

Your file: 17:01 (47831)      Our file: 700/MOS/...../.....      115/23/37 \$292.23

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FROM: Moscow C02846/MOS 21-Jun-1994  
 TO: Wellington Priority  
 CC: New York Priority  
     Beijing Routine  
     Brussels Routine  
     Defence Routine  
     Harare Routine  
     Madrid Routine  
     Paris Routine  
     Tokyo Routine  
     Wgtn UNSC Routine

MFAT (MEA, EUR, UNC, ISAC, LGL, EAB, DSP3)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Russia supports in principle, the French proposal and the flexibility (with respect to PKOs) which the proposal requires of the UN. The attitude of the RPF is a concern; Russia would like to be reassured that an acceptance in one form or another of the French plan is forthcoming from both sides in the conflict.

Action

For your information.

Summary

Your C24728 and also our C02842 refer.

2 We called on MFA today (Vladimir Sergueyev, Director Political Division, International Organisations Directorate) and ran passed him your questions. In responding, he made it clear that Russia accepted the need argued by the French here, for something to be done to address the crisis in Rwanda. Steps taken so far had not stopped the killing and the French proposal was a decisive move which offered some hope. Sergueyev offered the view that the course being proposed did not fit neatly into the UN's rules for PKOs - but neither, in his view, did the original American involvement in Somalia. Both situations required some form of departure from the rules which he claimed were, nevertheless, important.

3 Sergueyev said that his ministry was concerned at the apparent attitude of the RPF and accepted that the French proposal carried certain risks. An indication of, if

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Wainwright	

necessary passive, support from the RPF was desirable and should be sought. Sergueyev thought that where the French were to be deployed would help limit the risk of engagement with the RPF and, from his comments, he appeared to hold some store by the French promise of a short-term deployment pending further UN involvement.

4 In discussing our concerns, Sergueyev accepted that there were domestic considerations which had influenced the French decision but these in themselves did not alter the Russian view.

5 Without prompting, we were reminded that the Russian government was generally seeking a more "flexible" approach by the UN to PKOs, an approach which would allow the organisation to "respond to the reality of a situation" such as that in Rwanda and not be hamstrung by the letter of its rules. Sergueyev said that they hoped others would adopt a similar approach which the Russians had promoted in the cases of the CIS conflicts.

#### Comment

6 It came through pretty clearly in what was otherwise a standard but useful briefing, that the Russians are not displeased with the French move, or that it appears to be gaining support. As we have reported before, the Russians have felt let down by the Security Council's failure to respond more sympathetically to the situations it faces on its borders - notably in Georgia - and Russia's attempts to deal with them in what they regard as an internationally acceptable manner.

End Message