



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

13 April 1994

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to inform you that H.E. Mr. Willy Claes, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, held a meeting with me in Bonn on 12 April 1994 during which we reviewed the situation in Rwanda. On behalf of the United Nations, I took the opportunity to reiterate to the Minister sincere condolences on the death of ten Belgian soldiers serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) as well as deep gratitude and appreciation for Belgium's contribution to UNAMIR.

The Minister conveyed to me his assessment of the situation in Rwanda which, according to him, has deteriorated drastically in recent days and continues to grow rapidly worse. He informed me that the Government of Belgium has decided to withdraw its contingent serving with UNAMIR at the earliest possible date. The Minister assured me that his Government would like the withdrawal of its contingent to take place in a coordinated manner.

In the light of this decision by the Government of Belgium, it is my assessment that it will be extremely difficult for UNAMIR to carry out its tasks effectively. The continued discharge by UNAMIR of its mandate will become untenable unless the Belgian contingent is replaced by another, equally well equipped contingent or unless the Government of Belgium reconsiders its decision to withdraw its contingent.

His Excellency
Mr. Colin Keating
President of the Security Council
New York

In these circumstances, I have asked my Special Representative and the Force Commander to prepare plans for the withdrawal of UNAMIR, should this prove necessary, and send their recommendations to me in this regard. I shall keep the Council informed.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Boutros Boutros-Ghali