115/23/37

Your le:		Our file: 197/1/1,168/1/1	
15:17 (4880)		700/PAR/00000/00000	$194.30

FROM:	PARIS	C01754/PAR	07-Apr-1994
TO:	WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Immediate
	NEW YORK		Immediate
CC:	BEIJING	CANBERRA	Routine
	LONDON	WASHINGTON	Routine
	MOSCOW	OTTAWA	Routine
	HARARE		Routine

MFAT	(MEA,EUR,UNC,DP1,DSP1,EAB)

Subject
SECURITY COUNCIL:RWANDA

New York's C04260.

2.   We spoke to Ligniere (UN Section) this afternoon about the deaths of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in a plane crash at Kigali airport yesterday.   She did not have a lot to add to press reports and New York's reftel but the following may be of interest:

   * The Belgian Ambassador had reported that the plane had been hit by gunfire but for the moment there was no confirmation of this. France had no firm information on who might have carried out the attack.

   * The security situation in Kigali was deteriorating.

   * France would call for the Security Council to request a report from the Security-General (possibly an oral report) in an effort to establish the facts about the crash.   It would also call on the UNSG to do what it could to ensure the safety of UNAMIR troops and government leaders.   It was doubtful however that UNAMIR, as presently constituted, could do much if the situation continued to deteriorate.

3.   According to press reports, French troops in Central Africa have been put on alert. Light and heavy arms fire has been heard around the Rwandan capital this morning but Bujumbura remains calm.

4.   Since speaking to Ligniere, AFP has reported that three Rwandan Ministers (members of the opposition) have been abducted, along with three UNAMIR soldiers who were protecting them, by "elements" of the Presidential guard.

Comment

5. We will check again with the Quai before our close of play and report any further if necessary. If the situation continues to deteriorate, the possibility that France may consider sending in troops to either assist UNAMIR troops or evacuate foreigners cannot be discounted.

End Message