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TO: WELLINGTON	WG TN UNSC	Immediate
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MFAT (MEA, EUR, UNC, DP1, DSP1, EAB)

Subject

RWANDA

Our C04282.

Summary

- President invited to consult troop contributing countries urgently.
- Council to take decision about UNAMIR future tomorrow (Wed) including possibility of total or partial withdrawal - awaiting Special Representative's recommendations.
- RPF forces in control of major position in Kigali and interim authorities have left for Burundi border area. Fighting has diminished.
- Evacuation nearly complete. Foreign forces given until 7.00 pm (local time) Wednesday to leave but there is some flexibility.

Action

For confirmation that NZ can be flexible on future of UNAMIR mandate bearing in mind wishes of Special Representative and troop contributing countries.

Report

2 Secretariat (Riza) provided further briefing on situation in Rwanda to Council members at informals this afternoon. A report from Special Representative Booh Booh is expected tomorrow morning (Wed) containing recommendations on future of UNAMIR. To the extent that its main task was to assist the parties in implementation of the Arusha Agreement, the mandate for UNAMIR is exhausted and may now be impossible to carry out (at least in the very short term). Urgent

decisions are therefore required as to the future of that PKO.

3 On situation in Rwanda, Riza noted that it was still chaotic with both ethnic and random killings continuing. Although there is less "shooting" now, pockets of fighting continue. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) has now entered Kigali and taken all the strong points in the city (including positions near the airport). They had received no strong resistance from the government forces and it was unclear if they were regrouping for combat.

4 The Defence Minister remains in Kigali and the Special Rep is in contact with him. The RPF refuses to accept his authority or to enter into negotiations with him or with other representatives of the government. Whereas two days ago it was the government forces assuring the Special Representative that they would bring order to Kigali, it was now the RPF making this claim.

5 The evacuation of foreign nationals has gone "rather well" with good cooperation from both the French and Belgium contingents at the airport with UNAMIR. France had extended its presence (possibly at the request of Belgium) but would be withdrawing shortly. It had so far not been possible to receive firm approval from RPF that these forces could stay on for a further 48 hours. Although RPF had insisted on setting a time limit until 7 pm (Local time) Wed for the completion of the evacuation, Force Commander General Doltaire is confident that they will in fact agree to some flexibility. (The reason for the time limit is that RPF forces near the airport intend to open fire on government forces remaining at the airport after that time.)

6 There is now disorder in other parts of the country and reported shelling of a northern town near the DMZ, near the Uganda/Rwanda border from which UNAMIR forces were currently trying to evacuate school students and some nuns.

7 As to UNAMIR the Bangladesh engineering battalion and part of the Ghanain battalion have transferred from the DMZ in the north to Kigali to assist UNAMIR forces there.

8 France confirmed that the evacuation of their nationals was almost complete and that French troops would be leaving Rwanda tomorrow (Wed). Merimee emphasised that France had no intention of remaining but that this would leave a political and security vacuum. Considering the separate question of the future of UNAMIR there were two extreme options: either strengthen UNAMIR and give it a new mandate, or totally withdraw the force altogether.

9 Even if the RPF was successful militarily given the demographics of 85% Hutu and 15% Tutsi, this would not be a lasting solution and RPF would be required to enter negotiations. One option Merimee floated (on a personal basis) would be to establish a "safe area" around the airport

with a reduced UNAMIR force remaining there for the time being and avoiding combat.

10 NAM had caucused for considerable period on Rwanda question prior to informals. Gambari also noted African group discussions on the subject took place yesterday. For NAM the two important considerations are that the evacuation is almost complete leaving a security vacuum in Kigali, and that there was an urgent need for the SC to send a message to the RPF about the need for a continuing commitment to reaching peace in the context of the Arusha Peace Agreement. NAM had begun work on a draft resolution and intends to table this tomorrow.

11 UK (supported by Spain and Russia) outlined the four possible scenarios it could foresee - strengthen UNAMIR with a new mandate; totally withdraw it; leave it there as is; or scale it down (as was done in Angola). The decision however must not be delayed and there was a need for some precision in the recommendations to be made by the Special Representative tomorrow as to what precisely the mandate should be - if part or all the force remained. Spain (among others) added that complete withdrawal would send a signal of UN failure in this crisis. US suggested another half way option of leaving UNAMIR in existence but withdrawing it to a neighbouring country for time to await developments.

12 Argentina (Cardenas, supported by US and Czech) then proposed that in light of the urgent decisions required about UNAMIR's future it would be sensible for the President to consult the troop contributing countries on an urgent basis. President will consult principal troop contributing countries tomorrow morning in preparation for consideration of Special Representative's recommendation relating to UNAMIR's future. Some delegations urged that a decision be taken tomorrow.

13 It was also agreed President would make a statement to the media about the Council's continued concern about situation, the urgent need for parties to reach agreement on ceasing hostilities and to remind them that the Arusha Peace Agreement was the only durable means for peace.

14 President also met with RPF Representative and gave him a strong serve that any sympathy Council had for their efforts to stop the killing would evaporate if either they caused further killing or they did not in fact show by deeds that they intended to establish broad based transitional government by negotiation with all parties to the continuing dispute. RPF Reps response was not entirely satisfactory. He said that although they were engaged in a military solution today, the fighting had diminished and they would indeed begin to consult other "democratic" parties about peace in the near future. He also reaffirmed RPF intention to continue cooperation with UNAMIR. However he also said that they could not contemplate negotiating with remnants of previous Government given the recent killings. So quite how

broad based they intend to be remains to be seen.

15 We understand from Belgian Mission (informally) that they are inclined to the view that Belgian contingent of UNAMIR should now be evacuated together with national Belgian force.

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End Message