

UNARCHIVES

SERIES	<u>S-1063</u>
BOX	<u>14</u>
FILE	<u>7</u>
ACC.	<u>1998/0278</u>

WEEKLY SITREP

22-29 NOVEMBER 1994

Highlights

This week, UNAMIR focused on: (1) working with UNDP, the World Bank, donor countries and U.N. Agencies to direct their efforts towards RENP priority projects through the channels of the Trust Fund, the Consolidated Appeal and the Round Table Conference; (2) political reconciliation and re-integration; and (3) Operation Retour (formerly TAHA) which seeks to encourage and organize the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons.

In addition, the following visits and events were significant:

On 22 November, the SRSG met with both Mr. Kent, the Humanitarian Coordinator, and Mr. Denis McNamara, Head of International Protection, UNHCR, Geneva, to discuss modalities for the facilitation of the return of refugees and displaced persons. The SRSG then convened a meeting of UN Agency Heads to discuss both the issue of the upcoming UNDP Roundtable Conference and that of proposed guidelines for the facilitation of the return of refugees and displaced persons.

On 23 November, the SRSG held consultations with President Bizimungu to discuss, among others, the issues of security and development assistance in Rwanda.

On 24 November, the SRSG:

- met with Mr. Clarence, of the UN Centre for Human Rights, to discuss the issue of the return of refugees and IDPs.
- received the visit of Ms. Duran of the World Bank who briefed him on the World Bank's plans for assistance to Rwanda.
- met with H.E. M. Huang Shetjiao, the Ambassador of China, to discuss coordination between UNAMIR and the Chinese Government.
- held consultations with Mr. Felli, the OAU Representative, to discuss the question of national reconciliation.
- met with H.E. A. Hummel, the Ambassador of Germany, to discuss modalities for assistance to Radio Rwanda.
- held a meeting with the Minister of Information, Mr. Nkuliyingoma, to discuss the status of assistance to Radio Rwanda and Television.

- received the visit of the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan to discuss assistance to Rwanda.

On 25 November, the SRSG attended the installation of the 70-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) in Kigali. The ceremony which was attended, among others, by the President, the Vice-President and Minister of Defence, the Prime Minister, members of the Diplomatic Corps and heads of international agencies, was held at the Nyamirambo Stadium before a large crowd. In addition, the Prime Minister, who is also the head of the MDR party, officially announced the appointment of Mr. Anastase Gasana of the MDR as the new Foreign Minister.

On 28 November, the SRSG attended the Tchadian Contingent National Day in Kibuye. He then met with Mr. Kent, the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs to discuss the upcoming Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal. The SRSG then received the visit of H.E. Ambassador Sminov of the Russian Federation during which, among others, they discussed the question of development assistance to Rwanda. The SRSG met with a human rights team led by Ms. Diallo of the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva to discuss the status of human rights operations.

1. **Relief and Development/RENP: The SRSGs Rwanda Emergency Normalization Plan:**

The Government cannot address the multiple challenges and problems it faces without resources. UNAMIR is working with the Government, the World Bank, UNREO, UNDP and the Agencies to coordinate donor aid to ensure that the most urgent needs outlined by the Government are met and that any overlap is avoided. UNAMIR is also working with UNDP and UNREO to channel and organize aid into the appropriate funding entities, namely: the Trust Fund, the Consolidated Appeal and the Round Table. The international community must give the Government a chance to formulate and implement its programs to address problems such as security and land tenure/private property by giving it the necessary resources immediately. Donors could evaluate the results of the Government's programmes after a specified period to decide whether aid will be continued.

In addition, the status of the following projects should be noted:

Budgetary Assistance: Although the Rwandan Government has still not secured funds to pay salaries to its military and civilian staff, WFP, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, continues to provide Food-for-Work rations (valued at \$50/family based on the September 1994 exchange rate and Kigali market prices) to the following sectors: Kigali International Airport employees, Electrogaz employees, Rwandatel employees, and primary school teachers, and hospital workers at the Kibungo Hospital. WFP is also providing hospital feeding at Central Hospital of Kigali and general rations to returnees and to farmers (to ensure that the seeds distributed for planting are not consumed as food). Although WFP's and UNICEF's

efforts are creative, laudable, and meeting an urgent need, these efforts will not suffice in the long run. Staggering unemployment, due to lack of funds for salaries, continues to contribute to unrest among the population which is leading to an increasing number of incidents of banditry.

Electricity: Electricity has been restored to the majority of residences in the following Sectors of Kigali:

Kiyovu, Kimihurura, Kacyiru, Le Parc Industriel, Gikondo and Kicukiro.

The German GTZ/ECHO programme continues its work to repair the power grid. The Canadian ACDI has also offered its assistance, and GTZ has provided the ACDI with its programme of action as well as a list of outstanding projects which must be undertaken. UNAMIR has spoken to the Minister of Public Works (MINITRAPE) regarding its role as the coordinator of the electricity rehabilitation project. UNAMIR has recommended that MINITRAPE convene a meeting of the parties concerned (GTZ, ACDI, ECHO) to combine all plans and assessments into one workplan with one project manager. These meetings would then be convened on a weekly basis to revise and update the workplan as appropriate. UNAMIR will coordinate closely with MINITRAPE in this effort.

Airport: UNDP is financing 9 UN Volunteers who will serve as air traffic controllers and administrators. Three air traffic controllers are already on the ground, and their arrival has enabled the airport to move into 24 hour operation. Six more UNV's are working in accounting, administration and finance. There is still a need to improve the fire-fighting capability at the airport, and UNDP, as the lead UN agency for the rehabilitation of the airport, is working to meet these needs. UNDP is also providing US\$ 245,000 to finance the UNVs and also to pay Rwandan local salaries. The insurance rates for commercial flights are still very high (\$220 per person, or \$22,000 for a DC-10 of 100 passengers) due to the low overall safety and security rating attributed to Kigali Airport. In order to improve this rating, the fire fighting capacity at the airport must be improved to meet international standards. In addition, the glass in the control tower must be replaced (a \$30,000 project). Currently, the broken windows which have been boarded up make it impossible for the air traffic controllers to see the aircraft as they are guiding it to landing.

Radio UNAMIR: Five transmitters from the ODA/British Government arrived this week and are being prepared for deployment. Radio UNAMIR will not be able to broadcast nationwide until all of the transmitters are in place and until the essential satellite equipment from New York is received. Production of informational radio programmes continues, however, all test broadcasting has ceased at the request of the Government. UNAMIR is still not in receipt of its

broadcast license. Meanwhile, the Minister of Information has expressed concern over the lack of adequate broadcasting equipment for Radio Rwanda and has requested that UNAMIR assist in acquiring funds for this purpose from the international donor community.

National Gendarmerie: The 103 gendarmes, who were trained by the UNAMIR CIVPOL unit and who graduated in early November, have been deployed in brigades throughout Rwanda.

The UNAMIR CIVPOL unit was planning to begin training a second group of 300 gendarmes on 21 November at the Ecole de la Gendarmerie Nationale in Ruhengeri, however, the training has been delayed due to logistical constraints on the part of the Government. The SRSG is seeking material aid for this purpose, and the CIVPOL Commissioner is currently holding discussions with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on this subject.

2. Political Reconciliation/Re-Integration:

The Government made a very important step towards political reconciliation and normalization on 25 November when the 70-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) was installed in Kigali. The ceremony, which was attended by high-ranking members of the Government, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the SRSG, and other heads of international agencies, was conducted almost entirely in Kinyarwanda, although several parliamentarians took their oath in French.

In accordance with the Arusha Peace Agreement, the total number of parliamentarians was maintained at 70. The MRND, however, which had been allotted 11 seats under the Arusha Accords, was not represented in the new parliament. Under the Arusha accords, the 70 parliamentary seats were to be distributed as follows: MRND, 11; RPF, 11; MDR, 11; PSD, 11; PL, 11; PDC, 4; and the other registered parties 1 seat each. The following is the list of parties represented in the parliament inaugurated on 25 November 1994 and the seats allocated to each party: RPF, 13; MDR, 13; PSD, 13; PDC, 6; PDI, 2; PSR, 2; UNPR, 2. In addition, in another deviation from the Arusha accords, the military (the Rwandese Patriotic Army), was assigned 6 seats in the parliament.

The new parliament includes 6 women (1 RPF, 1 MDR, 2 PSD and 2 PDC). The 6 military (RPA) parliamentarians include 2 Colonels, 1 Lt.-Colonel, 2 Majors and 1 Lieutenant.

In addition, during a pause in the ceremony, the parliamentarians elected the members of the Bureau of the TNA. The President of the Republic announced the newly-elected members of the Bureau as follows: Speaker, PSD; Deputy Speaker, PL; and Secretary, PDI. It is to be noted that the constitution of the Bureau conforms with the provisions of the Arusha Agreement.

Statements were made by the Prime Minister and the President during the ceremony. In his statement, the Prime Minister, who is also head of the MDR party, officially announced the appointment of Mr. Anastase Gasana of the MDR, as the new Foreign Minister.

3. **Operation RETOUR: (formerly Operation TAHA):** Operation RETOUR, the UNAMIR/UNREO joint initiative to encourage the voluntary and safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin, is being formulated by a task force made up of UNAMIR and Agency representatives. Two of the immediate and crucial questions which must be answered in this process are: (1) Will the "welcome centres" envisioned be of a sovereign nature (that is, a displaced camp to which both military and civilian Rwandan authorities would have access) or of a humanitarian protection zone nature (such as the former French HPZ to which Rwandan authorities would not have access) ? and (2) What type of screening and/or registration of returnees will take place, where and by whom? These questions are being discussed.

Analysis

The tension in both refugee and internally displaced camps and throughout the country underlines the urgent need for international assistance in the areas of the judicial system, land tenure/private property and human rights. Those suspected of massacres must be brought to justice as soon as possible in order to reduce the tension, insecurity and intimidation of the population in the camps so that individuals can choose to return home without pressure or intimidation.

As an integral part of Operation RETOUR, the issue of land tenure/private property must also be addressed, as these returnees must be resettled. The Government must have access to resources in order to set up the welcome centres and provide alternative land and housing. Such plans and programmes are useless if there are no means with which to carry them out. The funding for the implementation of these programmes must be provided urgently, thus through a direct channel (such as the UNAMIR Trust Fund) which would make the funds available immediately.

- - - -