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Your file: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM: NEW YORK C04768/NYK 14-Jul-1994  
TO: WELLINGTON WGTN UNSC Immediate  
CC: BEIJING BONN Routine  
BRUSSELS CANBERRA Routine  
GENEVA HARARE Routine  
LONDON MADRID Routine  
MOSCOW OTTAWA Routine  
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MFAT (MEA, UNC, ISAC, HRU, LGL, EUR, DP3, DSP1, EAB)

P/S MFA  
DEFENCE HQNZDF (DSIA, OPS, DDI)  
DEFENCE MOD (GENTLES)

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Subject  
SECURITY COUNCIL : RWANDA

Summary

- the situation in Rwanda takes a serious turn for the worse
- well over a million people flee to Zaire and the French humanitarian zone in the south
- the "interim government" seeks refuge in the French zone
- Council adopts a presidential statement calling for an immediate ceasefire

Action

For information.

Report

The French delegation announced at this morning's consultations that the situation in Rwanda had rapidly deteriorated as a result of the RPF capture of Ruhengeri and advance on Gisenyi and that the Council should take immediate action in response to these developments.

2 Although the chaotic situation defied precision, reports from French, US, UK and UN sources were that between 500-700,000 people were fleeing in the direction of Zaire

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following the capture of Ruhengeri by the RPF. Another half million were heading towards the humanitarian zone in the southwest. It appears that these movements were provoked by the bombardment of Ruhengeri, which was sheltering many already displaced Hutu, and the Rwandan Radio's calls to flee the "Tutsi-led massacres".

3 As well as the immediate humanitarian catastrophe facing this "wall of humanity" without food or possessions, the French were very concerned at the impact the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Hutus would have on the extremely fragile situation in Zaire. The border region closest to Ruhengeri already had many Tutsi refugees and this would be likely to inflame an already volatile situation. Furthermore, Goma, where the refugees were headed, was the staging point in Zaire for Operation Turquoise.

4 By lunchtime the situation had worsened. The French announced that the interim government was rapidly on its way to the humanitarian zone under French protection in the southwest of Rwanda. The Secretariat (Gharekhan) said that according to his information they had already arrived. France said they did not want RGF forces or leaders in the zone and wanted the Council's help in warning them off.

5 We suggested that the French might make it clear to the members of the "interim government" that they could only enter the zone as individuals, in other words their government was at an end. The French claimed that such a declaration would have no practical effect but it became clear that what they really wanted was cover from the Security Council in case things started to go badly wrong. Their major concern is that RPF will pursue RGF into the zone leaving France with some very difficult choices.

6 Following by fax (for Wgtn only) is the Presidential Statement adopted this evening by the Security Council which:

- demands an immediate and unconditional ceasefire
- urges the resumption of the political process in the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement
- reaffirms the humanitarian nature of the secure zone and demands that all concerned fully respect this
- urges urgent humanitarian assistance
- calls for the necessary contributions so that the expanded UNAMIR can be immediately deployed

The text of the Sec-Gen's statement also follows for Wgtn.

Comment

7 Today's developments will have immediate and serious

consequences for the status of the "interim Government" of Rwanda. The US delegation told us that this afternoon President Clinton will "derecognise" the Rwandan government. (This will affect Rwandan representatives in Washington but not directly in New York- the US regards that as a matter for UN members to decide.)

8 Of direct relevance is information given to us by the RPF representative today, that the RPF PM-designate, Faustin Twagiramungu, had arrived in Kigali and proposed to establish a government within a day or two. The PM-designate had announced his intention to impose a unilateral ceasefire if agreement couldn't be reached with the other side.

End Message