

## Dar es-Salaam [RPF and three opposition parties called for a French pullout]

AFP, March 18, 1993

France quadrupled the number of its troops in Rwanda after the RPF launched a major offensive early in February that brought its fighters within 30 kilometres (18 miles) of the capital Kigali.

The rebels accused Paris of propping up President Juvenal Habyarimana's 17-year rule. The RPF and three opposition parties represented in the coalition government which Habyarimana installed to pave the way to democracy called for a French pullout at talks earlier this month which were boycotted by the president's party.

The government and the RPF have agreed on a framework for what they hope will be the final round of peace talks to end the 28-month

civil war which has uprooted a million people, the Tanzanian official said.

The two sides held "private consultations" and were to present their positions to a plenary session Friday, said Ami Mpungwe of the Tanzanian foreign ministry.

Next week an agreement is expected on integrating RPF forces into the army, Mpungwe said. They will then discuss a timetable for a transitional administration and democratic elections.

The negotiations were broken off after fighting flared last month and each side accused the other of violating a ceasefire agreed in Arusha seven months ago.

hb/dc/bm AFP AFP SEQN-0291