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FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS

RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT

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12 May 1994

H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari
President of the UN Security Council
United Nations
New York.

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Your Excellency,

RE: CONSULTATION ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE PROPOSED UN FORCE IN RWANDA.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front reiterates its unqualified support for a UN operation of a humanitarian nature in Rwanda.

We acknowledge receipt of copies of the Secretary General's non paper on the concept of the proposed operation and the draft resolution to be considered by the Security Council.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front requests that modifications to the proposed concept of the operation be made as follows:

1. We sincerely believe the size of the proposed force is far in excess of what is necessary to protect civilians in danger and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front has fully restored law and order in the more than half of national territory under its control. International humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross, MSF, UNICEF and the WFP will confirm that they are already operating in these areas without hindrance.

No UN protection is necessary in the areas of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, the late president's home area because the regime of President Habyarimana eliminated all political opponents from these areas several years ago and there have not been any massacres in this region during this past month.

The only area where there may still be people who need UN protection (and it is by no means certain that there are any people who were potentially at risk still waiting in their homes to be rescued fully five weeks after these wide scale massacres began) is the south western part of the country in the prefectures of Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Butare, Kibuye and parts of Gitarama and Kigali which are still under the control of government forces and allied militia. This area comprises, in our estimation, no more than 2500 square miles at the very most.

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In view of the foregoing, The Rwandese Patriotic Front recommends a UN force of the size of the original UNAMIR (2500) provided it is properly equipped to fulfill its mission and defend itself.

2. The Rwandese Patriotic Front requests the Security Council to extend the mandate of the proposed UN force to include power to apprehend, put in custody and if possible bring to justice, any persons who may commit or attempt to commit atrocities in areas under the control of UN forces.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front would strongly object to the release of such criminals to the Rwandese government forces or authorities of the new self-styled government who would obviously not punish them.

3. The Rwandese Patriotic Front believes that the composition of the proposed force is a matter over which both parties to the conflict must be fully consulted in advance.

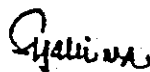
We are of the strong view that all countries which share borders with Rwanda should be automatically excluded from the proposed UN force because their participation may if anything escalate the conflict in view of the long historical and not always cordial relations, and the existence of close affinities between cross-border communities.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front particularly feels that the Republic of Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania should be excused from participating in the proposed UN force in order to preserve their impartiality and neutrality in their respective capacities as mediator and facilitator.

The Rwandese Patriotic Front wishes to make it clear that the Rwandese Patriotic Front will not cooperate with the proposed UN force if it includes any country that has supported intervened militarily on behalf of the regime.

4. The Rwandese Patriotic Front will not cede control of any vital geographical features in areas under its control as envisaged in the proposals of the Secretary-General to the UN Force but will allow the UN force unrestricted access and use of such features.

For : The Political Bureau of the Rwandese Patriotic Front.



Gerald Gahima



Claude Dusaidi

