

U.N. sent 2,519 troops to Rwanda in recent months

Reuters, April 7, 1994

UNITED NATIONS, April 7 (Reuter) - The United Nations sent 2,519 troops from 23 countries to the central African country of Rwanda over the last few months to prevent civil war from breaking out again between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups.

But the bloodletting on the streets of the Rwandan capital of Kigali Wednesday and Thursday has engulfed U.N. soldiers who were guarding government officials as well as a barrack housing the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front troops.

There were reports from Kigali that at least 11 Belgian U.N. peacekeepers were shot and killed by members of the presidential guard in the Rwandan capital after being disarmed.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, 57, and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira, 38, were killed late Wednesday when rockets downed their plane. They were Hu-

tus, the majority tribe in both countries long at odds with the Tutsi minority.

A U.N. spokesman in Kigali said Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana was killed Thursday near the presidential palace. U.N. officials in New York said she was under U.N. escort at the time, fled into a U.N. Development Programme compound and was dragged out and killed.

Only Tuesday, the Security Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate for the Rwanda U.N. operation for another six months. But the 15-member body warned that unless peace agreements were honoured and a stable government and assembly were in place, it would withdraw the contingents.

U.N. officials Thursday said they were trying to get government, army, police and rebels leaders together to restore order. But there was no word

if the troops would stay or be withdrawn.

Following are the 23 countries with U.N. troops and military observers – lightly armed officers – in Rwanda :

INFANTRY BATTALIONS :

1. Bangladesh - 937
2. Ghana - 841
3. Belgium - 428

SUPPORT TROOPS AND MILITARY OBSERVERS :

4. Tunisia - 60
5. Senegal - 39
6. Zimbabwe - 29
7. Egypt - 26
8. Uruguay - 25

9. Austria - 15
 10. Nigeria - 15
 11. Russia - 15
 12. Togo - 15
 13. Brazil - 13
 14. Congo - 10
 15. Mali - 10
 16. Netherlands - 10
 17. Botswana - 9
 18. Poland - 5
 19. Malawi - 5
 20. Slovakia - 5
 21. Hungary - 4
 22. Canada - 2
 23. Fiji - 1
- (c) Reuters Limited 1994