

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

14-Apr-1994 09:10 EDT

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: MacArthur DeShazer
(DESHAZER)

SUBJECT: Rwanda Update

Tony:

Two attempts by a combination of Belgian and UNAMIR troops have been unsuccessful in extracting the seven journalists (American citizens) from the Milles Collines hotel. The journalists arrived recently in Kigali after the U.S. evacuation. The attempts were pushed back by fighting between Government forces and RPF soldiers at the base of the hill on which the hotel is located. The journalists working for the NY Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, National Public Radio and Associated Press, requested to be evacuated last evening. Apparently, there is a UNAMIR representative at the hotel with a radio who was in touch with other UNAMIR elements in Kigali. The Belgian Foreign Ministry has been very helpful in this effort.

At the UN, Boutros-Ghali sent a letter to the Security Council informing them of the Belgian decision to withdraw from Rwanda, and stating that unless a similar contingent can be found UNAMIR's mandate will become "untenable." He further stated that he has asked his representative and force commander to draw up contingency plans for a UNAMIR withdrawal. USUN estimates we do not have the votes on the UNSC to adopt a resolution formally terminating UNAMIR. As Dick Clark might have told you from his teleconference yesterday, there will be a short delay while we seek a mechanism to terminate UNAMIR while attempting to maintain a UN political presence in or near Rwanda.

We will keep you posted.

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