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115/23/37

Your file:

Our file: 197/1/1

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| FROM: | PARIS | C01970/PAR | 05-Jul-1994 |
| TO: | WELLINGTON NEW YORK | WGTM UNSC | Priority Priority |
| CC: | BEIJING BRUSSELS HARARE GENEVA MOSCOW SANTIAGO WASHINGTON | BONN CANBERRA LONDON MADRID OTTAWA TOKYO DEFENCE | Routine Routine Routine Routine Routine Routine Routine |

MFAT (MEA, UNC, ISAC, HRU, EUR, DP3, DSP3, EAB)

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

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Your C25361.

Summary

- France is doing it all it can to encourage countries to contribute troops, logistical support and finance to UNAMIR. It would particularly like contributions from Western countries (including New Zealand).

- France is confident that the Canadians, as well as the Ghanians, will come through with their promised contributions **this month**. It understands that others, including the Australians and the Japanese, are examining closely what form of assistance they might offer.

- France does not expect the UNSC to take any further action on the establishment of the humanitarian zone which was already provided for by earlier resolutions.

- The timing of the withdrawal of French forces (within the two month mandate) will depend largely on when the additional UNAMIR forces can be deployed. France would expect the UNAMIR troops to be deployed throughout Rwanda, including within the humanitarian zone.

- French troops will respond if refugees in the zone are threatened by either side. Large numbers of both Tutsi and

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Hutu refugees are seeking the protection of the humanitarian zone in the wake of the RPF offensive. There are RGF forces within the zone but most are in the government zone to the north.

- France has said that it will not allow any military activity within the humanitarian zone.

Action

For information.

Report

2. We touched base with Lignière (African issues, UN Section) briefly this afternoon. We noted that de Bellescize had made a demarche yesterday in support of the the French initiative to create a secure humanitarian zone in south-west Rwanda. She confirmed that de Bellescize had reported New Zealand's cautious approach to the initiative, noting that France did not now expect the UNSC to need to take any further action. "There had been a bit of a misunderstanding" but it was now clear that the humanitarian area conformed with previous resolutions.

3. Lignière went on to note that the demarche had been part of a wider effort to solicit support for the zone amongst UNSC members and to approach potential contributors to UNAMIR to encourage them to firm up quickly their offers of support. Canada had assured France that it would have its contribution in place this month. Ditto the Ghanians. Japan was considering the possibility of providing financial support. The Australians were about to send a reconnaissance team to Rwanda (and neighbouring countries) to assess the possibility of contributing a 300-strong team of medics and associated security/logistical support.

4. Lignière confirmed that France envisaged that UNAMIR would be deployed throughout Rwanda, including the humanitarian zone. How long the French force remained depended largely on how quickly the UNAMIR troops could be deployed. PM Balladur had clearly said that he wanted the French forces out by the end of July.

5. Lignière noted that de Bellscize had reported that no decision had been announced on whether New Zealand would contribute to UNAMIR. We said that was also our understanding. In response to her further probing, we said that we were not aware of your latest thinking on the issue but understood that you had been examining some possibilities but that no decision had been taken. Lignière urged New Zealand to consider all options, including logistical or financial support. Although there was no special fund in place for the moment, the UNSG was looking into this. She noted that insufficient humanitarian aid was getting through to Rwanda. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that

the humanitarian zone was not a fertile area.

6. We asked Lignière to elaborate on what measures the French forces might take to protect refugees in the humanitarian zone. She evaded a direct response. She was not sure for example whether they would allow RPF forces to pass through the zone if they did not threaten refugees. She simply reiterated that France would not permit any military activity in the zone that might adversely affect the safety of the refugees. The French troops would respond if refugees were threatened. She was unclear however to what extent the French troops might try to disarm RGF or hutu militia or evict them from the zone. She noted that the RPF had not responded negatively to the creation of the zone. French troop commanders were in regular contact with the RPF forces.

7. Finally, we sought clarification on what initiatives might be taken to relaunch the **political dialogue and the search for a political settlement**. She said that that she was not aware of any specific French initiatives at this stage. France continued to support the idea of a regional conference. This had been been discussed at a meeting between President Mitterrand and the Ugandan President (Museveni) during the latter's visit to Paris late last week. France expected Museveni to move quickly to convene such a conference, which would include Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi (and perhaps Kenya), to discuss a political solution to the crisis based on the Arusha Accords. As for the prospects for a ceasefire, Lignière suggested that this might not be so difficult to achieve now that the RPF had taken Kigali.

Press comment

8. Concerns about Operation Turquoise continue to appear in the French press, some commentators maintaining that there has been a deliberate shift in policy away from the humanitarian objective through the establishment of what is in effect a secure zone for the RGF.

9. Other comment focusses on President Mitterrand's current visit to South Africa and Nelson Mandela's refusal to support the French intervention. Mandela is reported to have affirmed that **"A solution should be found to the conflict within the context of the OAU"**.

End Message