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Burundi
DPA

ROUTING SLIP		FICHE DE TRANSMISSION	
TO:	MR I. RIZA		
A:			
FROM:	PATRICK HAYFORD		
DE:			
Room No. - No de bureau	Extension - Poste	Date	
		23/03/01	
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER	
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION	
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE	
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS	
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?	
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION	
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU	
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE	
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER	
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION	

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
LETTER TO MR. MANDELA

We have just received
Re above-mentioned
reply by the SG to
a letter from Mr.
Mandela on Burundi.
The contents are okay.

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 March 2001

My dear Madiba,

I very much enjoyed our meeting in New Delhi on 18 March and the opportunity we had to exchange views on African issues of common interest and concern, especially Burundi.

You asked me for my views on the deployment of a force to Burundi. I have been reflecting on this and related issues, and we have also taken some soundings in the Security Council as well as of key interested member States. I fear the results might not be what you hoped for. But you asked me for an honest assessment and I think I owe it to you to give you one.

As I mentioned to you when we met in New Delhi, the deployment of a peace enforcement mission under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter requires that a number of pre-conditions be met. One of them is that a group of countries must be prepared to deploy military means adequate to the task at hand. In that respect, I have been told that the Defence Ministers of South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana who met recently in Pretoria concluded that an international military force would not be in a position to achieve success in neutralizing the rebel groups in Burundi in the current circumstances. Consequently, they felt that deployment of international contingents should take place only after the conclusion of a cease-fire.

His Excellency
Mr. Nelson Rolihlala Mandela
Facilitator
Burundi Peace Negotiations
Arusha

It became very clear during informal consultations earlier this week that the Security Council too is of the view that it would be difficult to mount a successful peace enforcement operation in Burundi under the current conditions. Indeed, during the consultations on 20 March members of the Council considered that a cessation of hostilities in Burundi could not be achieved through a United Nations peace enforcement operation. At the same time, they indicated their readiness to consider concrete ways of supporting the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement, including the possibility of deploying a United Nations operation after the signing of a comprehensive and credible cease-fire. But here too they were insistent that a cease-fire should first be firmly in place, and that the parties must be truly committed to implementing their agreements.

It seems therefore that there is broad consensus both in the Security Council and among the potential troop contributors on the difficulty of achieving a cessation of hostilities by military means. Equally, serious thought is being given to the need to consider other ways to bring pressure to bear on the rebel groups to engage seriously in cease-fire talks.

While peace enforcement is not an option, I think it is important to realize that no single measure is likely to influence the behaviour of the armed rebel groups. As you know, on 20 September the Regional Initiative considered the possibility of applying sanctions. However, in his presentation to the last meeting of the signatory parties in Arusha, Deputy President Zuma advised caution against such sanctions. In his view, they could hinder fruitful interaction with the rebels and might even be counter-productive.

Implementing the Arusha agreement to the extent possible has the potential to remove some of the pretexts used by the groups to refuse a negotiated settlement. But then again, we do not believe that this measure alone will suffice. Addressing the issue of outside support to the rebel groups is certainly another source of leverage. At any rate, in order for all these options to be effective they would need to be applied consistently by the countries of the region and the international community as a whole.

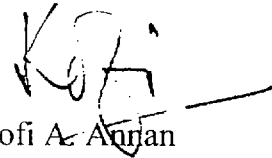
In that respect, the Security Council suggested at its 20 March consultations that a new regional summit dedicated to the cessation of hostilities, like the one held in Nairobi last September, might contribute positively to the attainment of your efforts to bring about an early cease-fire in Burundi. The members of the Council thought that you might wish to consider calling on the Regional Initiative to hold such a summit. Such an initiative would send an unambiguous signal to the rebel groups that the international community is united and determined to bring an end to the suffering of innocent civilians in Burundi. In that sense, the announcement of a summit could contribute to the success of your efforts, as well as those of Deputy President Zuma, to draw the rebels into the peace process.

The Council also asked me to reaffirm to you, to Deputy President Zuma and to the Regional Initiative their strong support for your efforts to bring about the effective implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

I hope that you will find these considerations useful. The United Nations - and I personally - will continue to stand by your side in the daunting task of finalizing the peace process in Burundi.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kofi A. Annan', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Kofi A. Annan