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KITTANI, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

From .

BOOM-BOOH, UNAMIR, KIGALI

Date:

4 MAY 1994

Subject:

Statement on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-

General in Rwanda.

- 1. I attach hereto a statement issued here today on behalf of the SRSG which you may wish to use at the noon briefing at Headquarters by the Secretary-General's Spokesman.
- 2. In view of the seriousness of the incidents referred to, the Secretary-General may wish to issue a statement condemning such activities and calling for the effective cooperation of the belligerents with UNAMIR in the accomplishment of the mandate entrusted to UNAMIR by the Security Council.
- 3. Best regards.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN RWANDA.

On Tuesday, 3 May, at about 18H00 local time, Kigali Airport was shelled. Three UNAMIR soldiers of the Ghana Battalion, which is deployed at the Airport, were injured, two of them seriously, as a result of the blast.

Earlier today, Wednesday, 4 May, at about 7H00, the Airport was again hit by mortar shells. One more UNAMIR soldier, also of the Ghana Battalion, was seriously injured on the leg. He and two of the three soldiers wounded yesterday were evacuated this morning to Nairobi for medical attention. The other wounded soldier, whose injuries were not serious, is at UNAMIR Headquarter in Kigali, where he has already been attended to by UNAMIR's emergency medical personnel.

It has not been possible to determine conclusively which of the belligerent forces, the Rwandese Government Forces (RGF) or the forces of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), fired the shells that injured the UNAMIR forces. Nevertheless, UNAMIR, whose Headquarters has been hit by mortar shells on two recent occasions, fortunately with no injuries to any of the people in the compound, has protested vigorously to the two belligerent forces for these latest attacks against its forces which are in Rwanda purely on a peace mission.

Both sides have denied responsibility for the shelling that injured the UNAMIR forces. However, it should be noted that the Airport is located in a zone controlled by RGF.

The Special Representative reiterates his call upon the RGF and RPF to take prompt and effective measures to assure and facilitate the safe passage and evacuation of civilians caught up in the present violence and fighting, in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The Special Representative has also protested against the disruption, on 3 May, by armed gangs and militias, of UNAMIR's programme to evacuate 62 Rwandese who had taken refuge at Hotel Mille Collines in Kigali since the resumption of hostilities on 6 April, and who have been granted entry permits into various foreign countries. UNAMIR had sent a security convoy to the Hotel to evacuate the refugees after receiving, on 3 May, the written agreement of the Chief of Staff of the RGF. Hotel Mille Collines is located in an area of the city controlled by the RGF.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Rwanda would like to take this opportunity to remind both parties once again of their obligation to refrain from attacks against UNAMIR and other United Nations personnel in Rwanda.