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TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL, MADRID
 FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
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 SUBJECT: Security Council consultations

15 APR 1994 10:30

1. The Security Council held two rounds of informal consultations today on the situation in Rwanda. Riza briefed Council members on the latest developments on the ground, pointing out while fighting was continuing, UNAMIR was not being targetted and had taken effective control of Kigali airport where the situation was basically quiet. He also informed the Council that an initial meeting between military representatives of the two parties had been held today under the auspices of UNAMIR. Feedback from the parties was expected, with a view to arranging further dicussions on a cessation of hostilities.

2. Riza also recalled the two options presented to the Council yesterday on behalf of the Secretary-General and stressed that a decision to pull out or scale down UNAMIR in the absence of a cease-fire could create serious risks for the extrication of our personnel. He pointed out, however, that it was for the Security Council to take the appropriate decisions.

3. In the course of the discussions, it became clear that members of the Council had diverging views on the course of action which ought to be followed at this time. On behalf of the non-aligned caucus, Nigeria, supported by China, proposed that option A be adopted. The United States stressed that, if members of the Council insisted on taking a decision to day, it would

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only accept a withdrawal of UNAMIR, as it believed that there was no useful role for a peace-keeping operation in Rwanda under the present circumstances.

4. The United Kingdom expressed a preference for option B. Russia took a similar position and, during the discussions held this afternoon, the United States modified its initial stance and indicated that it would be prepared to accept option B. The non-aligned group, however, maintained its position in favour of option A.

5. It was finally decided not to take any action this time, on the understanding that the Council President would make the attached remarks to the press.

~~Best regards.~~ *Respects & regards.*

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Remarks to the Press
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- The members of the Council have had a thorough discussion today about the situation in Rwanda and its implications for UNAMIR.
- They took carefully into consideration information provided by the Secretariat, as forwarded by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the UNAMIR Force Commander, as well as that provided by the Foreign Minister of Belgium.
- Council members took note of and fully understood Belgium's decision to withdraw its troops in UNAMIR at the same time that it is repatriating the troops that have been providing security for the evacuation of foreign nationals.
- They also took into consideration the willingness of other major troop contributing countries to maintain their troops with UNAMIR as long as there is a useful role for them to perform.
- In the members' view, the immediate priority in Rwanda is the establishment of a ceasefire between the Government forces and the RPF. The Secretary-General's Special Representative and the Force Commander have been in contact with both parties to try to secure this objective.
- Council members urge the Special Representative to make every effort to facilitate a ceasefire. In this regard, the Council members welcomed the willingness of the Organisation of African Unity to promote a ceasefire in Rwanda.
- Council members demand that the parties agree to an immediate ceasefire and return to the negotiating table.
- The members reaffirmed that the Arusha Peace Agreement remains the only viable framework for the resolution of the Rwanda conflict and serves as the basis for peace, national unity and reconciliation in the country.

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- Council Members commend the efforts made by the leaders of the sub-region at finding a solution to the crisis in Rwanda and urge the leaders of the region to persevere and intensify their efforts for peace, in cooperation with the United Nations and the OAU.
- But, the situation is grave and Council members are determined not to allow the security of UNAMIR personnel to be placed at serious risk.
- Council Members intend to keep under constant review the force levels and activities of UNAMIR and to take decisions in this regard at the appropriate time.

