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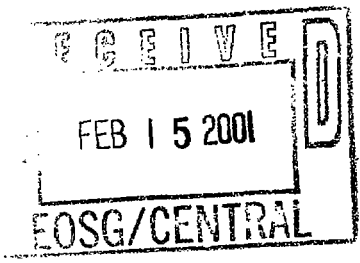
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NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
SUMMARY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT KAGAME
February 7, 2001

All the speakers cited President Kagame's meeting with President Kabila in Washington as an encouraging sign and stressed the need to take advantage of the new momentum for peace. The Secretary-General in his introductory remarks acknowledged the legitimate security of the countries of the region especially Rwanda. He identified the proposed Rwanda withdrawal from Pweto, accompanied by the deployment there of a United Nations military observer team as an important confidence-building measure. The Secretary-General also made reference to the revised concept of operations he intended to propose in his forthcoming report to the Council.

President Kagame who spoke without the benefit of a prepared text, laid out three core issues which had to be resolved for peace to be achieved: the question of the Interhamwe and the ex-Far, the inter-Congolese dialogue and the withdrawal of all foreign armies, including those invited by the DRC government.

The U.S. Representative hoped that Rwanda and other countries of the region could forge a "common security regime". He stated that Rwanda's withdrawal from Pweto together with other steps such as the establishment of a credible voluntary process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of those eligible, would ultimately marginalize the ex-Far and Interahamwe. The United Kingdom Representative also stressed that it was becoming clear that the new DRC government had accepted the principle of combined security for DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. The DRC government would respect the legitimate interest of Rwanda, if it respected theirs. The U.K. asked whether Rwanda could confirm in the next few weeks that it also accepted the principle.

France called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the DRC beginning with the uninvited forces. Referring to the need for an inter-Congolese dialogue, France stressed that internal dialogue must not be confined to the DRC alone. While recognizing Rwanda's security concerns, Ireland and Norway stated that they were not convinced that Rwanda's presence in DRC were justified.

Bangladesh, Ireland, United Kingdom, Singapore, Norway and Mauritius alluded to the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and mineral wealth of the DRC, which belonged to the Congolese people.

At the conclusion of statement by delegations, President Kagame said that the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement had contained all the points addressed by the speakers. The Agreement had committed the parties to the total withdrawal of foreign forces. However, the issue of apportioning blame was always being introduced as a delaying tactic. The President stated that the withdrawal of Rwanda forces was contingent on several

conditions, including the disarmament and repatriation of armed militias in the Congo believed to be linked to the Rwandan genocide, as well as the recognition of the broad scope of the human right abuses throughout the Congo, not only in the East. Concerning the withdrawal from Pweto, Rwanda's troops were ready to leave on the condition that United Nations military observers moved in.

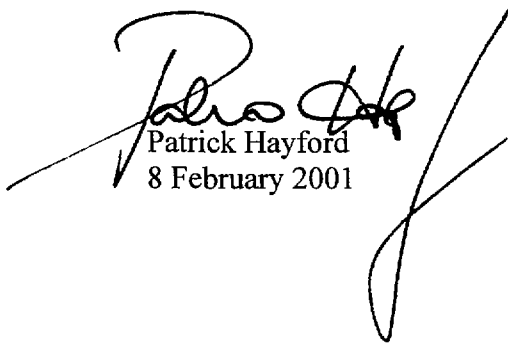
On the question of the illegal exploitation of natural resources, President Kagame asked that the Expert Panel give special consideration to those who had been involved in the business for a long time, and that their investigation be on a comparative basis. Finally, on the question of the ex-Far and Interhamwe, he deplored the fact that the Security Council did not impose measures that would isolate them "like those that were imposed against UNITA".



Binta Dieye
8 February 2001

Observations

President Kagame did not depart from the familiar position of its government. However, there seems to be one unifying principle emerging: the need for a combined security for the Great Lakes region. If concerned countries can adhere to it, a number of unresolved issues can be addressed around this central theme. The forthcoming meeting of the Lusaka Political Committee with the Security Council on 21 and 22 February in New York would certainly offer an important opportunity for further discussions on the subject.



Patrick Hayford
8 February 2001