

United Nations

Press Release

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FACT-FINDING MISSION TO LEAVE FOR BURUNDI ON SATURDAY

The following statement was made today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

At the request of the Government of Burundi, the Secretary-General has decided to send a preparatory fact-finding mission to that country. The mission's principal purpose will be to investigate the coup d'état and massacres of October 1993.

The mission will also examine with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Government of Burundi what other activities might be undertaken by the United Nations in exercise of the Secretary-General's good offices, in accordance with the statement of the President of the Security Council of 16 November 1993.

It is envisaged that the mission will require two to three weeks in Burundi to complete its work. It will also visit Addis Ababa for one day to consult with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on its way back from Burundi to New York.

The composition of the mission is as follows: Siméon Aké (Chairman), former Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire; Martin Huslid, former Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations; and Michèle Poliacof, Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs.

The mission will leave New York tomorrow, 19 March, for Burundi and is expected to return to New York around 15 April.

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