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Your file: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM: NEW YORK C04413/NYK 04-May-1994
 TO: WELLINGTON WGTN UNSC Immediate
 CC: BEIJING BONN Routine
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Foster	
McCormick	
Rush	
Tyrne	
Dalton	
Watson	
(to	

Subject
 SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- "Proximity talks" in Arusha continuing.
- "Interim government" prefers UN "intervention force" assist its military position).
- RPF opposes this but could support an expanded UNAMIR focussing on provision of humanitarian assistance and security to displaced persons.

Action

For information only.

Report

2 Council received a further briefing on Rwanda today from the secretariat (De Soto). A battle for the northern town of Ruhangan (?) in the north west continues. The situation in Kigali is tense and alternates between periods of calm and sporadic fighting. The Hotel Collines had come under particular fire. The airport had also been fired at with 4 Ghanains wounded by indirect fire. Three had been evacuated to Nairobi and the Force Commander had complained to both sides about this.

3 UNAMIR made an attempt yesterday to relocate a number of

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displaced persons sheltering at the Hotel Collines to a safer place. Although they had received an undertaking as to security, a militia force intercepted the UNAMIR convoy and all 64 civilians were hauled out and their luggage looted. After 4 hours of negotiations UNAMIR was allowed to return 62 civilians to the Hotel. Five civilians were wounded in this incident.

4 A large camp of displaced persons had been identified in Rumangana (?) town in the north east (en route to Tanzania). UNHCR had launched an urgent appeal in respect of some 250,000 displaced persons now in Tanzania crowded into makeshift camps and overwhelming the resources of the Tanzania government. These people had no shelter from recent rains.

5 The RPF has taken up positions along the border between Tanzania and Rwanda. ICRC had suspended an effort it made to resupply as a result of being shelled and had reported yesterday that 21 orphans and 13 Rwandese ICRC staff had been massacred in an orphanage in Butare. These children had been transferred from an orphanage in Kigali at the beginning of the month. ICRC had also reported the successful evacuation of 350 orphans and 25 adults from Gisenyi in the north. (This had been possible by the dedication of local authorities and an escort by the "interim government" forces.

Arusha Talks

6 Secretariat also provided information about the Arusha talks held yesterday and information about the talks provided by the Tanzanian PR was also circulated (our IFF to Wgtn only refers). (At least this time both sides showed up). In essence, the RPF was willing to sign a generally caste unilateral ceasefire agreement which could then be initialed by Tanzania and the OAU. The details would then be worked out between the military leaders of both sides. The RPF would not however either talk directly with or enter into an agreement with the "interim government" (representing in its view those responsible for the massacres).

7 The "interim government" for its part, insists on an agreement between both sides and as a precondition, each side withdrawing to the military positions occupied before 6 April. Both sides however reaffirmed their commitment to a ceasefire and to mandating their respective military commands to working out the details. Tanzania and the OAU Sec Gen were conducting proximity talks to try to get some compromise on the way forward. (Our IFF to Wgtn only contains report from Tanzania on Arusha talks).

8 The President (Gambari) noted that in the absence of the Sec Gen overseas, he had spoken with the secretariat (Riza, Annan and Gen Baril) about the Council's discussions yesterday and was trying to contact the President of Tanzania and OAU Sec Gen as requested. He had also spoken to both the

RPF (i Rwandan reps in New York.

Mandate

9 In a letter of 3 May the RPF has expressed its "strong opposition to the proposed deployment of a UN force to restore...law and order in Rwanda," (our IFF to Wgtn only refers). We understand from the RPF rep here that although they are opposed to an "intervention force" they would not necessarily be opposed to an expanded UNAMIR which was mandated to assist in providing humanitarian aid and security to displaced persons and refugees.

10 As you will see from the Tanzanian report, the "interim government" prefers an "intervention force" no doubt because it is currently losing ground to the RPF and would like the UN to help it reconsolidate the ground lost, or at least maintain its present military position. Another problem is that the "interim government" wishes to agree to the "composition" of the force and we know that it would like to be choosy in this regard.

11 Gambari noted also that the Sec Gen had written to 20 African Heads of Government requesting troop contributions and was awaiting their replies before making any specific proposals to the Council. Gambari also noted that there was something of a "chicken and egg" situation in that some countries like Nigeria (which are seriously considering the Sec Gen's request) would like to know what the troops would be doing and what would be their mandate before giving a firm commitment.

12 Only delegations to speak were Pakistan and Djibouti, the latter to note that the NAM was considering elements for a draft resolution expanding UNAMIR and its mandate. We expect the Council to come back to the item tomorrow.

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End Message