

CONFIDENTIAL

115/23/37

Your file:

Our file: 3/88/1

17:38 (5872)	700/NYK/00000/00000	\$431.97
--------------	---------------------	----------

FROM:	NEW YORK	C04775/NYK	15-Jul-1994
TO:	WELLINGTON	WGTM UNSC	Immediate
CC:	BEIJING	BONN	Routine
	BRUSSELS	CANBERRA	Routine
	GENEVA	HARARE	Routine
	LONDON	MADRID	Routine
	MOSCOW	OTTAWA	Routine
	PARIS	SANTIAGO	Routine
	TOKYO	WASHINGTON	Routine
	DEFENCE		Routine

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

France seeks (but doesn't get) guidance from the Council on how to deal with members of the "interim government" who might be found in the French protected zone.

Action

For information

Report

At informal consultations this morning, the Secretariat (Gharekhan) updated the Council on the situation in Rwanda.

2 Gharekhan had been told by the SRSG (Khan) in Kigali that there were strong rumours (not confirmed) that the "interim government" had fled Gisenyi. Some had gone to Goma and some had allegedly been seen in Cyangugu which was in the French humanitarian zone.

3 Meanwhile, the situation in Kigali was quiet, even relaxed. People were returning to the capital, some with the assistance of UNAMIR. A Special Envoy of UNHCR had arrived in the city.

4 SRSG Khan had met with General Kagame, the Chief of Staff of the RPF that morning. Kagame told Khan that RPF intended

CONFIDENTIAL

to declare a unilateral ceasefire very soon, within 24 hours. (Gharekhan commented that he inferred from this that the RPF had achieved, or were close to achieving, their military objectives which meant they probably had control of the Rusengheri corridor and Gisenyi.) Kagame had requested that UNAMIR monitor the ceasefire. The modalities of the ceasefire could be worked out in consultation with UNAMIR.

5 Kagame was very keen to gainsay the reports spread by Radio Rwanda, RGF officers and prefects in RGF controlled areas that the RPF intended to massacre the Hutu and commit unspeakable torture. Kagame said that all people were welcome to return to their homes and they would not be harmed. Gharekhan confirmed that Radio Rwanda and RGF officials were major contributors to the panic which had led to the massive exodus in recent days. In response to a question from the UK, Gharekhan said that the SRSG was talking to the PM designate Twagiramungu as well as Kagame.

6 In two interventions, the French made quite clear their extreme discomfort with the rapidly developing situation. With respect to the rumours that members of the "interim government" were in the French zone, the French Charge d'Affaires (Ladsous) said that he was "not in a position" to confirm them (however he didn't deny them either). His authorities had issued a statement that it was "not desirable" for political officials to enter the zone. Activities of a political or military character would harm the humanitarian character of the zone. Later in the morning, Ladsous intervened again with news just to hand (the mobile phone was running hot) that the RPF had expressed its intention to enter the humanitarian zone. Ladsous concluded by saying that his government was seeking the "guidance" of the Council. The humanitarian zone had been set up pursuant to a Council resolution. It was being managed by the French on behalf of the international community. The French did not want to act on their own. They wanted reactions from the national authorities of SC members on this complex and dangerous situation.

7 No-one responded to the French plea for guidance. The President suggested that we should remain in close touch on the issue and that more information would be faxed to us in the course of the day.

8 After the meeting, the French relaxed a little after seeing a letter to Ambassadors from the RPF inviting them to the swearing-in of the new Rwandese Government on 18 July in Kigali. (Copy follows to Wellington.) We raised the question of RPF entering the zone with the RPF representative who said that they were hoping that the French would "cooperate". They also told us that they had had reports from France that the French Government had announced its intention to arrest members of the "interim government" found in the humanitarian zone.

End Message