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SUBJECT: UNAMIR SITUATION REPORT 1

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1. GENERAL:

a. FC ARRIVED ON FRIDAY 22 OCT 93 AND WAS RECEIVED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UNDP RESIDENT REP, UNAMIR CAO AND SEVERAL MEDIA. SINCE THAT TIME, FC HAS SET UP HIS HQ IN HOTEL MILLES COLLINES WITH CAO STAFF IN UNDP OFFICES.

b. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH PRIME-MINISTER DESIGNATE, ALL UN AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEDIA. RESPONSE FROM ALL SIDES IS MOST POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC, BUT TENSION DUE TO BURUNDI SITUATION IS IN EVIDENCE.

2. BURUNDI:

a. UNHCR HELD A COMPREHENSIVE MEETING THIS MORNING WITH ALL NGOS REGARDING REFUGEE IMPACT IN RWANDA. SO FAR NO LESS THAN 200,000 REFUGEES IN MAJORITY HUTU HAVE CROSSED INTO RWANDA IN THE KIGALI AND BUTARE PREFECTURES, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

b. ALTHOUGH SOME ARE STILL CROSSING THE BORDER, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE BULK OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED. THIS COULD HOWEVER STILL CHANGE AS THERE ARE AREAS IN BURUNDI FROM WHICH NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AND THUS WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THEIR POTENTIAL REFUGEE PROBLEM. SERIOUS WATER, FOOD AND SANITARY SHORTAGES ARE ALREADY BEING FELT. REPORTS OF SEVERAL KILLINGS AND DROWNINGS IN BORDER RIVER AND LAKES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON LOCAL TV.

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c. It was stressed at the meeting, by myself included, that whatever effort being planned to meet this new refugees problem must not, repeat must not divert any of the resources and efforts now planned for the northern part of the country as this could destabilize peace implementation plans.

d. Lastly, there is already some signs of ethnic frictions in the new refugee camps. Refugees have requested to be segregated by tribe. The situation in the capital Kigali is calm and the few demonstrations have been relatively peaceful. There is some rhetoric from extreme Hutu radio but response has been so far negligible. Banditry in the city in evidence particularly at night.

e. Please find on "attached" maps the Burundi refugee distribution as of today.

3. Meeting To Come:

a. Discussions will start tonight with Commander of MONU on the process of integration of his forces into UNAMIR, including a formal ceremony in the DMZ on Monday 1 Nov 93. Request at least 30 UN kits in order to properly show the new mandate of these personnel. FC still does not have official word that OAU has been told who is to be integrated into UNAMIR.

b. Will hold separate discussions with RPF leaders and Government Minister of Defense on access to Uganda by road, on phase 1 modalities of securing Kigali as a weapons secure area, on future protocol implementation sequence for new DMZ and demobilization process, and support requirements.

c. Will meet with current Prime-Minister at her request today and some members of diplomatic corps.

d. Detailed recce of French military installations planned for today.

4. Personnel:


b. Civilian staff is very thin on the ground particularly in the procurement, communications and transport aspects.
c. THE ABSENCE OF A POLITICAL ADVISOR IS MOST DISCONCERTING ESPECIALLY WITH THE CURRENT TURMOIL IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY.

d. HAVE INFORMED ONLY THE PRIME-MINISTER DESIGNATE THAT PHASE 1 MAY TAKE AS LONG AS THREE MONTHS BUT THAT ALL EFFORTS ARE BEING TAKEN TO GET THE KIGALI BATTALION ON THE GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. EQUIPMENT:

a. WE ARE LOCALLY RENTING VEHICLES BUT THE SITUATION IS MOST DIFFICULT AS COSTS AND AVAILABILITY CAUSING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

b. SECURE FAX AVAILABLE BUT NO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO EITHER INSTALL IT NOR ANY OF THE OTHER ADP ASSETS NOW COMING IN.

c. EXPECT FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT TOMORROW REGARDING THE AHOMORO OR PEACE HOTEL TO BE USED AS MISSION HQ. EXPECT TO BE IN IT BY END OF THIS WEEK.

d. QUARTERS ARE BEING NEGOTIATED FOR STAFF. MOST DISAPPOINTED IN THE REDUCTION OF MSA FROM $135. US TO $110. US. THIS WILL BE A PROBLEM AS COST OF LIVING IN KIGALI IS HIGH AND GETTING HIGHER RAPIDLY.

6. UNOMUR:

a. FC WILL VISIT HIS NORTHERN COMMAND BY END OF WEEK.

b. VERBAL SITREP FROM THAT HQ INDICATES LITTLE PROGRESS IN VEHICLE AND COMMUNICATIONS SITUATION. VEHICLE STATE IS WORSENING.

c. CIVILIAN PERSONNEL SITUATION VERY SERIOUS AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE SUPPORT AS EXPERTISE VERY MUCH IN DEMAND IN ELECTRICIAN AND TRANSPORT AREAS.

7. CONCLUSION:

a. EARLY ARRIVAL OF BELGIUM ADV PARTY MOST APPRECIATED AS TENSION AND CONCERNS IN CAPITAL ON THE RISE.

b. DELAYS IN BUDGET APPROVAL CAUSING SERIOUS IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS.

c. MORAL IS HIGH AND ATTITUDE POSITIVE. PEUX CE QUE VEUX. REGARDS.