

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. J. Perez de Vega, FAO
Mr. A. O'Connell, UNHCR
Mr. E. Lannert, UNICEF
Mr. E. Gutierrez, UNDP
Mr. L. Ezewuzie, ILO
Mr. C. Creeden, World Bank
Mr. A. Toh, WFP
Mr. D. Sanvincenti, WHO
Mr. K. Nhouyvanisvong, UNESCO

From: Benon Sevan
United Nations Security Co-ordinator

Subject: UNSECOORD Status report on the situation in RWANDA (as of Saturday 9 April, 12.30/a.m.)

1. Information conveyed to UNSECOORD this morning by the Agency Staff's Designated Official (Mr. Yvon Le Moal) and the Field Security Officer (Mr. Jean Francois Faivre) as follows:

- (a) UN civilian staff under Agency-Designated Official (Mr. Le Moal) were concentrated in a single point, preparing an evacuation;
- (b) A ROAD convoy left Kigali towards Burundi today; it consists of 22 vehicles (one equipped with an HF radio) carrying all those individuals who managed to reach the concentration point arranged by the DO/FSO, as per paragraph (a) above);
- (c) the convoy encountered some problems (roadblock) exiting Kigali; it finally managed to proceed; it will reach Gitarama within the next hour. They will spend the evening at a safe haven and proceed to Burundi on Sunday morning;
- (d) a vehicle in the convoy equipped with a HF radio system can communicate with the UNDP Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya; radio contact with the convoy will be maintained throughout the entire journey of the convoy, until it reaches the Burundese border;

2. Status of the WFP-chartered aircraft flying to Tanzania:

- (a) because of the very difficult situation prevailing in

Kigali, it seems as though the airlift organized with WFP's assistance from the Tanzanian border (3 helicopters and one large fixed-wing aircraft) might not be used as originally planned;

(b) all four aircraft are now moving from BUKOBA to MUANZA because of adverse weather conditions; authorization from the Tanzanian authorities to use Mwanza instead of Bukoba was obtained today by the UNDP ResRep a.i. in Tanzania earlier;

3. Summary of the news on the French radio (RFI) at 7.30 a.m.:

(a) US, French and Belgian troops began to be deployed to Rwanda with the purpose of ensuring the evacuation of the expatriate community; 400 French troops were already parachuted into Kigali and are reported securing a limited area near/at the airport; (these troops were stationed in the Central African Republic); 200-300 US Marines were participating in the operation (location not provided); and finally, 800 Belgian troops were being flown from Belgium: in all, it is expected that by this evening some 1,500 troops from the three countries will be in the Kigali area;

(b) a Red Cross communiqué issued today indicated that the number of individuals killed in the violence so far would reach 1,000 persons; other figures indicate, however, much higher numbers of casualties;

(c) the Rwandese Patriotic Front, RPF, (Tutsi) would have left the de-militarized zone in the North and would now be marching towards Kigali in the South (three separated fronts were observed by UNAMIR); conflict with the Presidential Guard (Hutu) is anticipated; a full fledged civil war is imminent;

(d) all French citizens were reported being concentrated at the French Embassy in Kigali, with a view to being evacuated;

(e) UNAMIR would have advised all peacekeepers and civilian staff to concentrate in specific points, for the same purpose;

(f) an appeal has been launched by the RPF for forces to unite in the struggle against the Presidential Guard (the appeal has been addressed to both the Regular Army and the Gendarmerie);

(g) declarations of a UNAMIR high ranking official on the French radio (Colonel MARCHAL, from Belgium): the tension between the Presidential Guard and the RPF has gained significance intensity in the past few hours; the Regular Army and the Gendarmerie are likely to join in the conflict, further escalating it; the march towards the South by the RPF from the de-militarized zone is confirmed; violence is likely to attain very high levels today;

(h) a transitional government has been put in place, consisting essentially of elements loyal to the late President; it is headed by Mr. Théodore Sidi Kwabo (spelling unchecked), who is a Hutu; he was the former President of the Assembly.

4. UNSECOORD will keep you advised on any further developments.

c.c. Mr. Aimé
Mr. Annan
Mr. Hansen
Mr. Gharekhan
Mr. Goulding
Mr. Kittani
Mr. Riza