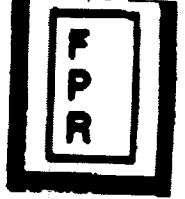




FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT



L0001914

Washington, May 17, 1994

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) welcomes the passage by the Security Council of Resolution 918/1994 authorizing the deployment of a humanitarian U.N. force to protect civilians at risk and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The RPF indeed regrets that the Security Council ever found it necessary to withdraw the original UNAMIR and notes that the proposed deployment of the expanded UNAMIR comes too late for the salvation for the majority of Rwandese people whom the late President Habyarimana, his party MRND and their allies had planned to exterminate.

The RPF wishes to express its profound disappointment that the Security Council has once again refrained from taking the bold and necessary action of categorizing the massacres in Rwanda as genocide.

The RPF further still finds some elements of concept of the proposed U.N. plan (so far as it can be verified) unacceptable:

1. The size of the proposed force is in our view too big for the mission of the force.
2. The proposal that Kigali airport should be treated as a neutral zone under the control of UNAMIR may in our view have to be reconsidered. It should be recalled that when UNAMIR requested the RPF and the Rwandese Government Forces (RGF) last April that Kigali airport be made a neutral zone under its control, RPF accepted the proposal but the RGF rejected it outright.

RPF subsequently proposed that the airport be put under the control of UNAMIR, RGF and itself and RGF again turned down the suggestion.

UNAMIR now gives the impression that the airport is under the joint control of RGF and itself.

The RPF wishes to put the international community on notice that there is an ongoing military struggle for the control of Kigali airport and adjacent areas. The RPF will not agree to the categorization of Kigali airport as a neutral zone under the control of UNAMIR unless and until the RGF vacates both Kigali airport and the adjacent Kanombe military barracks and relocate at a safe distance. Until that is done, Kigali airport remains a legitimate military target and a dangerous place to base a UNAMIR contingent. The RPF strongly advises the UN forces not to base their contingency planning on the availability of Kigali airport.

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The RPF strongly urges the UN Secretariat generally and the individual members of the Security Council in particular to seriously consider the use of safer alternative access routes from neighboring countries and airstrips in non contested areas such as Gabiro (RPF areas) and Kamembe and Gisenyi (RPF areas).

The RPF wishes to express its hope that the composition of the proposed UN force will only be determined after full consultation and with the express consent of the two parties to the conflict. There are certain countries whose participation in the expanded UNAMIR RPF very strongly objects to, notably all the neighboring countries without exception and countries which have at one time or another provided military support to the regime of President Habyarimana and its successor.

Lastly the RPF reiterates its position that on account of the reasons which the RPF has already communicated to the U.N. Secretary General in writing, RPF will not cooperate with the United Nations in respect of the implementation of Resolution 571/1994 until Dr. Jacques Roger Booh-Booh, the Special Representative of the Secretary General in Rwanda, is recalled.

For: The Political Bureau of the Rwandese Patriotic Front

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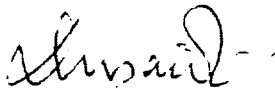
RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT
Statement

The Rwandese Patriotic Front welcomes the Security Council's resolution to establish a humanitarian mission to Rwanda and will fully cooperate with such a mission, so long as it is established and deployed in full consultation with the Patriotic Front. As we have stated before, it is the view of the Rwandese Patriotic Front that a force the size of 5,500 is too large and unacceptable for the envisaged mission.

In terms of Kigali airport, the RPF was, and still is, committed to the principle of the neutrality of the airport. In view of the fact that the Rwandese Government Forces' have refused to vacate the airport, the RPF will give serious consideration to the issue of access to the airport.

The RPF will neither accept nor be bound by any Security Council resolution voted for by representatives of the so-called Interim Government.

Finally, while welcoming the Council's belated decision to come to the rescue of innocent Rwandans, the RPF will neither welcome nor cooperate with any United Nations mission until the withdrawal of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda, Jean Roger Booh-Booh. This is a matter that is urgent and serious and it should be no surprise as the Secretary-General has been advised before.



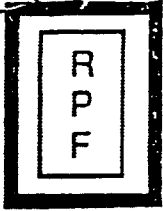
Claude Dusaidi

Director for External Relations

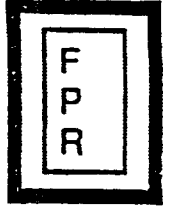
Member of the Political Bureau of the Rwandese Patriotic Front and
the Representative to the United Nations.

16 May 1994





FRONT PATRIOTIQUE RWANDAIS
RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT



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

