115/23/

Your ﹍le:	Our file ≈	3/88/1
17:22 (46744)	700/NYK/0000 / 0 0000	$60.54

FROM:	NEW YORK	C04576/NYK	07-Jun-1994
TO:	WELLINGTON	WGTN UNSC	Priority
CC:	DEFENCE		Priority

MFAT   (UNC,MEA,DSP3)

P/S MFA
DEFENCE HQNZDF   (DSIA,OPS,DDI)
DEFENCE MOD   (GM POL)

ACTION COPY

Subject
SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA: POSSIBLE NZ CONTRIBUTION

[handwritten annotation]

Willberg
Forsyth
Ward
Rider
Hughes
Kember
McMaster
Foster
McCormick
Rush
Tyne
Dalton
Watson

Your U51186.

2   We are sorry about the problem that arose. The Evening Post caught us in an unguarded situation. The information is publicly available here and in this knowledge and against the background of general guidance to be as forthcoming as possible with the press we simply confirmed information that is already in the public arena. In future, with those kinds of requests, and especially when the PR is not available to handle them, we will refer enquiries to the Minister's Office.

3   As to the specific proposal in your message that requests from the UN for troop contributions be kept confidential and out of the public domain until Ministers have had a chance to consider them there is clearly a misunderstanding on this score. It is not possible to keep such requests, or the fact that they have been made, in confidence.

4   It is a matter of public record around the UN, both by delegations and the media, which countries have been asked for contributions to particular operations. The Secretariat does not treat such information as confidential. Many countries, including us, need to know who they may be operating with. Yesterday, for example, when following up Defence's specific questions, we asked and were told exactly which other countries had been asked to provide aircraft to assist UNAMIR. Similar information was provided on which countries had been asked to provide movement control units. As always the UN press corps know as soon as the requests are made - if not before. The Secretariat are quite open about making this information available to the media.

End Message