

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Monday, 18 April 1994

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Rwanda

The President reported that Permanent Representative of Bangladesh had called him by telephone that morning, stressing the importance his Government attached to the participation of its forces in Rwanda. However, the gravity of the situation was causing his Government concern, and the Permanent Representative had asked for an assurance from the Council that it was monitoring the situation, that he would be advised if the threat increased and that if it did the Council would take action.

Referring to the Council's discussions of the previous Friday, he had conveyed to the Permanent Representative the Secretariat's advice that a premature withdrawal would be the worst of all possible solutions. The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh had indicated that he had already told his Government as much.

Nigeria reported that he had very recently spoken to the Secretary-General of the OAU on OAU efforts to achieve a cease-fire within the terms of the Arusha Peace Agreement. In talks between the OAU and the Vice-President of the RPF, Dr. Salim had expressed the OAU's deep distress at the thousands of Rwandese who had been killed, and had called for an end to the killing and for a cease-fire. The RPF had replied that they must protect their own.

In calling for a cessation of hostilities between the Government forces and the RPF, the OAU had given its support for talks between the two parties under UN auspices. The OAU's long-term concern was to work towards the transitional institutions set out under the Arusha agreement.

He reported also that President Museveni had met with the RPF in Kampala three days ago, had called for a cease-fire, and had stressed that the OAU's role was both important and complementary to that of the UN.

Mr. Gharekhan said that UNAMIR's presence outside Kigali was very limited, and therefore so was his information. Fighting had continued in Kigali since the previous day, and the RPF was now in control of the north of the city. RPF troops were continuing to pour into Kigali, although their offensive had slowed. Whether the slow-down was deliberate or had resulted from increased resistance by Government forces was unknown. Ahead of the RPF advance, racial and ethnic killings were continuing and even increasing. The evacuation of foreign nationals was continuing. The Force Commander had called for a cease-fire, but the RPF had insisted that there would be no cease-fire unless and until the killings by Government forces ahead of the RPF's advance stopped, and had refused to engage in talks with the interim Government in the belief that such talks would imply recognition of that Government.

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UNAMIR's forces were regrouping in Kigali, especially around the airport. The Belgian troops had already left, and Ghanaian troops would take over at the airport the following day. Three hundred Ghanaian troops were still falling back through the DMZ; some injuries, none serious, had been reported.

The Force Commander and the Special Representative were reviewing the situation, and would report to the Secretary-General in a few days. However, the humanitarian situation in Kigali was becoming very serious, and the Force Commander had set up a humanitarian assistance cell; the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was to send an advance team to Kigali to oversee the delivery of humanitarian assistance. However, no delivery of humanitarian assistance would be possible in the absence of a cease-fire.

The President said that he had just received information that, within the context of attempts to arrange a cease-fire, the United Nations was trying to organize a meeting in Arusha between the Government and the RPF, and proposed that the Council should await further information on the situation in Rwanda before discussing the matter further.