

CONFIDENTIAL

115 / 23 / 37

Your file:

Our file:

17:08 (4981)

700/BRU/00000/00000

\$279.51

FROM: BRUSSELS

C01639/BRU

15-Apr-1994

TO: WELLINGTON

WGTTN UNSC

Priority

CC: NEW YORK

Priority

LONDON

PARIS

Routine

WASHINGTON

MOSCOW

Routine

BEIJING

CANBERRA

Routine

OTTAWA

HARARE

Routine

MFAT

(UNC, MEA, EUR, DSP1, EAB)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL : RWANDA

Your C22009/WN1.

Summary

Belgians recommend to Sec-Gen the immediate withdrawal of UNAMIR personnel but are prepared to leave Belgian equipment in place should UNSC decide to maintain a minimal detachment. The Belgian assessment is that the fighting in Rwanda will continue and that no early cease fire is likely.

Action

For information.

Report

As reported direct to New York (Williams/Kember telecon and direct fax), we attended today a Belgian briefing, and spoke immediately thereafter with Belgian officials, concerning their assessment of the situation in Rwanda. Our following fax (Wellington only, NY has a copy already) contains text of a letter to Sec-Gen from Belgian Foreign Minister Claes dated 15 April. The letter, in summary, advises that the Belgians consider that a continued UNAMIR presence involves grave risks and that Belgium recommends suspension of the UN mission. Belgium argues that the proposition to wait five days before choosing between the three options suggested by the Security Council (New York's C04314) poses unacceptable risks to UN personnel. In any case, Belgium confirms its withdrawal of Belgian personnel but it is prepared, should the UNSC decide on a continued UNAMIR presence, to make available to UNAMIR equipment left behind by the Belgian contingent.

CONFIDENTIAL

2 T Belgian assessment of the outlook for Rwanda is very pessimistic. The Belgians consider that the warring parties have no interest in seeking an early cease fire, but will press on for continued military advantage. Belgian army personnel present at the briefing emphasised the heavy armaments, including multiple rocket launchers, held by the warring factions. The Belgians underlined the extent of anti-Belgian sentiment which led them to the decision that a continued Belgian presence was a danger not only to the Belgians, but also the broader UN presence in Rwanda. While hoping that the parties will negotiate a cease fire, the Belgians see little if any prospect of a cessation of armed fighting, particularly within the next five days. They ruled out any possibility of Belgium maintaining any presence in Rwanda in these circumstances. The Belgians concluded however that the decision of a continued presence was one for the UN Security Council to take.

3 We understand from New York that Foreign Minister Claes has conveyed these sentiments direct to PR Keating in his capacity as President of the Council.

End Message