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Subject

SECURITY COUNCIL : RWANDA

The President (Marker) reported at this morning's informals that Ambassador Bizimana of Rwanda had informed him that he and his delegation would no longer participate in the meetings of the Security Council. Marker had obtained an opinion from the UN Legal Office which stated that the Council could continue to function notwithstanding that one of its members was absent. Three precedents were cited. The opinion reiterated that the Charter provisions continued to apply with respect to Security Council decisions (ie an affirmative by nine members is still required). Copy of legal opinion by fax for Wellington.

2 Marker concluded by noting that Rwanda of course retained its seat on the Council.

3 We have been encouraging delegations to think about the options for the future, in particular the notion that the new Government should be persuaded to resign the Rwanda seat so that UNGA could elect a new member. There is some interest in this idea and a general sense that it would be better if Rwanda were not to resume its seat. The US (Albright) told us that they remain opposed to Rwanda assuming the Presidency in September and that this needs to be factored into consideration.

4 At this afternoon's informals, Gharekhan reported that the new "broad-based government of national unity" had been

sworn in today. Following by fax to Wellington is the list of the members of the new government given to us by the RPF representative (party affiliation marked where known).

End Message