

115/23/37

Your file: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM:	NEW YORK	C04602/NYK	13-Jun-1994
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Subject
 SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- Spanish raise proposal for special commission to investigate massacres; NZ supports further discussion
- Secretariat confirm yet more reports of massacres
- Consensus is emerging on the problem of Rwandan Presidency of Council; prevailing view is that he should be advised that if Rwanda agrees to defer its Presidency for an undefined period his credentials will not be challenged

Action

For information.

Report

At informals today Spain flagged (under other matters) its draft resolution to establish a special commission to investigate breaches of humanitarian law - including genocide. As you know the resolution picks up, and advances, the points in the 30 April Presidential Statement and the Sec Gen's report. We lent support by calling for an early discussion of the principles involved in the draft, asking the President to add it to the work programme.

2 Secretariat (Gharekhan) gave a brief on the situation on the ground. The cease-fire talks have resumed today at UNAMIR HQ although there was not much progress made at the talks last week.

3 The situation in Kigali is very tense with heavy fighting reported in the last few days. The RPF continues to pressure "government" held pockets in Kigali. Elsewhere in the country it appears the "government" forces are building a buffer zone in order to halt further RPF advances south. This morning the RPF announced it had taken control of Gitarama (the town in which the "government" had earlier established its HQ). In Ruhengeri (in the north) the p[osition of the two sides had not changed.

4 The OAU Summit (meeting in Tunisia) has established a Committee on Rwanda with the objectives of brokering a cease-fire, stop the massacres, encourage dialogue and help implement the Arusha Agreement. All appeals at the Summit (including one from the South African Foreign Minister) had failed to bring the parties face to face despite both sides having delegations in Tunis at present.

5 Secretariat reported what appears to be another massacre in "government" held area (Kiyumba?) where 250 mainly Tutsi civilians were sheltering in a church under the protection of two French and German priests. Armed men wearing civilian clothes entered the church on 11 June and first took 10 people away. Shots were heard following which tear gas was thrown into the church. After more armed men arrived, 180 civilians were taken from the church, the armed men saying that they were assisting in the "evacuation" of these people. Gunfire followed in which the priests were injured, at least 16 bodies of those taken from the church were seen by the priests before they managed to escape to the ICRC in Kigali. UNAMIR is to attempt to investigate this event.

6 There was also a separate report of 63 persons and 9 catholic priests killed in RGF held section of Kigali. Secretariat reported that RPF has declared its intention to investigate and punish those responsible for the RPF killing of Archbishop Nsengiyumva and 9 others in Kabgayi.

7 UNAMIR reports there is a pattern of harassment evolving. Both sides appear to be attempting to intimidate UNAMIOR in Kigali. It is becoming increasingly difficult to observe conflict zones. On 8 June a UNAMIR group was involved in a very tense situation in which a French journalist was injured and the rest made a narrow escape.

8 On 9 June UNAMIR HQ was hit by antitank or artillery fire aimed at the HQ buildings. A UNAMIR convoy was also shelled as it made its way to cease-fire talks.

Rwanda Credentials

9 P5 consideration of this issue was preempted by this subject being raised at an extended discussion over the weekend amongst most PRs on the Council. Meeting mainly focussed on peacekeeping issues in general but the specific question of Rwanda was raised. Bizimana was not present. After an extensive canvassing of the options and the legal position a clear trend emerged in favour of Bizimana being given an ultimatum. If he would acquiesce in the President (probably Marker next month) announcing that Rwanda had requested "due to its limited resources and other problems" that its Presidency be deferred, and if he keeps a very low profile especially on sensitive issues, then the members of the Council who would otherwise challenge his credentials will withhold such action.

10 Olhaye (Djibouti) who is currently chair of the African Group volunteered to be the one to put this proposition to Bizimana. We will keep in touch with developments.

End Message