

# UN draws up plans for evacuations from Rwanda

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UNITED NATIONS, April 8 (Reuter) - The United Nations Friday proposed to send another 1,500 to 2,000 troops to Rwanda if it became necessary to evacuate its civilian staff and other foreigners from the central African nation.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council it might be necessary to change the mandate for the 2,500-strong peacekeeping operation and members should "give this matter their urgent attention."

Belgium, France the United States are making plans to rescue their nationals in Rwanda from tribal bloodletting which has killed political leaders, U.N. peacekeepers, aid workers, nuns, priests and ordinary Rwandans.

Diplomats said Belgium, which has 400 troops with the 2,500-strong U.N. contingent, wants to send in new forces under a U.N. flag to rescue its 1,500 citizens there. Brussels also spoke to Boutros-Ghali about changing the mandate of the U.N. troops to allow for the use of force.

But there has been no decision on this request with some council members wary of any operation aimed at Europeans only under a U.N. flag.

Iqbal Riza, the deputy chief of peacekeeping, told reporters there was no immediate U.N. operation planned.

"We have just alerted the Security Council that this might need to be considered and of the resources required," he said.

In contrast to Boutros-Ghali, Riza said that the council might not need a new mandate but new rules under the present mandate for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR).

Boutros-Ghali, expressing his views in a letter said : "It is quite possible that the evacuation of civilian staff from the United Nations system, as well as other foreign nationals, might become unavoidable in which event UNAMIR would be hindered in providing assistance under its present mandate and rules of engagement."

"The members of the Security Council might wish to give this matter their urgent attention," he said, adding that two or three additional battalions would be needed.

Riza also told reporters approaches to Kigali's airport in the Rwandese capital, were controlled by the Rwanda Patriotic Front, composed mainly of Tutsis involved in a civil war with the dominant Hutu tribe.

But the airport is still controlled by the hardline Hutu presidential guard, which has been responsible for much of the mayhem after President Juvenal

Habyarimana as well as President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi were killed in a rocket attack on their plane as it flew into the city Wednesday night. It is not clear who was responsible.

The late president and his guard were part of a coalition government but opposed all Hutu political parties that allowed Tutsis in their midst.

U.N. sources said the conflict was not merely one between Hutus and Tutsis but among Hutus also.

A representative of the RPF said the United States and other countries had spoken to him about contingency plans to evacuate foreign nationals. "We will not shoot at them," said Claude Dusaidi, who said the RPF was cooperating with the United Nations.

U.N. troops first went into Rwanda to monitor the Rwanda-Ugandan border which was by the rebel RPF and then observe a ceasefire and protect government leaders.

The operation was instituted last autumn at the urging of France, which wanted to pull out its contingents from Kigali after they were accused of siding with the government.

Belgium has put paratroopers on alert to evacuate its 1,500 nationals from Rwanda, a former Belgian colony, after 10 Belgian soldiers were killed trying to protect the country's prime minister.

France also was considering using troops stationed in the Central African Republic to evacuate its 600 nationals from Rwanda and the United States said it would evacuate its 255 citizens but did not say how.

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