

ONLYOUTGOING CODE CABLEIMMEDIATE

TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL, GENEVA
 FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK *3/10001674*
 DATE: 9 APRIL 1994
 NUMBER: **1059**
 SUBJECT: RWANDA

Continuation our Cables 1050 and 1051 of 8 April

101 APR - 9 P 6:32
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Situation in Rwanda

1. As informed through Goulding at approx. 0900 Geneva time, the assessment received from UNAMIR and conveyed to you turned out to be overoptimistic. RPF had indicated willingness to accept cease-fire provided Presidential Guard stopped attacks. While subsidence of firing during night in Kigali gave hope that cease-fire was taking hold, this was belied by resurgence of fighting, primarily between RPF and Presidential Guard, and rapid deterioration of security situation from morning onward. Force Commander has been continuing efforts to obtain agreement on cease-fire but now there can be no high hopes.
2. Also, while SRSG retains contact with Interim Government (President was on radio Saturday morning), it does not appear to have any authority, having been disavowed by RPF. After initial receptivity, RPF rejected authority of Interim Government, declaring that it was the old government in another form. Subsequent landing of French aircraft was offered as evidence of foreign support for the "puppet government". Prior to Council meeting, RPF representative circulated statement attached.

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3. Thus, security situation continues to be highly unstable, with continued killings, displaced and endangered civilian population, and trouble outside Kigali developing. (SRSG's cable MIR-724 of 8 April attached for information). UNDP convoy with civilian staff and dependants left Kigali and has reached Gitarama, one third of the way to Burundi, having been subjected to a small-scale attack on the way. Some US nationals also are being evacuated by land in that direction.

Security Council

4. In Security Council consultations this afternoon, Riza gave briefing on situation. French Ambassador then informed members of the action in progress by France and Belgium, with impending separate coordinated action by US. The Franco-Belgian operation was for the specific humanitarian purpose of evacuating their nationals (and other foreign nationals requesting assistance) from a dangerous situation, and would be very short in duration. The French position was generally received with understanding by other delegations. However, Merimee made it clear that France was only informing Council and did not wish any form of endorsement or other pronouncement by the Council.

5. Nigerian PR stressed broader political concerns, especially restoration of normalcy and political institutions in which OAU could play a useful role. Later, he proposed a Presidential Statement to the media that the Council took note of the Franco-Belgian operation under exceptional circumstances, stressing its humanitarian and limited nature, and also emphasizing the need for protecting UNAMIR personnel. He said that the unhappy history of foreign intervention in Africa required such a statement to clarify the nature of the present operation. The French PR, supported by US, UK and Argentina, insisted that no form of endorsement by the Council was required. This exchange terminated with the President saying that he would make non-committal statement, but insisting that he would be free to

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answer questions from the press without explaining France's rationale for the operation or appearing to endorse it.

6. The President also brought up your letter of yesterday, commenting that the Franco-Belgian operation in effect excluded the necessity of considering the expansion of UNAMIR's mandate and its reinforcement, since the evacuation was being effected outside UNAMIR's framework. The US DPR asked the President to "reserve that comment". The Rwandese PR pleaded for support for the Interim Government and UNAMIR's assistance in restoring stability to Rwanda. Earlier, asked for his views, Annan had said that, in the context of this evacuation exercise, the questions of UNAMIR's credibility and ability to carry out its mandate must be kept in mind. The impact of the Franco-Belgian operation as well as the reaction of Rwandese armed groups and general population to the operation would determine whether UNAMIR could continue to discharge its mandate. The Secretariat, along with UNAMIR, would keep close watch on developments and the Secretary-General would communicate with the Council on the status and future of UNAMIR. (One relevant factor is that Radio Mille Collines is broadcasting inflammatory propaganda against foreign nationals. It is possible that, after Franco-Belgian evacuation operation, general hostility against UNAMIR may develop.)

8. Booh-Booh and Dallaire are being asked for considered assessment of situation of prospects for UNAMIR continuing its tasks in evolving situation. Once their views are received, we shall present our assessment and recommendations to you. We would suggest that, should you decide at that stage that UNAMIR should be withdrawn, this decision should be conveyed to the Council before it is implemented.

Respects and regards.

UNAMIR

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OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: ANNAN\GOULDING\HANSON, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

INFO: KITTANI

FROM: *J. M. L.* BOOH-BOOH, UNAMIR, KIGALI,

DATE: 8 APRIL 1994

NUMBER: MIR-724

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON UNAMIR HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

REFERENCE:

1. THIS SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO FOCUS ON UNAMIR HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS.
2. ON 7 APRIL 1994, THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFLICT UNAMIR RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE. AS MANY WERE RESPONDED TO AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY NOT ALL COULD BE ANSWERED DUE TO THE ROADBLOCKS, FIRING AND DIRECTED FIRE AT UNAMIR VEHICLES. SOME OF THESE UNFORTUNATELY RESULTED IN DEATH OR HOSTAGE TAKING. 30 UNDP HOSTAGES INCLUDING THE CHILDREN OF PM AGATHE WERE NEGOTIATED TO FREEDOM BY UNDP SECURITY AND UNMOs. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED. UNAMIR SUCCESSFULLY RESCUED THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE AND IS PROTECTING HIM. IN ADDITION, UNAMIR HAS TAKEN CASUALTIES IN PROTECTING VIPs.
3. UNAMIR ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH AS MANY AGENCIES AS POSSIBLE BUT TELEPHONE LINES, OUR ONLY COMMUNICATION WITH MOST OF THEM WENT DOWN EARLY MORNING 8 APRIL AND HAVE NOT BEEN RESTORED. WITHOUT A TELEPHONE SYSTEM COORDINATION IS DIFFICULT TO IMPOSSIBLE. OUR OBSERVATION IS THAT MOST AGENCIES HAVE CEASED OPERATIONS AND ARE SITTING OUT THE PRESENT CONFLICT.
4. ALL UNAMIR CAMPS HAVE SHELTERED CIVILIANS TERRIFIED BY THE RUTHLESS CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC CLEANSING AND TERROR. UNAMIR FIELD HOSPITAL FOR EXAMPLE IS SHELTERING 5000 PEOPLE WITH A UN MILITARY STAFF OF 50 PERSONNEL. FORCE HQ HAS TAKEN IN 150 SURVIVORS OF THE ETHNIC CLEANSING IN REMERA. RUTBAT HAS ABOUT 400 PERSONS IN THEIR COMPOUND,; VICTIMS FROM THE SAME TRAGEDY. MOST UNITS HAVE MINIMAL WATER AND FOOD BUT ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO SHARE WHAT LITTLE WE HAVE WITH THE REFUGEES. THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION WE MAKE TO REFUGEES IS PROVIDING THEM WITH A SENSE OF SECURITY WITHIN THE CHAOS OF

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KIGALI.

5. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO EVEN ESTIMATE AT THIS TIME BUT INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY ARE QUITE HEAVY AND PRIMARILY ETHNIC IN NATURE. IN ADDITION BANDITRY IS BEING CONDUCTED AND POLITICAL CLEANSING OF THE OPPOSITION HAS OCCURRED.

6. UNAMIR HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT CAN WITHIN ITS MANDATE AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES. THE BEST ASSISTANCE WE CAN PROVIDE IS NEGOTIATING A CEASE-FIRE AND THEN RETURNING TO OUR MANDATE TASKS FOR THE POLITICAL PROCESS TO CONTINUE.

7. THIS MISSION IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THIS CONFLICT. UNAMIR HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF A DELIBERATE BIAS CAMPAIGN BY SOME OF THE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED MEDIA INSIDE RWANDA. IN ADDITION, VERY FEW IF ANY FOREIGN REPORTERS ARE IN THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND ACCURATE MEDIA COVERAGE. SOLE RELIANCE ON LOCAL REPORTERS CAN RESULT IN DISINFORMATION AND FAULTY REPORTING. UNAMIR, WITH ITS SPOKESMAN, WHO HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH THE COMMAND AND CONTROL STAFF SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT, HAS GENUINELY ATTEMPTED TO GET ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA. UNFORTUNATELY THE CLOUD OF WAR OFTEN CONFUSES REPORTS AND INFORMATION. UNAMIR WILL CONTINUE TO EMPLOY ONLY ONE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN AS THE REMAINDER OF THE STAFF HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET TO THE HEADQUARTERS DUE TO THE CONFLICT. THE SRSG, FC AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR\POLITICAL ADVISOR WILL COMMENT TO MEDIA REQUESTS AT APPROPRIATE TIMES. THE MAIN EFFORT OF THIS MISSION HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE PROVEN AND VERIFIED FACTS OR IF APPROPRIATE STATED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS TO UNHQ AND THE MEDIA AND THE MISSION HAS ATTEMPTED TO AVOID SPECULATION, RUMOUR AND CLOUDY REPORTS.

8. REGARDS.



FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT



Bruxelles, le 9 Avril 1994

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE 10001679

Les auteurs de l'attentat dont ont été victimes le président Habyarimana, le président du Burundi et des personnalités qui les accompagnaient n'ont pas encore, à ce jour, été identifiés. Le FPR se joint aux voix qui se sont exprimées pour réclamer une enquête internationale.

Aujourd'hui, à la suite de cet attentat, notre pays est plongé dans un bain de sang par ceux-là même qui, de longue date, ont planifié la purification ethnique et politique. La mort du président de la République a donné aux extrémistes du MRND-CDR, dont la Garde présidentielle constitue le bras armé, le signal d'une chasse à courre des membres de l'opposition, des entrepreneurs, de ceux qui sont victimes d'être nés "tutsi", des membres du clergé, de l'intelligentsia et des ONG. Ils n'hésitent pas de s'en prendre aux ressortissants étrangers et aux casques bleus venus aider notre pays à s'engager sur la voie de la démocratie. Leurs visées sont évidentes : décimer l'opposition, plonger le pays dans l'obscurantisme et intimider les ressortissants étrangers. Le FPR condamne ces actes barbares et ne peut les tolérer plus longtemps.

Sans vergogne, les commanditaires des ces massacres viennent de se constituer en "comité de salut public". Faut-il rappeler que ce sont les mêmes qui, par leurs stratagèmes, ont bloqué la mise en oeuvre de l'Accord de paix d'Arusha. Quel "salut public" les ennemis de la paix peuvent-ils apporter à notre pays ? Le FPR rejette catégoriquement un gouvernement constitué pour/dans la terreur.

Le FPR comprend que les Etats-Unis, la France et la Belgique décident de rapatrier leurs ressortissants pris dans l'engrenage de la violence. Il rappelle que ces pays se sont engagés à son égard à limiter le mandat de leurs troupes à cette seule mission humanitaire. La durée de leur présence dans notre pays doit rester raisonnable. L'expérience nous a appris que certains pays manient le double langage et ne respectent pas la parole donnée. Le FPR refusera de cautionner ceux qui cherchent à transformer de prétendues missions humanitaires en assistance militaire à des régimes autocratiques à bout de course.

JRwego
James RWEGO
Directeur du Bureau de Coordination.

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