

2801 – 05-05

Gharekhan informed about latest developments. Fighting continues in the center of Kigali. A UNAMIR unit has been repeatedly shelled. The Commander believes this was deliberate but doesn't know which side is responsible. Indirect talks between the belligerent parties in Arusha are so far fruitless.

Against this background, the SC discussed what next. NAM believes that a broad and forceful action is needed with the objective of stopping the fighting and establishing a cease-fire which would allow a political settlement of the crisis. Otherwise the UN and the SC will definitively lose all credit. NAM is planning to present some draft on 6 May.

Western countries adopted a more cautious approach. The US believe the SC can hardly adopt a resolution when it's unclear who would supply the necessary units and what would be their mandate. In this, the OAU should play the lead role. The SC should also send the SG a letter requesting possible alternatives for further steps which the SC would then consider. Several other delegations, including the UK's, supported this approach.

France stressed that any possible operation of UN forces in Rwanda should have primarily a humanitarian objective (protecting convoys with humanitarian assistance, protection or evacuation of refugees). The model from Northern Iraq could be adapted. Such an operation of course assumes a preliminary agreement of both belligerents.

The SC President will prepare a draft letter requesting the SG to outline his views about a possible operation in Rwanda. He will submit it to the SC for discussion on 6 May.