

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

SG/SM/5289 13 May 1994

SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TOP ADVISERS REVIEW SITUATION IN RWANDA; ENLARGEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE IS FAVOURED

Paris Meeting Agrees on Urgent Need To Increase Humanitarian Aid, With Protected Zones in Country's Interior as Well as Close to Borders

The following press communiqué was issued by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali following a meeting on Rwanda held today in Paris:

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning held a working meeting on Rwanda. Those present were: the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Rwanda, Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, who had flown to Paris overnight to attend the meeting; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations.

The meeting reviewed the situation in Kigali and elsewhere in Rwanda. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of the earliest possible agreement on a cease-fire and implementation of the Arusha Accord, which remains the basis of the peace process in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, there was an urgent need for the United Nations to increase its humanitarian efforts in the country, for which purpose he was recommending to the Security Council a substantial enlargement of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), the existing United Nations operation there. The Secretary-General welcomed the proposal for the establishment of protected zones for displaced persons close to the country's borders, but he and his colleagues agreed that an equal effort would be needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the interior of the country.

The Secretary-General asked his Special Representative to return to Kigali to pursue his difficult mandate and assured him of his full confidence and support.

* *** *