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**ENR 62**  
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UNU: Teleg. Unit  
**OUTGOING CODED CABLE**  
Palais des Nations

UNITED NATIONS  
CABLE OPERATIONS

1996 MAR 20 P 2:35

TO: GOULDING, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

INFO: KHAN, UNAMIR; MARTIN, HRFOR, KIGALI

FROM: AYALA LASSO, UNHCHR, GENEVA

DATE: 20 MARCH 1996

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of EU monitors from HRFOR

RECEIVED

21 MAR 1996

OFFICE OF THE SRSG  
UNAMIR

**GUA2239**

I refer to your coded cable 739 of 14 March addressed to Mr. Khan in Kigali. In this regard, it should be recalled that an agreement was concluded with the European Commission in March 1995, specifying the sending of up to 50 fully equipped officers to Rwanda. That agreement, which formally expired on 15 August 1995, has been provisionally renewed several times, the last time for the period of 15 January to 15 March 1996. In this context, it should also be noted that the number of monitors provided by the EU has never reached the ceiling of 50 (the maximum number of monitors deployed has been 32 for a period of three months). At the moment, only eleven officers remain from the initial contingent.

With regard to the practical aspects of the decision by the European Commission to withdraw its monitors, it should be noted that the presently deployed EU monitors were informed on 7 March that they would not have to leave their posts on 15 March. However, on 13 March, they were notified that they would have to withdraw within 48 hours, purportedly "for technical reasons resulting from internal audit problems." After EU member states made their views clear to the Commission, this decision was reversed and the contracts of EU officers were extended until 31 March.

The new agreement with the European Commission, which foresees the deployment of up to 50 fully equipped officers for a further period of 6 months is still under negotiation, the major unresolved issue being the insistence of the European Commission that, on deployment decisions, the Chief of the Operation not merely consult the EU-Coordinator, but seek his formal agreement. This demand is impossible for me to accept, as this would create a bicephalism in the Operation which should be avoided by all means. EU member states agree with me on this point. It must be recalled that the HRFOR is not a joint operation, but a UN Operation to which the EU contributes resources. On the other hand, I am prepared to go to great lengths to accommodate the wish of the European Commission for maximum visibility. I hope that this issue can be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. I will keep you informed of further developments in this matter.

Best regards

*This is eminently reasonable*  
*ED*  
*for 21.3*

*Mr DAO*  
*Mr J. KHAN*  
*Ms Rafii*

*ws*