

U.N. chief suggests more troops for Rwanda

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UNITED NATIONS, April 8 (Reuter) - Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations would need another two or three battalions in Rwanda if it became necessary to evacuate U.N. civilians and foreigners.

He also said it would be necessary for the council to change its present mandate and asked members to "give this matter their urgent attention."

But Iqbal Riza, the deputy chief of peacekeeping, told reporters there was no immediate operation planned but an effort to give the council contingency plans. "We have just alerted the Security Council that this might need to be considered and of the resources required," which he said would involve 1,500 to 2,000 troops.

Riza said that the council might not need a new mandate but new rules under the present mandate for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) which currently has 2,500 troops.

Boutros-Ghali, in his letter said, "It is quite possible that the evacuation of civilian staff from the United Nations system, as well as other foreign nationals, might become unavoidable in which event UNAMIR would be hindered in providing assistance under its present mandate and rules of engagement."

"The members of the Security Council might wish to give this matter their urgent attention," he said, adding that two or three additional battalions would be needed.

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