

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to the Security Council Rwanda's response to the communiqué issued by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through its representative at the United Nations on 3 December 2001 (S/2001/1146).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

After reading the communiqué issued by the Government in Kinshasa through its representative at the United Nations and in Brussels, the Government of Rwanda would like to state the following:

- The Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) visited Kigali on 6 December 2001 and had discussions with Rwandan officials. The Force Commander categorically denied that MONUC had observed the sort of troop movements described by the Kinshasa Government.
- The Government of Kinshasa should channel any anxieties it might have through the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and MONUC so that a proper investigation is made. This is the established procedure used by all parties who respect the Lusaka Agreement.
- The Rwandan Government has not made any changes to its troop deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The assertion that the information “has been not denied and observed” by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ngongi, is a matter to be sorted out between him and Mr. Itoki.
- Suffice it to say that Rwanda has troops in the new defensive positions, agreed in the Harare Plans, in Kalemie, and other places in the Katanga as expected. No 3,000 soldiers of the Rwanda Patriotic Army entered Bukavu. Moreover, MONUC investigated earlier charges about Kanyabayonga and found them not to be true. The Kinshasa Government should resort to a MONUC/JMC investigation before going to the Security Council, which will in any case demand facts as established by MONUC.
- The 12th Political Committee directed that the occupation of Muliro by the Forces armées congolaise (FAC), which is in violation of the Lusaka Agreement, should be reversed. The reason Kinshasa is talking of troop movements is a vain attempt to reverse this decision.
- Security Council resolution 1376 (2001), calls on the Kinshasa Government to cease any form of assistance to the armed groups. Since May 2001, FAC established the base at Muliro to resupply, support and facilitate movement of the Army for the Liberation of Rwanda (ALIR) and the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD). The reported battles along Lake Tanganyika, in Fizi, Mwenga, etc., are a direct result of this violation. FAC commanders are directly involved in the command of these forces.
- However, the famous transfer of the war to Rwanda has not been successful so far. The prospects of the FAC losing their tactical base at Muliro are very high, either through due process or by eviction. The looming defeat of their project explains why the Kinshasa Government is crying wolf.
- All these wild allegations by the Kinshasa Government clearly show that its primary concern is the survival of the forces of ALIR I (ex-Forces armées rwandaïses and Interahamwe). Its nearest forces are in Mbandaka.

- It is not surprising that all of a sudden the Kinshasa Government has lost all other “aggressors” and their “creations” except Rwanda. It is trying to save the only effective fighting force it has, the EX-FAR/Interahamwe (ALIR), because it does not believe in a negotiated settlement of the conflict through the provisions of the Lusaka Agreement.
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