

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 12 April 1994

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Rwanda

Mr. Riza said the situation in Kigali was still violent and chaotic, with the interim government having departed and the RPF having taken over most of the strong-points. The Force Commander's efforts to bring about a truce and cease-fire had been unsuccessful so far, so he was persevering and would be sending letters to both parties. The Special Representative and he were in contact with the Defence Minister. The only radio station still functioning was broadcasting inflammatory propaganda, particularly against Belgians. France had extended its presence and postponed its departure: it was not known for how long. The RPF was demanding that foreign troops leave soon because it did not want to hold its fire (against the government troops controlling other parts of the airport) indefinitely. If the evacuation was for some reason not completed on time, it was hoped that the RPF might be induced to continue not to fire. Regarding UNAMIR's future, Mr. Booh-Booh was preparing a report with recommendations on its future.

Nigeria said the departure of French and Belgian troops would lead to a vacuum both of authority and security. The Council would need to consider what to do if one of the parties to the Arusha peace accord seized power through force. The NAM Caucus was working on a draft resolution, which should be ready tomorrow, dealing with these points as well as the plight of the civilian population.

France recalled that the presence of its troops in Rwanda had a relatively old history; in the past they had greatly contributed to stability and balance. They would probably leave tomorrow, and this would indeed lead to a vacuum. The RPF must understand that it would have to go back to negotiations. On UNAMIR, there were two options: to reinforce its presence and mandate; or to withdraw. France did not yet have a position, but a Somali-type operation would be very difficult.

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The United Kingdom thought that both the options presented by the French were deeply unsatisfactory (the second because it would give a very negative impression of the UN throughout the region), and presented two more alternatives that came somewhere in between the French proposals: that UNAMIR remain in its present configuration; and that it be drastically scaled down (as in Angola).

Spain felt all four options on the table were unsatisfactory, but did not add to their number. The United States had major doubts about the viability of UNAMIR in the present circumstances; it certainly could not carry out its mandate, and may even be a ^{use} stabilizing factor.

A number of delegations felt there was an urgent need to get the views of the Force Commander and of the Secretary-General by tomorrow morning. The views of the two major troop-contributors (Belgium and Bangladesh) were also sought. Mr. Riza hoped that the views of the Force Commander would be received tomorrow. He also stressed that the mandate of UNAMIR had never been to protect all the civilians, but rather to implement the Arusha agreement. The killings should not therefore be seen as a failure of UNAMIR.

It was agreed that the President would make some remarks to the press, regarding the need for a cease-fire etc., while a draft resolution would be presented for members' consideration tomorrow.

Libya-Chad

Mr. Riza said it should be possible to have a small preliminary reconnaissance team in Tripoli by Thursday. Much depended on how much support was provided by Libya.

Angola

Brazil, Nigeria, Russia, Spain and Oman all blamed the current deadlock in the Lusaka talks squarely on UNITA, which was