

115/23/37

Your le: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM:	NEW YORK	C04671/NYK	24-Jun-1994
TO:	WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Priority
CC:	BEIJING	BONN	Routine
	BRUSSELS	CANBERRA	Routine
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P/S MFA  
 DEFENCE HQNZDF (DSIA, OPS, DDI)  
 DEFENCE MOD (GENTLES)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- French give preliminary briefing on progress by their intervention force
- Secretariat confirm that some of the African troop contributors to UNAMIR are having second thoughts
- Spanish see merit in pressing ahead with their resolution on the commission of experts, despite our request that they hold fire for a bit longer

Action

Confirmation we should proceed with cosponsorship of the Spanish resolution even though they want to move ahead rather faster than we consider desirable.

ReportFrench intervention force

At informal consultations today, France, at the request of Argentina, gave a preliminary briefing on progress by the French intervention force.

2 Merimee noted that, although in terms of Res 929, the first progress report was not due for another 13 days, said

he was happy to provide a briefing "on a personal basis". He noted that so far about 500 of the planned 2,500 French troops had been deployed to the area. Most were across the border in Zaire and would continue to be stationed outside Rwanda. The intention was that they would make "incursions" into Rwanda as necessary. Only "a small detachment" was in Rwanda itself. This was in the town of Cyangugu in the extreme south-west of the country. They had deployed there to protect the @ 8,000 Tutsis located in various camps in the area.

3 The next likely area of attention would be the north-west, in the area south-west of Ruhengeri where, Merimee said, the bulk of the population still at risk were located. The troops would seek to protect persons at risk, attempt to establish a "climate of security", and would use force to save people's lives if necessary.

4 Following Merimee's briefing, the Secretariat (Riza) noted that Gen Dallaire had made contact with the French Commander and was making arrangements for coordination between the UN and French forces. Riza noted that the situation in the country seemed largely the same as it had been in recent weeks, though the fighting in Kigali had intensified. One worrying development was that the Government-controlled radio had also intensified its vitriol against UNAMIR in general and Dallaire in particular.

#### Deployment of expanded UNAMIR

5 The UK (Hannay) asked Riza if the Council could do anything to ensure that the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR continued to move ahead, noting that a number of countries were concerned that the adoption of Res 929 should not affect the process. In response, Riza noted that Ghana had agreed to the deployment this week of the remainder of its battalion, but there now appeared to be some delay. Similarly, Zimbabwe, which had confirmed its readiness to deploy its battalion, was now reviewing its position. Riza agreed that the Council might assist in maintaining the deployment of the force but he thought that the Secretariat should first clarify the situation with these countries before suggesting a particular course of action. He noted that a Secretariat team was in the process of visiting Tunisia, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe to ascertain the equipment that those troops had available.

#### Spanish resolution

6 At the end of the informals, Spain (Barnuevo) announced that he wanted to move ahead with his resolution seeking the appointment of a commission of experts to investigate reports of genocide and other serious human rights violations. He asked that the issue be put on the agenda of informals on Tuesday, 28 June.

7 We had strongly suggested to Spain that it would be good to let an interval of a week or two pass after the adoption of Res 929 before bringing forward their resolution. The Brazilians took a similar line. The Spanish maintain, however, that the Special Rapporteur will report be presenting a report on Rwanda in Geneva next Monday (27 June) and that it is important that the Council act relatively quickly. They also argue that their draft, which is much liked by the RPF, may help diminish RPF antagonism towards UNAMIR. Despite these arguments, the main reason Spain want to push the resolution next week is that Barnuevo will be on leave the following week.

8 On balance, if the choice is between acting next week or waiting, in effect, three weeks, we would be inclined to tell the Spanish that provided the situation on the ground does not worsen appreciably in the meantime as a consequence of the French intervention, we could go along with putting the draft to the vote on Thursday, 30 June. That would be a reasonable interval after the vote on Res 929.

9 Our accompanying fax contains the latest version of the Spanish draft. The major change from the last version we sent you was the removal of what was Op 1 to the preamble. We think that is an improvement. We are reasonably comfortable with the draft as it now stands. It will undergo some softening through the negotiation process if the Chinese and others are to be brought on board.

10 With regard to the specific queries in your U52262, we would note the following:

Pp7(now 8) The Spanish advise that this was based on language put forward by the US. They do not know its origins but suspect it was custom made for this resolution. They are enquiring. They and we expect the Chinese will raise difficulties about it in any event.

Ops 2&3 We put your views regarding "grave violations". The use of "grave" was not inadvertent. It is intended to limit the Commission's enquiry to "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions, which are the only crimes under that Convention that entail universal jurisdiction, and breaches of the Genocide Convention - which cannot be characterised as being anything but grave. The draft is deliberately cast to ensure that all breaches of the Genocide Convention are seen as "grave violations". We consider the Spanish reply to be fairly convincing.

End Message