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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

October 1, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: RICHARD A. CLARKE/JENNIFER WARD

SUBJECT: Draft Message to General Quesnot on Rwanda
Peacekeeping

President Mitterrand has written to ask for support for a UNSC resolution establishing a UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda. The resolution is pending before the Council; a **final vote is likely to take place on Monday, October 4.** The French have a keen interest in this operation because deployment of UN troops to Kigali, the Rwandan capital, would permit Paris to withdraw 400 French troops who are currently there to provide security for the expatriate community. Our mission at the UN also reports that,

E.O. 13526, 1.4(d)

While this operation may have a better chance of success than some others, the Security Council vote comes at a difficult moment for us given our stated reluctance to say "yes" to every proposed operation. We also have concerns about the cost of the mission (our share could exceed \$80 million over two years) and the fact that this operation will add to the already substantial burden on the UN's peacekeeping apparatus and budget. In addition, the operation involves disarming and demobilizing troops, an effort at which the UN has had only limited success in the past. The UN may also have difficulty finding enough countries to provide troops for the operation. (N.B. U.S. troops will not participate. Both the UN and the parties to the conflict in Rwanda understand this.)

E.O. 13526, 1.4(d)

Concurrences by: Jennifer Walker

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PER E. O. 13526

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RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize transmittal of the message at Tab I.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Reply to General Quesnot

Tab II Incoming Correspondence

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VIA BLUE CHANNEL

Dear General Quesnot:

I thank you for President Mitterrand's letter to President Clinton on the situation in Rwanda. I agree with you that the international community needs to support the Arusha accords so that efforts to bring peace to Rwanda are not compromised.

To that end, the U.S. will support a resolution establishing a UN force in Rwanda, provided of course that our concerns about the mission's mandate and cost are resolved in a satisfactory manner. As President Clinton made clear in his remarks to the UNGA, it is imperative that we consider all aspects of an operation before we move to a final vote. I greatly appreciate your government's willingness to accept a short delay in the Council's final vote on this matter so that we can address the issues that concern the U.S.

I understand that deployment of a UN force will permit France to withdraw its forces from Rwanda. I hope you can also tell the UN that the creation of a UN force in Rwanda can permit French forces to remain in Somalia beyond the end of the year. As you know, I think it is vital that the Secretary General's efforts in Somalia receive the continuing strong support of the international community. Let me close by thanking you for your help in ensuring that cooperation between France and the U.S. on peacekeeping matters around the world remains strong.

Sincerely,

Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs