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FROM: MADRID U00603 23 Jun 1994
TO: WELLINGTON WGTN UNSC PRIORITY
CC: NEW YORK EC POSTS ROUTINE
OTTAWA CANBERRA ROUTINE
WASHINGTON HARARE ROUTINE

MFAT (MEA, UNC, EUR, ISAC, HRU, SMG, EAB)

P/S MFA

SECURITY COUNCIL:RWANDA

Summary

- Spanish Press has given New Zealand's UNSC abstention only minor coverage. One paper has suggested that NZ "suspects French motives".

- Spanish press opinion is that the French action in Rwanda lacks adequate political preparation, and for this reason cannot be considered "purely humanitarian".

- Spanish Government has announced logistic support for French intervention.

Action

2 For information only.

Report

3 In a report datelined Washington, today's edition of the main Madrid daily "El Pais" reports the outcome of yesterday's UNSC vote on Rwanda, adding: "Of the non-permanent members, only Nigeria and New Zealand had indicated doubts about French intentions. Nigeria, because it considers that the operation smacks of old colonial adventures in the African continent. New Zealand, for its part, suspects the motives of France, a country accused by the Tutsi opposition RPF of having supported for many years the Hutu-majority Government, which in its turn is implicated in most of the killings in Rwanda".

4 In its editorial column "El Pais" does not mention the 5 Abstention votes in the SC, but comments "The attitude of the Tutsi front indicates that the French plan lacks the political preparation necessary for it to be considered an exclusively humanitarian operation, deserving the UN's support. France is trying to convince the RPF of its good intentions, but has not succeeded yet. As regards the OAU, Europe's interest is in cooperating with it and encouraging its involvement, certainly not in taking decisions without taking the OAU's views into account. There are therefore reasons for Spain to take a cautious approach to this question, without allowing this to harm our friendship with a country which is our ally and with which we have very close links.

logistic support for the French intervention, but has not yet given details.

6 We have sent copies of the Minister's press statement (your U52433) to relevant officials in the Spanish Foreign Ministry.

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Page 1