

Opposition group rejects transition government, heads for Kigali

AFP, April 9, 1994

NAIROBI, April 9 (AFP) - Opposition forces of the Rwanda Patriotic Front in a broadcast statement Saturday rejected an interim government formed in Kigali, and Rwandan diplomats here said they were marching on the Rwandan capital.

The statement from the FPR, drawn from the minority Tutsi tribe, said that the movement's forces would "restore order" in Kigali as they could not remain "with arms folded" following the bloodletting in the Rwandan capital which has left thousands dead since the president's plane crash death Wednesday.

The rejection of the transitional government was broadcast on Rwandan radio, monitored here.

The Rwandan diplomats in contact with the Rwandan military command said that FPR forces had crossed a buffer zone set up under

a ceasefire accord between the rebel FPR and government in March 1993.

They said the FPR troops were advancing in a broad front and "have already reportedly engaged in skirmishes with government troops" in several places.

The bulk of the FPR forces, estimated at some 20,000, are based in Mulindi near the Ugandan border.

The FPR's rejection of the transitional government came after the United Nations said that a crisis committee made up of army and police had named a new interim president and transitional government made up of members of the party of the late president Juvenal Habyarimana and four opposition parties.

The United Nations had also contacted the FPR and was awaiting its reaction.

sa/ap/gk