

Your file: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM: NEW YORK C04529/NYK 31-May-1994

TO: WELLINGTON WGTN UNSC Priority

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**Subject**

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- First face to face cease-fire talks held Monday under UNAMIR's auspices
- RPF reportedly making some advances
- 1 UNAMIR officer killed by mortar bomb while UNAMIR continues to evacuate civilians
- further massacres reported

Action

For information

Report

2 Secretariat (Gharekhan) gave Council a briefing on Rwanda at informals this afternoon. Under Secretary General Riza and Gen Baril, Sec Gen's military advisor, returned from Rwanda last night (Mon) and are presently preparing their report to the Sec Gen. On the basis of that the Sec Gen will then report to the Council in the "near future" as envisaged in res 918.

3 The first meeting of the ceasefire talks, agreed to by both sides, was held at UNAMIR HQ (under UNAMIR's auspices)

yesterday. The talks were chaired by the Deputy Force Commander. This was the first time the parties had met face to face since the events of 6 April sparking the present conflict. There was a preliminary exchange of views at the meeting and the Deputy Force Commander had given each side a draft containing elements for a cease-fire agreement. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 June.

4 At the talks the RPF had reiterated its position that the "government" must desist from inciting further massacres of Tutsi. Gharekhan reported that it "appeared" that the "government" was toning down its earlier statements and may now be requesting its supporters to be "more tolerant of Tutsi".

5 UNAMIR continued its efforts to evacuate people caught between the lines and had evacuated 246 people from the Hotel Mille Collines and 290 from the stadium in Kigali yesterday. The situation in Kigali was tense and there was exchange of heavy artillery fire yesterday. Some "government forces" had been seen moving south but there was "no significant changes" in positions. The militia was still maintaining roadblocks in "government" held areas. The RPF advances continued and they had been reported as having taken control of some portions of important roads to Gitarama and Butare. Otherwise there was no change in the positions in other parts of the country.

6 One UNAMIR officer, a Senegalese, had been killed today (Tues) at 11.15am local time when the vehicle he was travelling in between the Hotel Mille Collines and UNAMIR HQ was hit by a mortar bomb. UNAMIR was trying to arrange an investigation.

7 Finally, Gharekhan reported that 500 civilians had been massacred on Sat in a monastery where they had taken refuge. UNAMIR was trying to organise an investigation into this event.

8 The Czech Republic queried how this latest piece of information squared with the news that the "government" appeared to have toned down its incitement to massacre Tutsi and asked how many people in total had sought refuge in one monastery, saying they had heard that it be a very large number (30,000) which was in imminent danger. The Holy See is engaged in diplomatic efforts to secure their safety (see their letter by fax). The Secretariat was unable to add any further information or to confirm that it was the massacre took place at the same monastery. There may be further information on this score tomorrow.

9 The US Mission told us they had had a preliminary discussion today with Annan, Riza and Baril about implementation of the revised UNAMIR mandate. They told us that some adjustment to the proposed UN concept of operations is likely. Rather than channelling the entire UN effort

through Kigali on an "inside out" approach, the thinking now is that UNAMIR should operate from a couple of fronts. One would be Kigali focussed but would not extend significantly beyond the city. The other would be launched from the border with Burundi and would head inland. The exact plan of operation, however, has still to be worked out. But what is clear is that the UN does not want to stay on the borders or to establish safe areas.

10 The Mission told us that a high level team is coming up from Washington tomorrow to discuss the matter further. The Mission's comments indicated that they at least see merit in the Secretariat's ideas but are not confident that the Pentagon can be shifted from its insistence on a plan focussed on the borders.

11 The US Mission also told us that the Secretariat now want to implement phases 1 and 2 together, given the delays in implementing phase 1. They mentioned that the US APCs will not be available to UNAMIR for about a month because of the time it will take to get them out of mothballs in Germany. Meanwhile, the Secretariat has approached South Africa for 20+ APCs and is reasonably hopeful of a positive response.

12 Apparently the Secretariat is planning to finalise its next report to the Council by the end of this week. Accordingly we want to try and set up a working level discussion between the Secretariat and a range of Council members to ensure we are not again presented with US/Secretariat views over which we have had little input.

End Message