

Thursday, 12 May 1994

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## Rwanda

There was general agreement that the size and mandate of UNAMIR should be expanded as soon as possible with the prime objective of providing humanitarian assistance to Rwanda. However, the Council was divided over other issues, including the availability of troops, the scope of the mandate, the rules of engagement, and whether the operation should be launched with explicit reference to Chapter VII of the Charter. The President wants the Council to finalize the draft resolution (text attached) and act on it tomorrow or over the weekend.

Mr. Gharekhan updated the Council on the situation in Rwanda. Fighting continued in Kigali and other parts of the country with rockets being fired on the capital from unidentified sources. RPF was reportedly advancing westward. UNAMIR was in contact with the Ugandan Army Commander on the restrictions on its movements. Reports on the talks would be available shortly.

Mr. Gharekhan informed the Council that OAU had received offers of troops for an expanded UNAMIR from Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria. However, no concrete numbers were available.

The President said that both the Rwandan Government and RPF had indicated to him their support for a new UN operation. The difference was that while the Rwandan Government wished to see the operation covering all parts of the country, RPF wanted a smaller mandate limited to humanitarian assistance.

Frustrated with the continued fighting on the ground despite the repeated verbal statements by both sides on the need for a cease-fire, Oman said it was high time for the Council to take action, though without a cease-fire nothing could actually be done. France and some others agreed. France, however, made clear that the mandate of UNAMIR should stick to humanitarian aspects, maintaining that the operation should, at least for now, not get involved in the political sphere.

Rwanda made reservations about the immediate imposition of an arms embargo, saying that such a measure could benefit one party to the conflict. It also stressed the urgent need for a cease-fire.

With respect to the nature of an expanded UNAMIR, China, Argentina and other delegations said that they would like to see the operation remaining under Chapter VI, rather than shifting to Chapter VII with enforcement implications. However, New Zealand stressed that the important thing was not whether those terms



carried "some token importance," but what the Council would actually ask the United Nations to do. Spain preferred Chapter VI, if possible. However, it said it could live with the "modified invocation of Chapter VII" as in the case of UNPROFOR.

New Zealand also argued that it was not credible for the Council to seek the consent of the parties. Citing difficulties UNPROFOR had encountered in securing the consent of parties at every stage of its activities, it indicated that the mandate of UNAMIR should be carried out with or without the consent. In this context, the Czech Republic held that the emphasis on a cease-fire should not be a prime objective of the Council now. However, Argentina did not agree, stressing the need to make every effort to obtain the consent of the parties. On the use of force, New Zealand went further to say that the draft should be very specific about the authority to be given to UNAMIR, pointing to possible difficulties the force could face in the performance of its duties without an explicit statement of the Council on the level of force expected to be used.

Citing the "terrible tendency" of the Council to load its resolutions with too many tasks, the United Kingdom was in favour of a simpler text focusing on humanitarian aspects which, it said, would be most likely to be welcomed in Rwanda. Spain and the Russian Federation concurred. Specifically, Russia indicated it had difficulties accepting tasks like assistance for demining and rehabilitation of essential facilities and services, expressing the concern that such a mandate would make it hard for the United Nations to "get out." "The operation should be short-term in nature," it added.

The United Kingdom also underscored the need for more flexibility with regard to the scope of the operation, including its size and deployment. It said the current text was too detailed and prescriptive and could lead to misunderstanding. It also urged the Secretariat to present a formal report on the proposed expansion of UNAMIR, including estimates of its financial implications. The Russian Federation suggested that a special voluntary fund should be established to help finance the operation.

The United States was primarily concerned about the availability of resources. It asked specific questions about 1) the number of troops available, 2) what equipment they could bring, 3) how soon such troops could be deployed, 4) whether contributing countries put any restrictions on their troop deployment, especially when and if the operation was launched under Chapter VII, and 5) what countries could provide logistical support.



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At the end of the day a drafting group was put to work to try and sort all this out.

Bosnia L0003057

Mr. Gharekhan briefed the Council on the recent developments in Bosnia and Hercegovina, including the passage of humanitarian convoys to Gorazde, the issue concerning the Serbian tanks in exclusion zone, and the current situations in Tuzla and Gorazde

Citing the recent actions of Bosnian Government troops, the Russian Federation asked what had been done by UNPROFOR to prevent the recurrence of such violations. Mr. Gharekhan replied that he would try to find an answer to that later.

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