

From : Ambassador Roble Olhaye  
Djibouti

A DISCUSSION PAPER

RWANDA'S SEPTEMBER 1994 PRESIDENCY  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

All members are aware a preliminary exchange of views on this matter took place among the members about three weeks ago. Since that time, I have held, in an atmosphere of candor and mutual confidence, thorough and extensive meetings with Ambassador Bizimana regarding the increasing sensitivity as well as wider implications surrounding his presidency in September, at a time his country is soaked in a blood bath, coupled with the absence of a viable, functioning central authority. I believe I have sufficiently conveyed to him the deep concerns and reservations of Council members, which are shared as well by many non-Council Member States of the United Nations.

I cannot, however, underestimate the emotions, agony and difficulty faced by Ambassador Bizimana and his Government in reaching a political decision.

I am pleased to report that, in a final meeting toward the end of last week, Ambassador Bizimana sounded decisive and quite realistic. He informed me that he understands these apprehensions at this time, and realizes the potential difficulties and strains which may attend to Rwanda's presidency, given the prevailing tragic situation in his country.

**CONSEQUENTLY, HIS POSITION :**

***-He will not insist on assuming the Presidency in September 1994***

***-But will insist on preserving the right for Rwanda to assume the Presidency sometime next year, prior to the expiration of her term in the Council in December 1995***

***-He also insists that Members should desist from any attempts or actions directed toward challenging the continued membership of Rwanda in the Council***

**OPTIONS**

*After the rather lengthy discussions on this matter, during which several possible alternatives were examined, it would appear there are essentially three options the Council may elect to consider:*

- A. *There could be a "swap" where Rwanda gives up its right to preside in September 1994 for an exchange with another member's turn (spot) in 1995. This is predicated upon the availability of a Member willing to advance its Presidency to September 1994 and vacating its place in 1995 for Rwanda.*
- B. *Rwanda would forego its turn in September, and everyone else advances one month - no country assuming Presidency twice. This option would have a slot in December 1995 for Rwanda.*

*Handwritten notes in the left margin, including the word "Options" and other illegible scribbles.*

- C. *Rwanda to forego not only its Presidency in September 1994 but in any future possibility during its term in the Council*

**CONCLUSION**

*In exploring these options the members may wish to know that Rwanda would be amenable to Options A and B, and Option C obviously seems unacceptable to them.*

*Fortunately, there appears to be a mutual recognition of the potential credibility issues involved here as things presently stand. Given the options available, however, I believe we can arrive at a satisfactory acceptable resolution which takes into consideration both the sensitivity of this issue and the possibility that Rwanda may keep its hope alive.*

*June 28, 1994*