ONLY

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

IMMEDIATE

KIGALI

TO:

BOOH-BOOH/DALLAIRE, UNAMIRA

FROM:

ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

DATE:

3 February 1994

NUMBER:

363

SUBJECT:

Recovery of illegal weapons

1. We have carefully reviewed your MIR-256 and MIR-267 of 2 and 3 February, as well as the proposals contained therein.

- 2. We certainly share your concern regarding the deterioration of the security situation in Kigali and the need for some concrete initiative to facilitate the recovery of illegal weapons. However, your suggestion that weapons recovery be undertaken "throughout the country" strikes us as being somewhat ambitious (if not unrealistic) at least at this time. Moreover, some of the language used in your MIR-256 raises questions regarding the exact role UNAMIR would play in this process and whether that role would be consistent with the mandate set-out in resolution 872 (1993). The clarifications provided in this regard in your MIR-267 are, to some extent, reassuring.
- 3. Accordingly, after consideration of your recommendations, and on the assumption that both sides genuinely want to improve the security situation and that they are willing to carry out this exercise in good faith, we are prepared to authorize UNAMIR to respond positively, on a case by case basis, to requests by the Government and the RPF for assistance in illegal arms recovery operations. It should be clearly understood, however, that, while UNAMIR may provide advice/guidance for the planning of such operations, it cannot repeat cannot take an active role in their execution. UNAMIR's role during the execution's phase should be limited to a monitoring function.

- 4. In this context we would appreciate having your views on the arrangements which would need to be made regarding the custody and storage of the weapons recovered. We assume, of course, that the Rwandese police/gendarmerie would take custody of the "individuals" who may be apprehended in the course of such operations, as implied in para. 8 of your MIR-256.
- 5. Finally, while we understand your suggestion that these operations be supported by an appropriate public information campaign, we are somewhat puzzled by your request for a "UNAMIR radio station". We will revert to this matter in a separate cable. Regards.