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Your file:

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FROM: NEW YORK	C04272/NYK	08-Apr-1994
TO: WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Immediate
CC: BEIJING	CANBERRA	Routine
LONDON	WASHINGTON	Routine
MOSCOW	OTTAWA	Routine
PARIS	HARARE	Routine

MFAT (MEA, EUR, UNC, LGL, DP1, DSP1, EAB)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- Council receives report on situation in Rwanda and letter from Sec Gen.
- France, US and Belgium are well down the tracks with plans for military action to evacuate nationals. Both France and US prefer to do this under UN auspices. Belgian position is unclear.
- There is some indication of an improvement in Kigali with the announcement of an interim president and 5 ministers but the chance of this sticking is unclear.
- Council may need to meet in the weekend to consider possible requests to alter UNAMIR mandate or to authorise member states to take necessary measures.
- We gave the Council a strong lead that if the situation does deteriorate the Council should oversee any action not stand back and watch unilateral intervention (Congo is on many minds).
- Council agreed with our proposal to set up monitoring arrangements over the weekend and to request the Secretariat to do appropriate contingency planning. President was also asked to give a detailed media briefing.

Action

For information only

Report

2 Secretariat (Riza) briefed Council at informals this afternoon on the developing situation in Rwanda. He also provided additional information to the President shortly afterwards. The situation remains very concerning but there has been some progress. UNAMIR Force Commander and the Special Rep have been engaged in intensive efforts to broker a cease-fire agreement in Kigali and to establish some interim authority which can take control and to whom the Presidential Guard (the group that had gone nuts after the presidents assassination) might begin to take orders and stop killing people.

3 Efforts continued all day toward a cease-fire. Though originally scheduled to take effect from 10am (NY time) Friday, and postponed during the day, it now seemed to have been agreed and having some effect. Additionally, on the political front, an interim president has been named, together with 5 Ministers. The interim president appears to come from the late President's political party and although the appointments were negotiated by the UN with the Gendamerie and the army, and the RPF advised, it is unclear whether this is acceptable to the RPF and whether it will stick. (As a precondition to its agreement to the cease-fire, the RPF had asked for those who had engaged in the killing to be held responsible. The UN's response to the RPF had been to make an appeal for the cease-fire to be concentrated on first and then for consideration to be given to those other issues later.)

4 The conditions for the UN in brokering these arrangements have been very difficult. Although UNHQ here in NY could communicate with the UNAMIR force commander, and with also the Special Rep, it was difficult for the force commander and the Special Rep to communicate with each other in Kigali. Electricity is out (resulting in loss of telecommunications). A further major worry for UNAMIR is food, petrol and other logistics if the airport remains out. Four more days and the situation will be critical.

5 Riza reported 2 further Belgian nationals had been killed and France (Merimee) advised that 2 French citizens had also been killed. Of the 2 Ghanain peacekeepers kidnapped yesterday, one had been released and one was detained but could be observed in a compound and was OK. A number of foreign nationals had taken refuge in embassy compounds and UNAMIR were attempting to guard these.

6 The President reported to the Council the points made during a call on him by the Representative of the RPF on instruction from his HQ. During this call the RPF Rep advised that the RPF would be respecting its position behind the demilitarised lines held in accordance with the Arush Peace Agreement. He also noted that the RPF had so far shown restraint but indicated that they would prefer that any evacuation of foreign nationals be done by UNAMIR. The RPF Rep made it clear that any unilateral evacuation force would

be considered as a hostile force if it entered without their consent or remained in Rwanda for longer than the period necessary for the evacuation.

7 Although RPF was totally opposed to any change in UNAMIRs mandate which would result in it engaging in a combat role, they had no problem with the exercise of its present mandate in a self defence role. He made it clear though, that any intervention by UNAMIR in RPF movements would result in the force being considered as hostile. In his personal estimation, much of the political leadership had been assassinated and it would be difficult now to form an administration.

8 France indicated that the main objective was to reestablish some authority in Kigali and that UNAMIR and the Special Rep were playing a positive role in this. As to the possibility of the evacuation of foreign nationals, there were two issues for the Council to consider, what would be UNAMIR's role in any evacuation and what would be its future.

9 Nigeria indicated that the African Group was scheduled to meet on Monday to discuss the Rwanda issue.

10 US indicate that the situation is extremely grave and that the Council did not have enough information about what would be involved in an evacuation. US understanding is that it would require an air drop of troops into Kigali to take over control of the airport, now under the control of the Presidential Guard, and to establish a security perimetre of some distance around the airport to enable its use. UNAMIR does not have the equipment or resources on the ground to do this and "much homework" was required on this issue. It is not just a question of beefing up UNAMIR as it presently exists.

11 Outcome of discussion was Presidential summing up as set out in para 1 above.

Comment

12 In the best case, no further action may be necessary. In the worst, emergency evacuation will be required and a force sent. The UNAMIR Commander has asked for 24 hours in which to establish whether the cease-fire, and the positive political developments stick and what alternatives should be considered.

13 It is possible that over the weekend either the French or the US may come to the Council seeking UN cover along the lines of that provided in Somalia.

14 Council President will receive a briefing from Riza at 10.30am our Saturday with a view to considering a possible Council meeting later in the afternoon. We will let you know what transpires. Copy of the Sec Gen's letter follows by fax.

End Message