

[9 CONFIDENTIAL]

UNARCHIVES

SERIES S-1120

BOX 4

FILE 4

ACC. 1998/0278

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
FROM: TOUSIGNANT, UNAMIR, KIGALI
DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 1995
SUBJECT: UNAMIR Radio Station

1. In response to your request contained in your cable no. 405 of 6 February on the above subject, below are our comments and reactions to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda on the same subject:

a) At present we are not aware of any outstanding technical difficulties with regard to our broadcasting equipment. However, since we have not yet been able to test the five transmitters that have been installed throughout Rwanda (due to the non-allocation of authorised frequencies), we are unable to state with certainty whether our equipment is completely free of any technical defects.

b) The technical personnel responsible for setting up the radio were not incorrectly advised by UNAMIR on the type of equipment to be used in Rwanda. The fact that the equipment to be used by Radio UNAMIR is almost identical to that used by Radio Rwanda is irrelevant to the issue. Both were manufactured by major electronics companies in accordance with international specifications and their use would not create any problems for either radio station, so long as the proper frequencies are allocated.

c) Our original plan was to install five of the six transmitters within UNAMIR compounds and to have one transmitter site located on a mountain site which is already being used as a site for the location of telecommunications equipment by the Government and UNAMIR. When the Government official in charge of allocating frequencies expressed his misgivings regarding the choice of sites and alluded to the fact that UNAMIR may not be operating with complete transparency with regard to its radio broadcasting operations, the locations of the sites were modified to include use of three mountain sites for which governmental permission was needed. UNAMIR was denied permission for use of all of these sites ostensibly for the reason that our equipment would interfere with the telecommunications equipment already installed there. Both our military and civilian communications experts, as well as our technical consultant from GEC Marconi, dispute this claim. Instead, we were offered two other sites both of which would have entailed major logistical difficulties (and one of which was completely inaccessible by road).

d) UNAMIR is now compelled to locate all its transmitters within UNAMIR compounds for which governmental permission is not required. Our sixth transmitter has not yet been installed, because we will not know until we can begin testing our transmitters located at other sites whether this would be a viable transmitter site. We have been prevented from doing so due to the lack of frequencies. (It should be noted that this last site is considered

crucial for reaching the refugee camps in Zaire and broadcasting to this refugee population will not be possible until the transmitter at this site becomes operational.)

e) Regarding application for the broadcast license, a letter dated 22 September 1994 was sent by our Spokesman to the Minister of Information requesting a license for one transmitter site. Following a request for further details, the SRSG sent a letter to the same minister on 11 October 1994 providing a technical description of our equipment, as well as other details regarding our broadcasting operation. We were recently informed that this information was never forwarded to the Ministry for Transport and Communications which is responsible for allocating radio frequencies. Furthermore, we were informed by the Minister for Transport and Communications on 28 December 1994 that a formal application for the frequencies could not be made until we had obtained the necessary broadcasting license from the Minister of Information. An agreement between the Rwandese Government and UNAMIR for obtaining a radio broadcasting license was only signed on 14 January 1995.

f) On 8 November 1994 a Note Verbale was sent to the Ministry of Information informing them of our intention to commence periodic test broadcasting of our radio transmitter installed in Kigali pending the granting of a radio frequency from the Government. Subsequently, a letter was received from the Acting Director of the Rwanda Office of Information on 18 November 1994 requesting UNAMIR to discontinue its testing. UNAMIR complied with this request immediately and no further test broadcasting has been conducted since this date.

g) UNAMIR has never resisted giving any specifications on our transmitting equipment to the Government. We have observed all procedural and technical formalities in our efforts to comply with national rules and regulations. We have provided all the information requested from us and have even offered certain guarantees sought on the part of the Government. These include written assurances that we will not interfere with Radio Rwanda's broadcasting operations. In order to allay any possible doubts or suspicions, we have allowed Government representatives to inspect all our broadcasting and studio equipment in Kigali and have offered to do the same for all our other transmitter sites.

2. We hope the information provided above will serve to clarify the current status of the U.N. radio station, and we hope that the good-faith efforts undertaken by us in this regard will ultimately result in the allocation of all the frequencies needed for the successful operation of Radio UNAMIR without any further delay.

3. Best regards.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

IMMEDIATE

TO: KHAN/TOUSIGNANT, UNAMIR, KIGALI
 FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
 DATE: 6 FEBRUARY 1995
 NUMBER: 405

SUBJECT: UNAMIR radio station

1. In response to queries on the status of the UNAMIR radio station raised during the informal consultations held last week, members of the Security Council were informed that UNAMIR and the Government of Rwanda had signed an agreement on the establishment of the radio and that broadcasts were expected to begin after the necessary technical details have been finalized. We pointed out, in this connection, that UNAMIR had requested from the Government the allocation of a frequency, as well as an authorization for the installation of radio transmitters at sites that would allow broadcasts to reach the Rwandese population, both inside the country and in the refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

2. Last Friday, however, the President of the Security Council received the attached self-explanatory letter from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda. Since this letter, which only reached us today, is bound to lead to further queries in the Security Council, we would be grateful if you could send us urgently a detailed report on the matter focusing, in particular, on the various allegations made by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda. We would like to stress that members of the Council clearly feel that the UNAMIR radio station should begin broadcasting without further delay. It is therefore important that the responsibilities for such delays be clarified. Kindly ensure that the necessary information is sent to us by start of business our time, on Wednesday 8 February. Many thanks and regards.

019 P1

UNITED NATIONS HQS NEW YORK

5601

995-02-07 06:38
CYC

UNITED
NATIONS**S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/103

2 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In response to a number of requests for information on the status of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) radio in Rwanda, I would like to provide you with an update on that situation based on information I have received from the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Government of Rwanda has given authorization for Radio UNAMIR to operate. However, because of technical difficulties, broadcasts have not begun. These problems have developed for a number of reasons.

The technical personnel responsible for setting up the radio were incorrectly advised by UNAMIR on the type of equipment that could be used in Rwanda. The relevant authorities in Rwanda were not consulted. As a result, the equipment was almost identical to that used by the national radio station, Radio Rwanda.

The placement of the transmitters presented another problem. Initially, the engineers, in consultation with UNAMIR personnel, decided to set up the transmitters inside the UNAMIR compound.

Subsequently, UNAMIR, disregarding all international regulations, conducted transmission tests of its radio in November without authorization from the Government of Rwanda. When those transmissions were detected by our engineers and their location was determined, the Government of Rwanda made a verbal protest to UNAMIR. Only then did UNAMIR request permission to broadcast.

The request was discussed in a Cabinet meeting and permission was immediately given to UNAMIR. Once permission was granted, our engineers requested access to UNAMIR's radio equipment and information on the tests conducted, but getting access took some time. It was then noticed that Radio UNAMIR had chosen frequencies that were very close to those of Radio Rwanda and which would interfere with the national radio. We had to request them to change the frequencies. That operation caused further delay.

95-03362 (E) 030295 060295

/...

019 810

UNITED NATIONS HAS NEW YORK

1995-02-02 08:39 5601
CYCLO

S/1995/103
 English
 Page 2

As I mentioned above, as a result of UNAMIR's desire to locate the equipment inside its compound, difficulties were encountered because the compound is not necessarily located in places that are high in altitude and that would facilitate transmission. Their engineers later realized that the transmitters would not be effective. They faced the option of replacing them with more powerful transmitters, which would cost more than initially budgeted for, or placing those transmitters at high altitudes (on mountain peaks).

UNAMIR decided to use the facilities used by our national radio and Rwandatel (the telephone company). UNAMIR was informed that, since its equipment was more powerful than that used by the national radio and Rwandatel, it would cause interference and even disable our communication system. The Government of Rwanda proposed to UNAMIR other sites that were equally high in altitude, but UNAMIR has been reluctant to accept those sites because they do not facilitate helicopter landing. They were advised that they can gain access to the sites on foot and that the equipment can be carried by their personnel.

All the above-mentioned problems are almost solved. There are still some minor problems concerning the frequencies, but the Government of Rwanda is willing to overlook them and allow Radio UNAMIR to start broadcasting. Indeed, UNAMIR contends that the calibration and tuning tests of the new frequencies that were allocated to them had been conducted in London by the British Broadcasting Corporation and therefore they do not have the instruments to do those tests in Rwanda. Another problem exists. Although UNAMIR accepted some of the alternative sites for their transmitters, they insist on using some of the sites used by Radio Rwanda and Rwandatel.

In summary, the delay in the starting of Radio UNAMIR is caused by the following:

- (a) UNAMIR failed to follow internationally recognized procedures for starting an independent radio in any country;
- (b) Problems of design and the choice of location by UNAMIR engineers;
- (c) UNAMIR has, for some unknown reason, resisted giving to the Government the specifications of their equipment.

However, with the cooperation of the Special Representative, Mr. Khan, and the UNAMIR Force Commander, General Toussignant, most of the problems have been solved and Radio UNAMIR will start broadcasting very soon. It should be noted, however, that Radio UNAMIR is actually five radios: two in Kigali, one in Gikongoro, one in Byumba and one in Kibuye. The entire system may not start operating at the same time because there is still the problem of location of the transmitters. Broadcasting will start with three transmitters.

I hope that, with these explanations, the Security Council will understand that the delays were not caused by the Government of Rwanda.

(C)

/...

019 P10

UNITED NATIONS HQS NEW YORK

1095 5601 995-02-07 06:40
 ** CYC **

CNR 028 P4/4

8/1995/103
English
Page 3

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(SIGNED) PAULI DABOUMWEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Rwanda to the United Nations

(2)

UNITED NATIONS HQS NEW YORK 019 P14

995-02-07 06:41 5601
++ CYCY ++

• ** CYCY **
AUG-14-1995 15:26

UNITED NATIONS HQ NEWYORK .

5601 P.01
CNR-223 P1/2

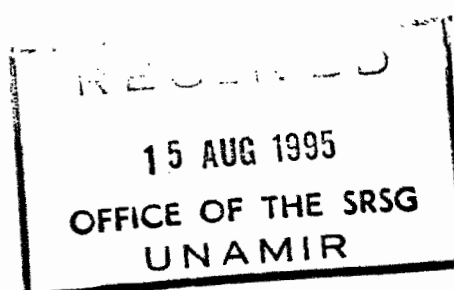
OUTGOING CODE CABLE

UNITED NATIONS
CABLE OPERATIONS

1995 AUG 14 A 11:20
IMMEDIATE

TO: KHAN/TOUSIGNANT, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 14 AUGUST 1995
NUMBER: 2688
SUBJECT: UNAMIR radio

Please find attached a self-explanatory note forwarded to us by the Permanent Mission of the UK in New York, at the request of the Foreign Office. It is our understanding that the reason for the radio's inability to reach the refugee camps in Zaire is that the Government has not yet authorized UNAMIR to install the necessary equipment in the appropriate location. We would, however, be grateful for any additional information you may be able to provide to enable us to respond to the concerns expressed by Lady Chalker. Regards.



SRSG FC

UNCLASSIFIED

① Mr. P. Holland Villiers.
- Could you pls. try to find
out the answers to these Qs
from the Secretariat?

② Mr. Ch. Dickson o/s.

Reference:

From: AJG Juleff
Date: 08 August 1995

cc: Mr Harvey
Mr Troy, ENAD

Michael Davenport, UND

RWANDA; UNAMIR RADIO

1. As I mentioned in our telcon today, Baroness Chalker was concerned to learn, during her recent visit to Kigali, that the UNAMIR Radio, to which we had contributed substantial sums, was not reaching the refugee camps.
2. I would be grateful if you would establish what the actual position now is. Did the Radio's original mandate include reaching the refugee camps or was it aimed at the IDP's? Was our financial support based on the assumption that the refugees would be targeted? If it's mandate is not being fulfilled, what is the problem and is there a remedy? Can we help any further?
3. Grateful for any comments that you have idc.


Gary Juleff
AD(E) F 011

1

UNCLASSIFIED

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Holland.

TOTAL P.01

TOTAL P.003

TOTAL P.02

PAGE = 02

1995-08-14

15:30

** CYCY **
AUG-14-1995 15:26

UNITED NATIONS HQ NEWYORK

5601 P.01
CNR-223 P1/2

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

UNITED NATIONS
CABLE OPERATIONS

1995 AUG 14 A 11:20
IMMEDIATE

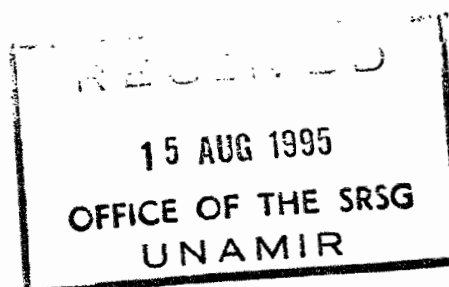
TO: KHAN/TOUSIGNANT, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 14 AUGUST 1995
NUMBER: **2688**

J. P. Rize

*any SPA
Legal Officer
15.8.95*

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SRSG FC

1** CYCY **
AUG-14-1995 15:26
09-AUG-1995 15:16

UNITED NATIONS HQ NEWYORK
UND FCO

5601 P.02

0171 925 2653 P.01
CNR-228 P2/2

UNCLASSIFIED

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Gary Juleff
AD(E) E 011

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UNCLASSIFIED

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WILMSHUT
Holland.

TOTAL P.01

TOTAL P.003

TOTAL P.02

PAGE = 02

1995-08-14

15:30

CNR-241 P1/1

UNITED NATIONS
CIVIL OPERATIONS

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

29 AUG 29 P 8:09

IMMEDIATE

TO: KHAN, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 29 AUGUST 1995
NUMBER: 2867

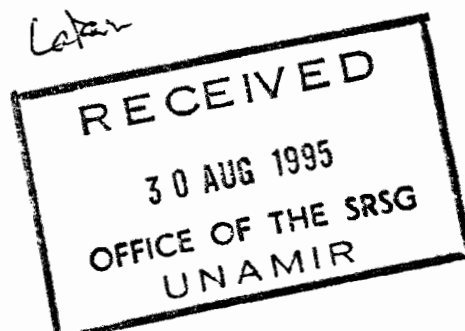
J. J. R. J.

SUBJECT: UNAMIR radio

As discussed, we would be grateful for a reply to our UNAMIR-2688 of 14 August 1995, to enable us to respond to the concerns expressed by Lady Chalker regarding UNAMIR radio operations. The UK Permanent Mission has again approached us on the matter. Regards.

*P1 put up
draft reply. S*

Later



30 AUG 1995

OUT-GOING CODE CABLE

IMMEDIATE

TO: ANNAN/GOULDING, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
INFO: KITTANI/GHAREKHAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
FROM: SHAHARYAR M. KHAN, UNAMIR, KIGALI
DATE: 31 August 1995
NO: MIR 3099
NO. OF PAGES: 2
SUBJECT: RADIO UNAMIR

Shaharyar M. Khan

1. We refer to your code cables MIR 2867 and 2688 requesting us to respond to certain concerns raised by Lady Chalker regarding Radio UNAMIR's operations. The following reflects the current status of the radio station's broadcasting operations:

2. There are currently five FM transmitters located in Kigali (2), Gikongoro (1), Byumba (1) and Kibungo(1), but only four are operational due to technical problems being experienced at the Gikongoro site. We are in the process of rectifying this problem by relocating one of our Kigali transmitters to Mt. Rebeiro, a higher site on the outskirts of Kigali. Once this has been completed and the relocated transmitter becomes operational (by next week at the latest), we hope to be able to provide coverage to 70% of Rwandese territory. We have also requested permission from the relevant Rwandese authorities for a radio frequency for the operation of our sixth transmitter in Nyundo located in Gisenyi prefecture in north-western Rwanda. This transmitter was formerly located in Matura, another site in the same region, but had to be relocated due to the redeployment of UNAMIR troops from the area. However, this sixth transmitter has never been operational due to the reception problems experienced as a result of the low altitude of our main Kigali transmitter. (You will recall that Rwandese officials denied permission for use of prime sites for our radio broadcasting purposes, and the problems we have encountered stem from this denial on their part.)



3. Once our Gisenyi transmitter becomes operational, we hope to be able to broadcast into the refugee camps in Goma, and maybe Bukavu, Zaire. We are also exploring the possibility of relocating our Byumba transmitter to a second peak of Mt. Karongi, a high-altitude site which would guarantee coverage of all the refugee camps in Zaire. With regard to the refugee camps in Tanzania, we have asked UNHCR to report to us on the local population's capability to receive Radio UNAMIR broadcasts in the refugee camps.
4. We hope the above will serve to clarify the current situation with regard to our radio broadcasting operations in Rwanda.
5. Best regards.

CNR-249 P1/1

UNITED NATIONS
FIELD OPERATIONS
OUTGOING CODE CABLE
SEP-2 07 41
1995 SEP -1 P 743

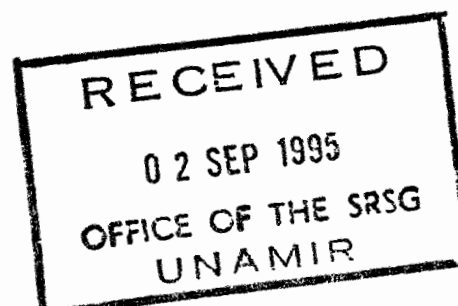
TO: KHAN, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 1995
NUMBER: 2911

SUBJECT: Radio UNAMIR

*Satellite
going to Kigali Not
needed here S.7
when*

1. Many thanks for your MIR-3099 of 31 August on the above. We have forwarded the relevant information to the UK Permanent Mission, together with additional details provided by FALD, which pointed out, inter alia, that some satellite equipment procured for Radio UNAMIR is apparently still detained by Rwandese custom officials. We have suggested to the UK Mission that their representative in Kigali, and other members of the diplomatic community there, may wish, in consultation with you, to impress upon the Rwandese authorities that they should cease creating obstacles to the full and effective operation of Radio UNAMIR.

2. As regards the refugee camps in Tanzania, we would be grateful for receiving, in due course, the information you have requested from UNHCR regarding the reception of Radio UNAMIR broadcasts in these camps. Regards.



SRSG

*Gpy - Benawati
Rafii*

CNR-59 P1/2

UNAMIR

OUTGOING CODE CABLE 16396

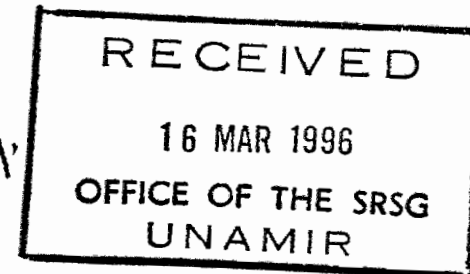
10:00 AM
15 MARCH 1996

1996 MAR 16 A 7:34

15 MAR 15 P 2:10

TO: KHAN, UNAMIR, KIGALI
FROM: *for* ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
DATE: 15 March 1996
NUMBER: 748

H. Annan



SUBJECT: Radio UNAMIR

1. As discussed, please find attached an excerpt from a report by the US Ambassador in Kigali regarding the suspension of Radio UNAMIR broadcasts. The US Permanent Mission here has requested clarifications. We have explained to the Permanent Mission that, following the expiration of UNAMIR's mandate on 8 March, you requested permission from the Government of Rwanda to operate the radio station as the "UN Radio", since it could no longer be called Radio UNAMIR. We pointed out that you were prepared to resume broadcasting, as soon as the Government of Rwanda provided the necessary authorization. We also suggested that the US Government may wish to approach the Rwandese authorities in this regard.

2. Having said this, kindly confirm that there are no other obstacles to resuming the broadcasts and ensure that the radio personnel concerned are advised accordingly. Many thanks and regards.

SUBJECT: RADIO UNAMIR OFF THE AIR

WE HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT RADIO UNAMIR
SUSPENDED BROADCASTING INDEFINITELY WITH THE EXPIRATION

OF THE MANDATE MARCH 8. RADIO STAFF HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED
THAT NO START-UP CAN TAKE PLACE BEFORE APRIL 5. STAFF
WHOSE CONTRACTS EXPIRE SOON AFTER THAT HAVE BEEN TOLD TO
BE PREPARED TO LEAVE RWANDA AND WAIT FOR RECALL. WE HAVE
BEEN TOLD THAT THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE ENDING OF ONE
MANDATE AND THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER; THAT LICENSES MUST
BE RENEGOTIATED UNDER THE NEW MANDATE; THAT FUNDING MUST
BE CLARIFIED. ALL THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT WE ARE SURPRISED
NONETHELESS THAT THE ONE PART OF UNAMIR THAT EVERYONE
WANTED TO SAVE SHOULD BE THE FIRST PART OF UNAMIR TO BE
SHUT DOWN. WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WHATEVER BUDGET
MECHANISM IS BEING USED TO COVER THE PHASEOUT OF THE
OTHER UNAMIR OPERATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO SECURE
RADIO UNAMIR TO RADIO NEW NAME WITHOUT INTERRUPTING
BROADCASTING. RADIO BROADCASTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN
ENCOURAGING REFUGEE RETURN; RADIO UNAMIR HAS A BETTER
CLAIM TO IMPARTIALITY THAN THE COMPETITION.

**BRIEFING PAPER ON UNAMIR'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM****RESTRICTED**

UNAMIR's communications system is comprised of the following components:

1. **Satellite communications**

The following types of satellite communications are now being used:

(a) VSATs (very small aperture terminals) - these are used for satellite communications between Kigali and the various sectors for purposes of telephone and facsimile communications. Six terminals are currently deployed in Kigali, Gitarama, Cyangugu, Kibuye, Mutura and Kibungo.

(b) INMARSAT C - these are used for data and facsimile communications as a back-up to the VSATs at the same locations specified above as well as Butare.

(c) INMARSAT A and M - used for speech and facsimile communications.

(d) INTELSAT earth station - used for communicating with U.N. Headquarters in New York.

2. **VHF communications**

VHF (very high frequency) is used for the following purposes:

(a) base stations, mobile units and hand-held radios - these different means of radio communications operate through 22 repeater (relay) stations, 9 of which are located in Kigali and 13 are in other locations throughout the country

(b) rural telephone links - these links circumvent the use of telephone cables and Rwandatel lines for telephone communications. There are 22 rural VHF links being used in locations where provisions for satellite use have not been made (e.g. at Belgian Village). All are extensions of the telephone exchange system at UNAMIR Headquarters (e.g. ext. 11210), and they operate independently from the Rwandatel system. Use of these links is crucial due to the unreliability and unavailability of Rwandatel telephone lines.

3. HF communications

HF (high frequency) communications are extensively used by UNAMIR's military component for purposes of communicating within Rwanda as a back-up to VHF communications, as well as for use as a high-power rear link to each contingent's home country. In the civilian sector, it is used as a back-up for Air Operations between Kigali and Nairobi.

4. FM transmitters

These transmitters are used for Radio UNAMIR's broadcasting operations. There are currently 6 transmitters located in Kigali, Gikongoro, Byumba, Kibungo and Matura, but only four are operational due to technical problems being experienced at the Gikongoro and Matura sites. These problems could be resolved if the Government provides us with a better location for one of our Kigali transmitters (such as Mt. Ribero), or through the use of VSAT telephone links which is within our current capability (the latter option has been rejected by Rwandatel). The Matura site (for which a frequency has yet to be obtained) is crucial for reaching the refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire.

UNAMIR's communications infrastructure was developed in early 1994, but a major expansion of its communications facilities took place in the latter part of 1994. Since August 1994, UNAMIR has made official applications for the use of all its communications frequencies and VSAT communications in Rwanda to Rwandatel (the Ministry of Transport and Communications is in charge of issuing licenses once Rwandatel's approval has been obtained). Though a general understanding was reached, no formal authorisation was given by Rwandatel.

At an official meeting held on 24 April 1995 with representatives from the Government, Rwandatel and other United Nations agencies operating in Rwanda, the following points were announced by the Directors-General of Rwandatel and the Ministry of Transport and Communications:

- (a) Rwandatel would distribute new frequencies to all agencies and organisations operating in Rwanda, including UNAMIR.
- (b) Certain frequencies would be reserved for the use of the Rwandese Government only (149 to 152 Mhz and 159 to 166 Mhz), and current users on these bands, such as UNAMIR, would have to change their frequencies.
- (c) Rural telephone links were declared to be illegal (though no legal basis was provided for this assertion). However, the Director-General of Rwandatel has, on certain occasions, expressed a willingness to grant approval for some links on an exceptional basis.

- (d) All users of communications equipment in Rwanda were required to furnish Rwandatel with details of the frequencies being used and a description of each piece of equipment including its specific location.
- (e) Representatives of Rwandatel were to be ensured free access at any time to all communications sites and equipment for purposes of verification.
- (f) Once the information requested had been provided, a license for the use of frequencies and equipment would be granted upon the payment of the requisite licensing fees.
- (g) Communications equipment seized by the authorities at Kigali Airport since 20 February 1995 following instructions from Rwandatel would be released once all licensing formalities had been completed.
- (h) No movement of communications equipment within Rwanda would be allowed without written permission from the Director-General of Rwandatel.

UNAMIR has since provided Rwandatel with the necessary details of all its communications equipment currently in use. With regard to the allocation of new frequencies, only a tentative list has been given to UNAMIR pending a final approval. The Director-General of Rwandatel is aware of UNAMIR's reluctance to pay any licensing fees considering the fact that this is not the norm in other missions, and there is no provision for the payment of such fees in the Status of Mission Agreement signed between UNAMIR and the Government of Rwanda. Despite the fact that the Director-General of Rwandatel stated at the UNAMIR/Government Joint Commission's meeting held on 2 May 1995 that UNAMIR had no more problems at the airport with regard to its communications equipment, our personnel are still awaiting receipt of a formal authorisation letter on his part for their release. The prohibition against the movement of any communications equipment without written authorisation prevents our communications team from maintaining and servicing equipment now in use. For instance, during the recent Kibeho incident, our communications staff were prevented from boarding our own helicopters at Kigali Airport with the communications equipment needed to cater for the exigencies of the emergency.

It should be noted that there are approximately 750 hand-held radios, over 300 mobile units and about 70 base stations presently in use by UNAMIR military and civilian personnel. The reprogramming of most of this equipment would require a tremendous effort on our part. Due to the logistical problems involved, it would be extremely time-consuming and would require, with the extensive use of helicopters, between 4 to 6 weeks for its completion .

Ladan M. Rafii
Political/Legal Officer
4 May 1995