

115/23/37

Your file:

Our file: 42/1/2

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FROM: Madrid C00278/MAD 21-Jun-1994
 TO: Wellington Wgtn UNSC Priority
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ACTION COPY

Subject
 SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA: SPAIN

Your U52172.

Summary

2 Spain is likely to announce later today or tomorrow that it will provide some logistic support for the proposed French intervention in Rwanda.

Action

3 For information only.

Report

4 In response to para 14 of your ref tel we have spoken to the Spanish Foreign Ministry (De Carvajal, DG for Security and Disarmament) about the possibility of Spanish participation in the proposed French intervention in Rwanda. We have also cross-checked the information we received with the British Embassy here.

5 De Carvajal told us that will be politically difficult for Spain not to make a gesture of support for the proposed French intervention force in Rwanda, provided of course that the Security Council approves the sending of the force. France is clearly determined to press ahead and expects its closest friends to back it. There are, of course, important questions to be decided, such as how to dovetail the force with UNOMIR. The precise nature of the Spanish gesture of support is still being worked out.

Willberg	
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6 Cross-checking on this with the British Embassy, we were told that the Embassy considers it likely that Spain will offer logistic support for the French intervention. This could be in the form of a C130 aircraft, or military equipment, or even perhaps a small engineer unit, but not front-line troops. The Spanish offer is likely to be made at today's WEU meeting in Brussels, and would become public in the next day or so. "The Spanish will not want to be left on the sidelines if this goes ahead". It follows that Spain will not obstruct the French efforts to obtain Security Council endorsement of the intervention. The Embassy commented that the Spanish position was in effect similar to the British position.

Comment

7 The Spanish media have of course paid great attention to Rwanda since the present crisis began, and have reported in detail on the atrocities and the rescue of Spanish citizens (mainly missionaries) from that country. The Government would have strong public support for a decision to assist the French intervention force, and could also expect diplomatic advantages, e.g. over the Spanish candidacy for SG of the WEU, from supporting the French at a time when they expect it.

End Message