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AK
Please copy
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Mr. Rafiq
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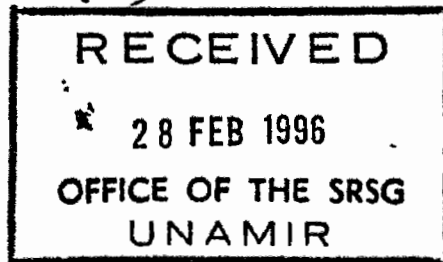
FROM : CMO Ms

TO : COS

INFO : MA to A/FC
ADCOS (OPS)

Reçu le 28 FEB. 1996

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FILE : MILOB/OPS/45

DATE : 28 FEB 96

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See de future figures on p.3.
28-2-96

SUBJECT: END OF MISSION REPORT (09 DEC TO 08 MAR 96)

Refs:

- a. MILOB GP HQ OPS/1122.23 dated 28 Nov 95.
- b. Your letter on mn subject dated 23 Feb 96.

GENERAL

1. The End of Mission Report covering the 3rd Mandate (09 Jun 95 to 08 Dec 96) was submitted vide reference A. This report is for the current Mandate, covering the period, 09 Dec 95 to 08 Mar 96.

AIM

2. The aim of this report is to highlight MILOBS operations during the current Mandate.

SCOPE

3. The following will be covered:
 - a. Security Situation in Rwanda.
 - b. Humanitarian Situation.
 - c. Repatriation of Refugees.
 - d. Reconciliation Process.
 - e. MILOBS' operation in current Mandate.
 - f. Conclusion.

SECURITY SITUATION IN RWANDA

4. The overall security situation in RWANDA, particularly in Central and Eastern parts, remained calm and well under the control of the RPA. On the whole, there was a lull in insurgent activities by the FRGF in Rwanda from the end of Nov to mid Dec 95. This was in contrast to the

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situation prevailing in Oct / Nov 95. The Iswawa Island episode in Nov 95 seriously demoralized the FRGF rank and file operating in Rwanda. This possibly accounted for this lull. Insurgent activities however picked up again in the second week of Dec in the Western part of the country, notably in the Ruhengeri, Gisenyi and Cyangugu prefectures. This trend saw a steady increase through Jan and Feb 96. A number of sabotage activities have been carried out. These took the form of planting of land mines, blowing up of bridges, electricity pylons as well as water supply lines. The number of armed robberies and killings have also been on the increase. Most of these activities have been traced to the FRGF.

5. A number of encounters have been reported between the RPA patrols and FRGF, in which the RPA suffered a lot of casualties. Banditry activities have increased in some prefectures (notably, GITARAMA, KIBUYE, GIKONGORO and BUTARE). Livestock and other valuables are forcefully taken from locals. They are manhandled or sometimes killed if they had nothing to offer.

6. Arbitral^{ed} arrests by RPA continue unabated.

7. **Assessment.** It is assessed that, insurgent activities will continue in future with renewed vigor and are likely to spread to Central and Eastern Rwanda.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

8. There has been an improvement in the humanitarian situation during the period. Most of the local officials have been seen to be assisting people, particularly, returnees. The local authorities have been helping returnees to get back their land and houses. They have on the whole, been fairly treated, even though some of them are arrested on arrival.

9. The effect of the expulsion of 38 NGOs from Rwanda is seriously being felt all over the country. The most badly affected sector is the Medical Service. There is an obvious shortage of drugs and medical equipments as well as medical/para-medical staff, leading to a decline in health care in the rural areas.

REPATRIATION OF RETURNEES

10. Despite concerted efforts by all concerned, the repatriation of refugees remained at a rather low key. Returnee figures recorded during the period stands as follows:

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Month/Year	No of Returnees	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)
Dec 95	13,583	
Jan 96	13,264	
Feb 96	25,498	Figures up to 22 Feb
Total	52,345	

These low figures were recorded, despite the fact that UNHCR expected a massive repatriation in Dec 95 / Jan 96. The noticeable increase in returnee figures in Feb is primarily due to the fact that, the refugees are constantly being caught up in the violence between the Burundian Army and the Hutu Militia, operating in the northern Province of Burundi. Despite this increase, there are over 1.6 million refugees still living outside Rwanda. The possible reason for large numbers still living outside is, either they are too apprehensive of the security situation in Rwanda or they are quite comfortable in their camps and have no desire of coming back to face the hardships and intimidation in their home communes.

11. Zaire is reported to have deployed additional troops in some camps (KIBUMBA in GOMA and KASUSA and NYANGAZI in BUKAVU) to expedite repatriation. The repatriation however has so far not been forced.

12. Comments.

- a. This exercise seems to have failed to achieve the desired goal, since there was hardly any increase in repatriation from these camps.
- b. Repatriation is not likely to increase dramatically in the near future, unless repatriation is forced.

RECONCILIATION PROCESS

13. Although on the surface, it appears that there has been some improvement in the reconciliation process, the hatred between the ethnic groups seems to be too much deeply rooted.

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The memory of the genocide is still too fresh in their minds. Political leaders and high ranking officials have been seen making some attempt at reconciliation but they need to do more at the grassroots level to achieve tangible results.

MILOBS OPERATIONS IN THE CURRENT MANDATE

14. The strength of MILOBS was drastically reduced from 320 to 146 for the period. This necessitated the redemarkation of the hitherto 10 sectors into 5. It greatly hampered the operational capabilities of MILOBS, as there were larger areas of responsibilities for the MILOB sectors with less human resources to cover. Despite the handicap, MILOBS continued to monitor the Refugee/Returnee situation as required by the Mandate.

15. Most of the MILOB Sectors faced the challenge of operating without Formed Troops during the Mandate. This had no adverse impact on their capabilities except that incidents of theft increased on their office premises. A remedial action of hiring civilian night guards was taken.

16. **Achievements.** The frequent visits of MILOBS patrols to the sectors and cellules has been a great source of inspiration to the locals. It among other things gave them a feeling of insulation, to some extent, against RPA excesses. No wonder, a large number of locals and officials have been requesting for continued presence of UNAMIR. Politicians and the RPA however have their own reservations.

17. **Failures.** Even though MILOBS tried as much as they could to monitor the returnee situation as required of them by the mandate, they were unable to effectively monitor issues relating to their resettlement because of manpower problems. It was impossible to cover the crooks and nooks of Rwanda with 146 observers.

CONCLUSION

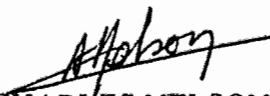
18. The Western portions of Rwanda have been characterized by infiltrations and insurgent activities since Jan 96. This trend is most likely to continue with renewed vigor and possibly spread to the Central portions of the country in the near future.

19. Even though the UNHCR anticipated a massive repatriation of refugees during Dec and Jan 96, very low figures were recorded. The deployment of Zairian troops at the refugee camps had virtually no effect on the repatriation of refugees. The figures from Zaire are likely to remain low

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unless repatriation is forced.

20. MILOBS worked with a very low strength of 146 during the mandate. Notwithstanding this handicap, they worked tirelessly and won the hearts of most locals and officials. They would have however done better with the right manpower.


CHARLES NELSON
Col
CMO

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