



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/944
15 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a Press Statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea concerning the situation in eastern Zaire.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Permanent Representative

Annex

PRESS STATEMENT

The Government of Eritrea wishes to express its serious misgivings on the multinational force of intervention on eastern Zaire that is, apparently, under way.

The contemplated intervention force:

- does not, in fact, have a clear mission or mandate;
- completely neglects the core recommendation of the Nairobi Summit and the OAU Central Organ resolutions that call for the separation of the intimidators and the bona fide refugees;
- has not identified where, how, and to whom humanitarian assistance will be provided;
- does not know with whom to coordinate; and
- its duration has not been determined.

As it may be recalled, the declaration of the Nairobi Summit of the regional leaders had unequivocally defined the objectives of the intervention force which would be to create a temporary sanctuary to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the bona fide refugees by separating them from the armed militias. It had expressly called for the effective intervention of African force under the umbrella and auspices of the OAU. The OAU Secretary General was accordingly mandated to liaise with the United Nations to promote these objectives.

The intervention now under way contravenes these salient points. It has been undertaken without due and adequate consultation with African countries. As such, it will not only induce a vicious circle and perpetuate the circumstances which bred the present crises, but it is also fraught with new and dangerous consequences.

In the circumstances, the Government of Eritrea expresses its deep concern on these preoccupying developments and withholds the pledge it had made at the beginning of this week to share in the burden by contributing a contingent to the multinational force of intervention unless and until it is conducted within the framework and spirit of the Nairobi declaration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara, 15 November 1996
