

115/23/37

Your file:

Our file:

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FROM:	New York	C04276/NYK	08-Apr-1994
TO:	Wellington	Wgtn UNSC	Immediate
CC:	Beijing	Canberra	Routine
	Harare	London	Routine
	Moscow	Ottawa	Routine
	Paris	Washington	Routine

MFAT (MEA, EUR, UNC, LGL, DP1, DSP1, EAB)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL : RWANDA

Our C04273.

We have spoken to French Mission. They have no instructions and the events in the last hour or so at Kigali Airport seem to have taken them by surprise.

2 The Mission's reaction is still to favour seeking UN approval for the operation which is under way and they are so recommending to Paris.

3 It is late Friday evening here and few other PRs are available. We have advised Gambari (Nigeria). He gulped. Clearly the African members of the Council will have difficulty dealing with this issue.

4 Our guess is that we may be facing a proposal for a resolution tomorrow under which the Council would be asked to authorise (albeit ex post facto) the operation. No doubt the resolution authorising the original US operation in Somalia will be used as a model. We would not rule out the possibility of having to vote on the issue.

5 One other suggestion which has been floated in some quarters of the Secretariat is to attach the French troops to UNAMIR. We think this would be a bad idea, risking the UNOSOM mistake of confused missions and mandates and inevitably the French will not want UN Command.

6 Another possibility of course is that Paris will decide to ignore the UN and not seek Council support for their action at all. Depending on African reaction this could create a much more complex situation.

7 We have been unable to reach MFAT officers by phone so we have conveyed the essence of our earlier messages and this one to Blumhardt by phone for passing to the Minister.

End Message