

# UN Dooms Its Rwanda Peace Force To Failure

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THE United Nations Security Council's resolution to increase the number of "blue helmets" in Rwanda to 5,500 men will commit the international force to a mission that is doomed before the first troops land in Kigali.

Their objective will be to establish "humanitarian corridors" where civilians can be protected. But unless they are prepared to parachute into government-held parts to protect the remaining Tutsi population, gathered in concentration camps by the Rwandan government, the humanitarian mission will be nothing more than an impotent gesture. The UN soldiers will have a "Chapter Six" mandate, meaning not peace-making, but peace-enforcing.

Despite the vast number of civilian deaths in a few weeks, the sizes of the opposing forces in the Rwandan civil war are a fraction of the huge numbers of troops battling in Angola, where the Unita guerrilla movement, with 50,000 men, is fighting the Mar-

xist government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which has 150,000 personnel. Yet the UN has never considered sending a military mission of any size to Angola, the world's bloodiest full-scale war, with a daily death toll of 1,000, according to the UN.

The issue in Rwanda is whether and how it is possible to stop the genocide of Tutsi and Hutu moderates, and the Twa (pygmies). In government-held territory around Gitarama, Tutsi are gathered into filthy concentration camps behind barbed wire. At the Kabgayi seminary, 40,000 people are crammed into a few acres. A dozen a day die from disease and malnutrition, while scores are murdered by militiamen and soldiers.

The question is whether the UN, which took six weeks to resolve to "do something" about Rwanda, is prepared to rescue these people. If not, they may all be dead within two weeks. The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front is

advancing on Gitarama and the retreating government forces are unlikely to leave the Tutsi alive as they retreat.

The government is understandably keen on UN intervention. Augustin Bizimana, the Defence Minister, says : “The UN should come to help us stop the killings.”

But the government’s real need of the UN is that the arrival of a significant force could help ceasefire negotiations and save the administration from defeat.

The rebels sense victory and have no faith in the UN’s ability to stop the slaughter behind government lines.

From Sam Kiley in Kigali.