

15 April

The RPF is largely in control of Kigali with the Presidential Guard surrounded in its barracks. Both parties want UNAMIR to stay but RPF insists Belgian battalion leave as planned, to be replaced by Ghanaians.

A closed SC session is quite acrimonious. The Belgians argue strongly that they know Rwanda best, and that there are far too many factions to allow UNAMIR to achieve anything so they should leave while they can. This view was strongly opposed by the NAM representatives and the SG's advisor.

The US announced the new instructions from Washington replacing the previous day's support for option 2 (ie. SGSR and 200 troops). The US now wanted to terminate UNAMIR and move the SGSR to a neighbouring country until the parties were prepared to negotiate. Their rationale was that UNAMIR could achieve nothing in the current situation, and their primary concern was for the safety of UN personnel.

This infuriated the NAM reps, and France caustically noted that their assessment was the opposite of the US's and based on more information. The SG's representative de Soto stated the SG's support of option 1, ie. UNAMIR at present strength of 2000 with updated mandate, the SG also felt that the threat to UNAMIR personnel was decreasing.

The NAM reps said they had met with Bangladesh, the largest troop contributor, who remained supportive. The NAM reps wanted to move beyond Option 1, and asked that the departed Belgian contingent be replaced. At this point US representative Albright made a show of calling Secretary Christopher on a cell phone who then authorized the concession of moving back to option 2 to join the UK and Russians in this regard. The NAM reps were not impressed.

By the end of the session, no SC decision was taken, so UNAMIR continued with a mandated ceiling of 2500 and real strength of 2000. It was felt that any change in mandate could only be precipitated by changes on the ground in Rwanda or following a recommendation from the FC as opposed to any compromise in NY.

16 April

The focus of the FC and the SGSR was on obtaining a ceasefire, but talks between the parties in Kigali were at best exploratory. The last Belgian national troops were gone, and the UNAMIR BelgBatt would hand over to Ghanaian troops the next day (200 Ghanaians at airport, and remaining 600 on the way). The feeling from UNAMIR and DPKO was that the status quo of the 2000 was not viable, and a decision was needed to either reduce or strengthen. The Ghanaians and Tunisians were game to stay, but Bangladesh was reconsidering its participation.

In the SC closed session, Fr clashed with US. France, the NAM, and the SG wanted a larger UNAMIR so there was no consensus to change the status quo.

17 April

Bangladesh became more concerned about the safety of its troops, and gave the SC three options: 1- relocate BangBatt outside of Rwanda until the situation stabilizes; 2-reinforce UNAMIR; 3- obtain firm guarantee of safety from the RG and the RPF.

18 April

The hardline RG defense minister set up an interim govt in Gitarama with a rump of the Presidential Guard, and RG garrisons loyal to him in Gisenyi, Cyangugu and Ruhengeri were massacring civilians. However RG troops in Butare and Kibuye were not backing him, were remaining neutral, and reportedly were not involved in civilian massacres.

19 April

USG Gharekhan briefed the SC on reports of massacres and the shelling of Kigali's Amahoro stadium protected