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FROM: PARIS	U02437	30 Jun 1994
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SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Your C25024.

Summary

Following Defence Minister Leotard's visit to Zaire/Rwanda yesterday, Cooperation Minister Roussin has called for UNAMIR troops to replace the French as soon as possible.

There is increasing preoccupation with the potential risks the French forces are facing in Rwanda - from the RGA and Hutu militia as well as from the RPF.

Former head of the anti-terrorist unit in the Elysée, Paul Barril, has claimed that he is in possession of the "black box" from the aircraft shot down on 6 April carrying the former Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi. He claims the FPR was responsible.

French humanitarian organisations Mûdicins Sans Frontiûre and Mûdicins du Monde have both called for military intervention to stop the massacres.

Action

For information.

Report

2 French Defence Minister Lûotard visited French troops in Zaire and Rwanda yesterday. Somewhat surprisingly he has so far made little public comment on the visit, confining himself to noting that "the difficulties are ahead of us". "We are over the easy bit. There is risk of the Rwandan Army turning against us."

3 Today Minister for Cooperation, Roussin, called for the urgent

deployment of the international force recommended by the UNSC to take the place of the French military operation. (Roussin, L'otard and Balladur are all thought to have held reservations about the French intervention with the real push having come from Juppé's office and the Elysée).

4 The French media continue to report extensively on Rwanda. A number of French journalists are now based in Zaire and are accompanying French troops on sorties into Rwanda. Early reports indicated that the French had received a warm reception from the Hutu and Rwandan military to the point that the French were finding it difficult to dissuade the Hutu that they had not intervened on their behalf. Over the past couple of days, however, there have been a number of reports of increasing tension between the French troops and the Rwandan army as the latter come to appreciate that the French are not there to help them militarily.

5 Speculation continues to exist over claims made by the former head of the anti-terrorist unit in the Elysée, Paul Barril published in Le Monde (28 June), that he is in possession of the "black box" from the aircraft shot down on 6 April. Dassault, the plane's manufacturers have cast
doubt

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over this as has the supposed manufacturer of the black box (Litton). Barril accuses the RPF of being responsible for the attack and is said to be helping lawyers for former President Habyarimana's wife prepare a case to go before the International Court in The Hague. FM Jupp  has responded to Barril's claims by calling him to hand over whatever he's in possession of to the UNSG who has been given the task of conducting an official investigation into the attack.

6 The same Le Monde article also queried the reasons for the death of three French nationals in Kigali immediately following the attack on the former President's plane. Two were French police and the other a spouse of one of the French officers. A number of question-marks remain over their deaths, none of which have been officially addressed.

Comment

7 We will try and seek further comment from our contacts on the emerging concerns about the safety of the French troops and report further.

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