

115/23/37

Your file:

Our file: 3/88/1

20:05 (5892)	700/NYK/00000/00000	\$508.30
--------------	---------------------	----------

FROM: NEW YORK	C04791/NYK	18-Jul-1994
TO: WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Immediate
CC: BEIJING	BONN	Routine
BRUSSELS	CANBERRA	Routine
GENEVA	HARARE	Routine
LONDON	MADRID	Routine
MOSCOW	OTTAWA	Routine
PARIS	SANTIAGO	Routine
TOKYO	WASHINGTON	Routine
DEFENCE		Routine

MFAT (MEA, UNC, ISAC, HRU, LGL, EUR, DP3, DSP1, EAB)

P/S MFA

DEFENCE HQNZDF (DSIA, OPS, DDI)

DEFENCE MOD (GENTLES)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- humanitarian situation in Rwanda and Zaire is catastrophic
- France informs the Council that the members of the "interim government" sighted in the humanitarian zone have now fled to Zaire
- the RPF intend that the new government will be sworn in tomorrow

Action

For information

Report

At informals this afternoon, the Secretariat (Gharekhan) briefed the Council on the situation in Rwanda.

2 The humanitarian situation is catastrophic. Gharekhan distributed a note (by fax to Wgtn only) which noted that as of Sunday 17 July, one million refugees had crossed the border into Zaire while there were approx 2.5-3 million people in the French protected zone. Many of them were in a desperate state. Although the UN humanitarian agencies had increased their numbers, means available at present were

wholly inadequate to meet the needs in Goma. The shelling of Goma airport on Sunday had meant its closure to all but French military aircraft.

3 Gharekhan said that the capture of Gisenyi by the RPF meant that the war, for all practical purposes, was over. The SRSG had met with the PM-designate. They discussed the establishment of a broad-based government of national unity, which according to Twagirimungu would be sworn in tomorrow, 19 July at 2 pm local time. Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, would be appointed President and General Kagame would be appointed Vice-President (the latter was a new position not foreshadowed in the Arusha Accords).

4 Twagirimungu had assured the SRSG that the RPF had not been responsible for the shelling of Goma airport on Sunday, nor was the RPF seeking a confrontation with the French in the southwest of the country. Twagirimungu had reiterated that any Rwandese who had not committed atrocities was welcome to return home.

5 On the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR, Gharekhan said that the 50 APCs leased from the US were now on their way to Kigali and would be used by the Ghanaians already there.

6 The President then read out a letter he had received from the RPF representative in New York which claimed that a ceasefire was now in place and that the new government would be sworn in the next day. (Gharekhan had noted, however, that the SRSG had not been formally advised of the ceasefire). A copy of the letter follows by fax for Wgtn.

7 The Council also had before it two letters from the French delegation. The French Charge (Ladsous) informed the Council that the first letter, informing the Council that five members of the "interim government" were in the French humanitarian zone, had been overtaken by events. The persons in question had now fled to Zaire.

8 The second letter advised that the airport at Goma had been bombarded the previous day, "very likely" by the RPF, causing 60 deaths. At the same time there had been an "encounter" between French forces and RPF when the latter tried to enter the humanitarian zone while they were armed. Both letters follow by fax to Wgtn.

9 The French Charge stressed that their concern was humanitarian. There were 1.5 million displaced people in the humanitarian zone. If something were not done for them quickly, they would flee to Zaire and compound the problem. In light of the situation, the priorities were: to confirm the ceasefire; to create a new government; to strengthen UNAMIR asap; and to assist all those suffering including the internally displaced.

10 The US (Allbright) announced that President Clinton had

derecognised the government of Rwanda. She also noted that the President had expressed the hope that the UN would move quickly to establish a war crimes tribunal. The US supported efforts to respond to the humanitarian crisis and had sent the head of its aid department to Zaire to assess the situation.

11 We urged the rapid deployment of UNAMIR, especially in view of the much improved security situation which should mean that UNAMIR troops- or at least many of them- do not need quite the same level of protective equipment. We also proposed that UNAMIR should rapidly deploy in the humanitarian zone. A UN presence would help secure support for the humanitarian efforts taking place there. It would also have the merit, if blue berets were present, of demonstrating that the country was not divided into two artificially separate zones. We suggested that the French might want to accelerate this process in the new environment by placing Operation Turquoise forces under UNAMIR control. (Ladsous told us privately later that this would be unlikely because the French were now very keen to get out of Rwanda as quickly as possible. Joining UNAMIR might give rise to expectations that they would be prepared to stay on.)

12 In conclusion, the President said that he would convey to the media the Council's concern at the humanitarian situation, its anticipation of the establishment of a new government and a definitive announcement of a ceasefire. He would also lay emphasis on the importance of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

End Message