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FROM: ROME	C00934/ROM	25-Jun-1994
TO: WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Routine
CC: PARIS	NEW YORK	Routine
DEFENCE	HARARE	Routine

MFAT (UNC, MEA, ISAC, HRU, LGL, EUR, DSP1, EAB)

P/S MFA  
 DEFENCE HQNZDF (DSIA, OPS, DDI)  
 DEFENCE MOD

**Subject**

SECURITY COUNCIL : RWANDA

Our U00792 of 21 June refers.

**Summary**

2 Italian Government has announced that it is willing to send contingent of some 450 troops to Rwanda but has attached four specific preconditions. Support for French proposal may accordingly be less than wholehearted. Doubts probably stem from Italy's experience in Somalia. Secretary General of MFA (Salleo) told US Ambassador yesterday that he regards proposal as "ill advised and risky".

**Action**

3 For information only.

**Report**

4 Media reports note that Italy is ready to take an active part in Rwanda if four conditions can be met, as follows:

- a) operation authorized by UN;
- b) parties in conflict agree to presence of foreign troops;
- c) agreement worked out on the conduct and duration of the operation;
- d) command of the operation assumed by WEO or NATO.

5 While the Government appears willing in principle to take part in any action which will halt the events in Rwanda it seems likely that MFA and Defence officials (the Secretary General's comment reported above is direct and to the point)

have fresh in their minds the problems which arose during the recent deployment of Italian forces in Somalia and are counselling caution.

6 Of the four requirements only the first can currently be regarded as being in place but French can be expected to apply pressure on Italians in Corfu to modify their position on the other points.

7 As far as b) is concerned media reports state that so far only the Hutu (apparently supported in the past by France) have agreed to the presence of foreign troops. A Tutsi spokesperson in Brussels is reported to have warned that should Italy send troops it will be "at its own risk and danger".

8 Senior Ministry of Defence staff, who we are told, "fully share views of the their MFA colleagues" say that they will require equipment they do not currently possess, and will insist that clear goals be established for the mission as well as agreement on the command structures, rules of engagement and likely duration. Undoubtedly referring back to Somalia the Chief of General Staff has said that the tasks assigned to Italy in any eventual operation will "need to be realistic and achievable".

#### **Comment**

9 New Italian Government would want to be forthcoming to French request and, impelled by public opinion, would want to be seen to contribute to any action likely to bring an end to the horrific events in Rwanda. On the other hand their experience in Somalia is leading to a cautious approach to the practicalities. Corfu summit may alter the balance. If no agreement is reached Italy will probably limit its involvement to "humanitarian relief operations" along Rwanda's borders.

End Message