



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 April 1994

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I thank you for your letter of 21 April 1994 in which you describe the efforts made by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the leaders of the Region to restore peace in Rwanda and end the appalling suffering there.

As you know, the United Nations has always considered cooperation with the OAU as a priority in the pacific settlement of disputes in Africa in general and in Rwanda in particular. As early as 12 March 1993, in its resolution 812 (1993), the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to "examine in consultation with the OAU the contribution that the United Nations, in support of the OAU's efforts, could bring to strengthen the peace process in Rwanda." All Security Council resolutions on Rwanda since then have urged the Secretary-General to coordinate his efforts closely with those of the OAU.

Since the tragic incident of 6 April in which the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi lost their lives, the Security Council has kept the situation in Rwanda under constant review at almost daily consultations. On 20 April it adopted resolution 912 (1994) unanimously. As several Council members pointed out, the resumption of fighting changed completely the environment in which the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was trying to carry out its mission of supporting implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

His Excellency
Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary-General
Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
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Despite this tragic development, the United Nations hoped for a moment that the efforts of my Special Representative and of the Force Commander would bring about an early cease-fire and permit the peace process to continue. Only when it became clear that an early cease-fire would not be forthcoming did the Security Council take the decisions contained in resolution 912 (1994).

With regard to these decisions, you will have noted the three alternatives I offered the Council in my report S/1944/470 of 20 April 1994 and my recommendation that it not adopt alternative III, which involved the complete withdrawal of UNAMIR.

The first alternative that I proposed entailed an immediate and massive reinforcement of the Mission and a change in its mandate so that it would be authorized to coerce the opposing forces into a cease-fire and restore law and order. However, it did not command the necessary support in the Council despite intensive efforts by members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Council eventually adopted the remaining alternative and decided to maintain a reduced United Nations presence in Rwanda. It is my fervent hope that the reduced UNAMIR will be able to facilitate the negotiation of a cease-fire following which the United Nations could try to relaunch the peace process.

Against this background, the Organization of African Unity and the neighbouring countries may rest assured of the United Nations' determination to spare no effort in our common endeavour to bring to an end the carnage in Rwanda and to revive the Arusha Agreement.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With warmest regards

Boutros Boutros-Ghali

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