

115/23/37

Your le: 115/23/37

Our file: 3/88/1

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FROM: NEW YORK C04674/NYK 27-Jun-1994

TO: WELLINGTON WGTN UNSC Immediate

CC:	BEIJING	BONN	Routine
	BRUSSELS	CANBERRA	Routine
	GENEVA	HARARE	Routine
	LONDON	MADRID	Routine
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MFAT (MEA, UNC, ISAC, HRU, LGL, EUR, DP3, DSP1, EAB)

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

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: RWANDA

Summary

- French are making efforts, in consultation with the Secretariat, to encourage greater participation in UNAMIR through provision of troops and/or logistics. ✓
- RPF has undertaken to continue cooperating with UNAMIR. ✓
- Council delivers firm message to Rwandan PR about controlling anti-UN propaganda from Radio Mille Collines.
- We take issue with Rwanda's announcement that it wants the Council to have on its agenda for informals this week the situation on the Uganda/Rwanda border.

Action

Information.

ReportFrench Actions to Bolster UNAMIR

Your U52679 (not to all).

2 We took the opportunity to follow up this morning with Merimee a comment he made at informals last Thursday (23

June) chat France, in the light of the remarks made at the adoption of Res 929, "would be making some suggestions" to encourage greater participation in UNAMIR. Merimee said to us that their idea was to put together a group of countries who might be persuaded to provide troops or equipment to UNAMIR to see what specific steps might be taken to ensure that the expanded force was deployed as quickly as possible. He noted that they were working closely with the Secretariat. We have subsequently learned that there is to be an expanded meeting of potential troop contributors and Council members tomorrow, 28 June.

3 Merimee said that there were two very compelling reasons for France to take this initiative. First, he said that unless France was able to ensure that the expanded force was in place within the next two months, then France would have great difficulty in pulling its force out of Rwanda in accordance with the time frame set out in Res 929. Secondly, France was very concerned at what might happen if the RPF were to make major advances into government held territory to the point that French and RPF troops came into direct contact. This was another reason for making sure that the French presence was a short one.

4 Merimee did not have any more specific information to offer. We did not press him directly for information on what logistical support France might be offering to UNAMIR. As it was, an unspoken aspect of our conversation was what NZ might be doing in this area. You should be aware that if we are to press the French more directly on this point, we will need to be ready to respond to direct questions about what contribution NZ might be making to the international effort.

Radio Milles Collines

5 At the end of this mornings informals, Gharekhan gave a brief update on Rwanda. He said that the fighting in Kigali was now intense with the RPF clearly trying to squeeze the government forces out of their positions. To date, however, there had been no marked change in their disposition of the two forces.

6 On the positive side, Gharekan noted that the RPF said it would continue to cooperate with UNAMIR.

7 Gharekhan noted that the diatribes against UNAMIR and General Dallaire from Radio Milles Collines were continuing. The nature of the broadcasts was such as to call into question the deployment of the Canadian contingent in view of the anti-Canadian overtones that were starting to feature. These appeared to be generated because of Canada's leading role in the passage of the resolution in the CHR.

8 The UK, Spain, Nigeria, Russia and we picked up the remarks about Radio Milles Collines. Hannay recalled that the Council had, last week, made a direct request to the

Rwanda PR to ensure that his Government took effective action to put an end to these broadcasts. It was suggested that the President should reiterate, in his comments to the press, the Council's grave concern at the continuation of these broadcasts.

9 In response, Bisimana tried to argue that the Radio was a private station independent of the government, though he acknowledged that it should comply with the basic rules governing broadcasting in Rwanda. He claimed that he had relayed the Council's concerns to his authorities who had assured him that they would "step up their contacts" with Radio Milles Colline and try and ensure that it, like other radio stations in Rwanda, took a policy of promoting national reconciliation.

10 The French gave a firm rebuke to Bisimana. Legal (the French legal adviser) said that these comments about freedom of the press cut no ice. The fact was that the radio was under the government's political control, that it was engaging in the most blatant forms of propaganda that were completely beyond the pale and that they had to stop. The Spanish noted that the directors and shareholders of the radio station were either members of or closely connected with the Government. Vorontsov then proposed that the Government be given 24 hours to bring the radio station under control or to face further measures from the Council. This was accepted as being the sense of the meeting.

Rwanda's Request that Rwanda/Uganda Issue be out on the Agenda of Informals

11 Prior to the exchange on Radio Milles Collines, Bisimana referred to various letters he has sent in over the past month (in which the Government has repeated its standard line that the RPF is acting at the behest of Uganda which is actively sponsoring and supporting the RPF) and asked the President to ensure that the Rwanda/Uganda issue was on the agenda for informal consultations later in the week.

12 No other delegation commented on the request though it was clear that no-one was happy with it. Accordingly, following our remarks about Radio Milles Colline we expressed concern that one of the parties to a dispute seemed to be attempting to use his position as a Council member to the disadvantage of another of the parties. We noted that we did not deny the right of any council member to put an item on the agenda of informals but questioned the wisdom in the current circumstances of the situation in Rwanda. We also noted that there appeared to be little justification in view of the fact that the Council had only a week ago considered the situation on the Rwanda/Uganda border in the context of its renewal of the UNOMUR mandate.

13 Given the many public and private criticisms that have been made of the Council because of Bisimana's continued

representation on it, we considered it was important that his request should not pass unchallenged. Of course, should he persist in this kind of activity it will only give added strength to the arguments for there to be a challenge to his credentials. As we understand it, the discussions with Bisimana aimed at persuading him not to take up the Presidency in September have run into a snag, and he is now raising various objections to the course of action proposed. Part of the reason appears to be related to the French intervention. It would seem that at least of last week, the Rwandan Government has taken added heart from the French actions and is arguing that it is too soon now to be making decisions now when the situation in September is unknown.

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End Message