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DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE AUX NATIONS UNIES



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STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
ON THE SITUATIONS IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

The African Group at the United Nations met today in Session to review developments in Rwanda and Burundi, following the tragic death of both Presidents Juvenal HABYARIMANA and Cyprien NTARYAMIRA. The Permanent Representatives of Rwanda and Burundi to the United Nations briefed the Group on the latest developments in their respective countries. In this context, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda informed the Group of the establishment of an interim government. The Group was further briefed on the consultations taking place at the level of the Security Council.

Having discussed the reports made the African Group expressed its concern over the gravity of the situation in both countries, and particularly in Rwanda where thousands of lives were lost.

On the initiatives to evacuate foreign nationals, the Group underlined that the Rwandese people who cannot be evacuated anywhere should equally be a matter of concern for the international community.

In its consideration of the urgent need of restoring peace, stability and security in Rwanda and Burundi respectively, the African Group,

(i) Calls for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the mindless violence which is engulfing Rwanda;

TD TD (ii) Urges the Security Council to take urgent actions to help protect the lives and property of civilians in Rwanda, and to consider expanding the size and mandate of UNAMIR in Rwanda;

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- (iii) Reiterates the importance of the full implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement;
- (iv) Emphasizes the readiness of the OAU to cooperate with the United Nations in the implementation of the said Agreement;
- (v) Strongly appeals to the International Community to increase humanitarian assistance to commensurate with the scale of human tragedy following the deaths of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.

New York, April 11, 1994