

hostilities in the city of Kigali. Fighting therefore continued in certain sections of the city.

In addition to rejecting the proposal, the Rwandese Patriotic Front began hostilities on the northern front, attacking positions of the Rwandese army in the Mutara area, at Byumba and Ruhengeri. Today the fighting still continues.

In response to the request from the Crisis Committee, the leaders of the five political parties which, prior to these events, had formed the transitional Government met and decided to form a new transitional Government.

On Saturday, 9 April 1994, the transitional Government, headed by Mr. Jean Kambanda, took the oath of office before the new head of State. Pursuant to the Constitution of the Rwandese Republic of 10 June 1991, specifically article 42, Mr. Théodore Sindikubwabo, Chairman of the National Development Council, assumed the office of President of the Republic and was thus able to install the new Government, thus filling the institutional vacuum created after the death of the former President of the Republic and the former Prime Minister.

The new transitional Government has set itself three major objectives:

- (a) To ensure effective management of the affairs of the State, with special emphasis on the rapid restoration of order, and on the security of people and property;
- (b) To pursue discussions with the Rwandese Patriotic Front for the establishment of the broad-based transitional institutions, within not more than six weeks;
- (c) To tackle aggressively the problem of food shortages, by seeking ways and means of assisting the victims in certain prefectures and those who have been displaced by the war.

Immediately after taking the oath of office, the members of the Government held a cabinet meeting to assess political conditions and, especially, the security situation. The cabinet took a number of measures aimed at restoring security for people and property all over the nation.

Outside the cabinet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs initiated a series of discussions with the diplomatic corps accredited to Kigali, so as to inform the diplomatic community about the political situation in Rwanda and the goals of the new transitional Government, and to request it to provide support for the attainment of those goals, primarily the establishment of the broad-based transitional institutions to include the Rwandese Patriotic Front in a short-term perspective.

The installation of this Government has given the Rwandese people renewed hope, and there has been a marked decrease in murder and looting across the nation.

At the same time, the new Government and the local authorities have gradually been regaining control of the situation.

The immediate objective is to stop the massacre of civilians, to resume talks with the Rwandese Patriotic Front in order to break the log-jam and establish the broad-based transitional institutions, and to revive socio-economic activity in Rwanda.

Kigali, 10 April 1994.

(Signed) Jérôme C. BICAMUMPAKA

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Rwandese Republic

Document 44

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, stating the view of the Belgian Government that it is imperative to suspend the activities of UNAMIR forces without delay

S/1994/430, 13 April 1994

In view of the Security Council's deliberations, I have the honour to inform you of the Belgian Government's views on the worsening of the situation in Rwanda and the implications for the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). I should be grateful if you would bring these views to the attention of the members of the Council.

As you know, the widespread massacres following the death of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi have been compounded by a military conflict between the forces of the Rwandese Patriotic Front and those loyal to the Rwandese Government. In the light of that situation, the Belgian and French Governments were obliged to organize a brief humanitarian operation to evacuate for-

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eign nationals, including the staff of foreign embassies and United Nations personnel. The evacuation operation is now being wound up under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions. The Rwandese Government's departure from the capital has confirmed the rapid deterioration of the situation.

The chaos in Rwanda has assumed such proportions that the implementation of the Arusha agreements seems very seriously jeopardized, at least in the foreseeable future. Such implementation was the very reason for the UNAMIR operation. The lack of progress had recently led the Security Council to renew the mandate of UNAMIR only for a four-month period, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would prepare an evaluation report within six weeks.

It is obvious that under these conditions the continuation of the UNAMIR operation has become pointless within the terms of its present mandate. In any event, the continued presence of the Belgian contingent would expose it to unacceptable risks and would constitute an

obstacle to UNAMIR action as a whole. Indeed, Belgium notes that an extremist political faction is waging an anti-Belgian campaign and inciting people to murder Belgian soldiers. Having already suffered the loss of 10 soldiers, the Belgian contingent cannot take such threats lightly.

In conclusion, the Belgian Government is of the opinion that it is imperative to suspend the activities of UNAMIR forces without delay, until such time as the conditions are met for the resumption of the peace process. It considers that in the coming weeks or months, a United Nations presence in Rwanda can be justified only on humanitarian grounds.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

Document 45

Letter dated 13 April 1994 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council concerning developments which may necessitate the withdrawal of UNAMIR

Not issued as a United Nations document

I have the honour to inform you that H.E. Mr. Willy Claes, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, held a meeting with me in Bonn on 12 April 1994 during which we reviewed the situation in Rwanda. On behalf of the United Nations, I took the opportunity to reiterate to the Minister sincere condolences on the death of the Belgian soldiers serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) as well as deep gratitude and appreciation for Belgium's contribution to UNAMIR.

The Minister conveyed to me his assessment of the situation in Rwanda which, according to him, has deteriorated drastically in recent days and continues to grow rapidly worse. He informed me that the Government of Belgium has decided to withdraw its contingent serving with UNAMIR at the earliest possible date. The Minister assured me that his Government would like the withdrawal of its contingent to take place in a coordinated manner.

In the light of this decision by the Government of Belgium, it is my assessment that it will be extremely difficult for UNAMIR to carry out its tasks effectively. The continued discharge by UNAMIR of its mandate will become untenable unless the Belgian contingent is replaced by another, equally well equipped contingent or unless the Government of Belgium reconsiders its decision to withdraw its contingent.

In these circumstances, I have asked my Special Representative and the Force Commander to prepare plans for the withdrawal of UNAMIR, should this prove necessary, and send their recommendations to me in this regard. I shall keep the Council informed.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI