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FROM:	NEW YORK	C04356/NYK	22-Apr-1994
TO:	WELLINGTON	WGTM UNSC	Priority
CC:	BEIJING	CANBERRA	Routine
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MFAT (MEA, EUR, UNC, DP1, DSP1, EAB)

Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL: TROOP CONTRIBUTORS: RWANDA

Our fax of 21 April

Summary

- President briefs troop contributors on last night's urgent Security Council decision to reduce UNAMIR to about 270;
- about 600 troops will remain in Kigali for next few days to allow flexibility in light of any positive outcome of tomorrow's Arusha talks.

Action

For information only

Report

2 President convened further meeting of troop contributors to follow up the Council's decision on UNAMIR in Rwanda taken last night. Meeting was again well received and the hope expressed that our successor Presidents would also make them a practice. President indicated that he would convene a meeting again next week in light of the developments over the weekend.

3 President began briefing for troop contributors by referring to the urgent need conveyed to the Council by the SecGen's military adviser that taking a decision on UNAMIR's immediate troop levels was crucial. (General Barrell had noted that UNAMIR troops had been on alert to evacuate every night for the past week and aside from the general risk to safety, the stress was becoming overwhelming). Another critical factor in provoking yesterday's decision (although we did not mention it because of its sensitivity) was the

Bangladesh decision that its troops should either be relocated out of Rwanda on a temporary basis or they would withdraw them completely.

4 President noted that at the last meeting he had convened there was a general sense of the need to redefine the mandate. Last night's resolution established a new mandate which was transitional in nature and represented an attempt to adjust it to the situation which prevailed in Kigali for the next short while. This could be for a couple of weeks to a month or so. The President noted that the majority of Council members wished however to see UNAMIR restored to its previous mandate (something along the lines of its original mandate to assist in implementing a peace process) should the situation in Kigali improve.

5 Although it was not public, the President conveyed the information that approx 500 UNAMIR troops had left today (Fri) and a further 500 or so would leave tomorrow for Nairobi. That would leave about 600 troops in Kigali at least for the weekend. There would not therefore be the immediate drop to the "about 270" figure adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the SecGen yesterday. This 600 figure principally represents the Ghanain battalion (though not all), the Tunisians and some military observers and would allow some flexibility in the planning over the coming days. In the immediate term it would mean the airport could remain secure.

6 If there is any breakthrough at the political talks being convened in Arusha tomorrow (Sat), ie any prospect of reaching a cease-fire or significant moves in that direction, this would mean that UNAMIR could rapidly resume some of its functions. On the ground the situation is no better nor worse. UNAMIR is reasonably confident that the refugees which had sought their protection in the stadium and hospital in Kigali would be protected or at least could be transported to areas where they would be under less threat.

7 Egypt emphasised that it was important for peacekeeping operations in general that the UN was not seen to rush to make decisions in a way in which its credibility would be questioned. The OAU is discussing the matter at present and they suggested the President make contact with the OAU SecGen.

8 In answer to a question from Senegal about the future options, the President noted that at least for a short period because many of the evacuated troops would still be in Nairobi this meant the troops could be rapidly redeployed to Kigali. Thus if a cease-fire is agreed over the weekend, it was conceivable the SecGen would come to the Council to request redeployment. If this took longer than a few days, then of course the wishes of the troop contributing countries would be important in deciding what then happened to them. A resolution would be required if they were to stay for any length of time in Nairobi.

9 Bangladesh noted that it had been important for them that the troops be relocated to Nairobi so that they were available for immediate redeployment if necessary. (Copy of Bangladesh letter to President yesterday follows by fax to Wgtn only).

End Message