

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 April 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 9 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the month of March 2003, the Government of Rwanda had the opportunity of bringing before the Security Council its concerns about the deteriorating security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the wrongful and massive deployment of Ugandan troops in that area.

The Government of Rwanda observed with much consternation the horrendous massacres of innocent populations perpetrated on 3 March 2003 in those areas controlled by the Ugandan forces and their allies.

It should be recalled that this deployment of Ugandan troops was carried out contrary to the provisions of the Lusaka and Pretoria agreements, in connivance with the Government of Kinshasa, whose troops were also deployed in the position formerly held by the Rwandan forces before their total withdrawal from the Congo. This was done in violation of the Kampala and Harare disengagement plans.

The Government of Rwanda also had the opportunity to notify the Security Council about the exacerbating tensions between local communities owing to the factionist policy that Uganda kept on engineering in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As a reaction to the Security Council statement to the press of 8 March 2003, the Government of Rwanda would like to express its disapproval of the mandate for security stewardship in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo given by the Security Council to Uganda only because its forces are deployed on the ground.

Uganda should in fact be requested to assume the responsibility for those massacres committed in the Ituri area and be urged to withdraw from the Democratic Republic of the Congo without any additional delay.

Rwanda reaffirms its rejection of the Ituri Pacification Commission, which is a violation of the Lusaka Agreement and is aimed at enabling Kinshasa to reassert its authority in Ituri, as long as the inter-Congolese dialogue has not been fully implemented. Uganda, being the architect of all the Ituri conflicts, cannot be allowed to define the contours of the workings of the Ituri pacification.

The Government of Rwanda reaffirms its view that a quick deployment of a neutral force in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in all strategic points held by the Ugandan troops and their allies, would be the best option

the Security Council should consider as a solution to the crisis. MONUC and the Third Party Verification Mechanism should in the meantime be enabled to take control of all airfields and ports in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to check resupplying and infiltration forces.

The Government of Rwanda confirms its full cooperation so that the Congolese protagonists overcome the remaining hindrances to the process of putting in place the institutions of transition. Rwanda welcomes all initiatives from the international community in a similar vein, particularly the establishment of security mechanisms for transitional institutions.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
