

2595 - 19-04

Gharekhan informed SC members that the situation in Kigali is deteriorating further. The fighting is intensifying. Shelling has been directed at buildings which shelter refugees under UN protection. The Rwandese army is responsible. The attacks stopped after a protest of the UNAMIR Commander.

According to Gharekhan the chances of renewing the peace process are vanishingly small. According to the SRSG in Rwanda the governmental party is ready to negotiate a ceasefire. The RPF leadership has, however, refused UNAMIR's initiative to negotiate, pointing out that the govt party had not met its conditions (in our view partially justified). They also recommended that Unamir not continue in its mediation efforts.

Gharekhan observed that in view of the unclear situation and the fragmentation of Hutu command whose units are starting to slip out of control of the defense minister, Unamir personnel is in direct jeopardy.

He also mentioned that the SG is preparing a report on Unamir for the SC in which he will recommend withdrawing (partially or completely) UN and Unamir personnel. The report will be debated on April 24 and a resolution is expected on Thursday.

[The CZ delegation] contacted the Mission of Uganda to get a clearer view of its Govt on the Rwanda conflict. The conversation indicated that Uganda doesn't want to be dragged into the conflict and accused of fanning it. It considers the conflict as an internal Rwanda matter. On the other hand, it respects the right of Rwanda refugees in Uganda (largely Tutsis) to return home and join the fighting.

Uganda is ready to join peace negotiations but only with the agreement of both belligerent parties and the UN. It would prefer to leave the role of the main mediator to Tanzania and the OAU. It supports UN's continued presence in Rwanda and is in favor of continuing the UNOMUR mission under its current mandate.