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MY TELNOS 1207, 1208 AND YOUR TELNO 502: RWANDA

SUMMARY

1. Security Council adopts resolution 909 extending the mandate of UNAMIR until 29 July with provision for a review of progress towards implementation of the Arusha agreements in 6 weeks time.

DETAIL

2. During informal consultations of the Security Council on 5 April there was a brief discussion of the draft resolution on Rwanda contained in second TUR. Dorani (Djibouti) proposed a minor amendment to PP5 (now reads 'the valuable contribution to peace being made by UNAMIR' to indicate that this contribution is ongoing). This was accepted. Inderfurth (US) said that the US had wanted a shorter mandate period. They were agreeing to the current draft on the understanding that the 6 week review of the situation in Rwanda would be a serious one. If there was no progress towards implementation of the Arusha peace agreements during this period then the US would expect the Council to consider terminating UNAMIR's mandate. The parties on the ground should be clear that the mandate would not be endlessly renewed.

3. I said that we shared the American reservations about a long mandate period. However we could accept the text as it now stood. Gambari (Nigeria) speaking on behalf of the NAM caucus indicated NAM acceptance of the draft. He wished to underline that the NAM caucus expected the parties to draw from this resolution the clear message that the patience of the international community was running out.

4. At a subsequent formal meeting of the Security Council, the draft in 2nd TUR with the Djiboutian amendment was adopted as SCR 909. Rwanda, Nigeria and Djibouti spoke before the vote. France,

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US, Brazil and Oman spoke after the vote.

5. Bizimana (Rwanda) underlined the commitment of the Rwandan parties to implementation of the Arusha accords. He welcomed the extension of UNAMIR's mandate and said that the Rwandan people were aware they must respond to the strong message given to them by the Council in the resolution. He was sure that the parties would be able, through dialogue, to provide new impetus to the peace process.

6. The other speakers largely repeated the points they had made during informal consultations.

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