should be accessible for monitoring.
7. French protection of these protection zones should be for only a limited duration, pending the deployment of UNAMIR II.

The RPF eagerly awaits the arrival of UNAMIR II, will do everything to facilitate its quick deployment and has, to this end, taken steps to reopen Kigali airport on 7 July 1994.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front remains vehemently opposed to any unilateral military operation by any country in support of the former Government, its armed forces and allied militia. Our contact with representatives of the French Government have centred around the discussion of the above views on the concept of the security zones and we have received assurances that the French Government does not, in principle, have any objections to most of our conditions. We trust that the French Government will, in the interest of peace, strictly ensure that the zones in question are kept for purely humanitarian purposes in order to avoid an unnecessary escalation of hostilities.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front requests the Security Council to make a definitive statement on the concept of the security zones proposed by France in its letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 1 July 1994, to enable us to know the precise conditions pertaining to the said zones with which we have to comply.

We pray, your Excellency, that this letter be distributed as an official document of the Security Council.



Gerald Gahima

For: The Political Bureau  
of the  
Rwandes Patriotic Front