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UNAMIR - MINUAR

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TO: ANNAN/VAN KAPPAN, UNATIONS

FROM: TOUSIGNANT, UNAMIR/KIGALI

DATE: 01 AUGUST 1995

MIR NO:

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SUBJECT: SOMA VIOLATION - IMPOUNDING OF AUSMED VEH AND
ASSAULTING OF AUSMED PERSONNEL

1. AT APPROX 01 0920 B AUG 95, ONE AUSMED VEH WAS STOPPED BY RPA WHILST EN ROUTE FROM AUSMED GARRISON TO KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. VEH WAS STOPPED AT GR 093847. ONE OTHER AS VEH WAS TRAVELLING IN FRONT OF THIS VEH WHICH WAS NOT STOPPED BY THE RPA.
2. AUSMED VEH INVOLVED WAS A LANDROVER. THERE WERE FIVE PERS AT THE INCIDENT SITE.
3. THERE WERE UP TO APPROXIMATELY 70(+) RPA AT THE INCIDENT SITE. THREE VEH WERE PRESENT. TWO WERE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHS WITH ONE 50 CAL MOUNTED ON EACH VEH. THE THIRD RPA VEH HAD NO WPNS MOUNTED.
4. THE RPA VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY ABUSED THE AUSMED PERS, BELIEVING THAT THE AUSMED VEH HAD TRIED TO INTERVENE IN AN RPA ESCORT OF A PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE. THE AUSMED PERS WERE FORCIBLY REMOVED FM THEIR VEH AND ASSAULTED. PERS WPNS (TWO F88 STEYRS AND AMMUNITION) AND COMMS WERE CONFISCATED. INJURIES SUSTAINED BY TWO SGTS., ONE CAPT. AND ONE PVT AS UNDER.
 - A. CPT. RECEIVED RFL BUTT STROKE TO BACK OF HEAD. ADMITTED TO CHK WITH CONCUSSION, CURRENTLY UNDER OBSERVATION.
 - B. SGT. RECEIVED RFL BUTT STROKE TO LEGS AND WAS KICKED IN ABDOMEN. NOT ADMITTED TO CHK.
 - C. SGT. SLUNG TO GND AND PUNCHED. NOT ADMITTED TO CHK.
 - D. PTE. KICKED IN BACK. NOT ADMITTED TO CHK.
5. THE AUSMED PERS WERE ESCORTED IN THE LANDROVER BY RPA VEHS TO AN RPA COMPOUND VIC MERIDIEN HOTEL. AN RPA MAJOR (BELIEVED TO BE A MAJOR JACKA) BECAME INVOLVED ON ARRIVAL AT THE RPA COMPOUND WHICH SETTLED THE SITUATION.

6. WHILST EN ROUTE, UNAMIR MPS TRIED TO ASSIST THE AUSMED VEH BUT WERE STOPPED BY RPA RD BLOCK AND SHOW OF FORCE WITH DEPLOYED TPS AND RPG.

7. THE RPA INSISTED THAT THE AUSMED PERS MOV UNDER ESCORT TO THE GENDARMERIE'S REMERA BDE LOC. EN ROUTE TO REMERA THE AUSMED PERS, WPNS, COMMS AND VEH WERE RELEASED FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS BY THE PROVOST MARSHAL AND THE RPA MAJOR. THEREAFTER THE VEH RETURNED TO CHK TO ALLOW MED TREATMENT OF INJURED PERS.

8. THOUGH UNAMIR VEHS IN PAST HAVE BEEN IMPOUNDED FOR OVERTAKING OR NOT GIVING PASS TO A VIP MOTORCADE, THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR INCIDENT WHERE UNAMIR PERSONNEL WERE PHYSICALLY ABUSED. SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE HIGH POTENTIAL OF SELF-ESCALATION AND RESULTANT CONFRONTATION. THOUGH THE TIMELY INTERVENTION OF AN RPA MAJ HELPED DIFFUSE THE SITUATION, THESE ARE IN GROSS VIOLATION OF SOMA AND THE MATTER IS BEING TAKEN UP WITH RPA AND GOVT AUTHORITIES. THOUGH THE SITUATION/INCIDENT APPEARS TO BE A LOCALISED ACTION, SUCH HIGH-HANDEDNESS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO UNAMIR. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH PERMANENT REP OF RWANDA TO U.N. END.