



Organization of African Unity
The Secretary General

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May 5, 1994

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 2nd May 1994 in which you informed me of the efforts you have deployed with a view to assisting in the restoration of law and order in Rwanda, providing security for displaced persons and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to them.

As you rightly pointed out, the situation in Rwanda, especially security and the humanitarian catastrophe which is unfolding there, require very urgent action. This is why, I note with appreciation the measures you have taken to seize the Security Council with the matter and to undertake consultations with a number of African countries on their possible contribution of troops to an international effort to assist in the country. The Organization of African Unity remains ready and fully disposed to cooperate with the United Nations in any effort aimed at arresting the tragedy there.

His Excellency
Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary General
United Nations Organization
New York, N.Y. 10017
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In my meeting today with the American Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. John Shattuck, I underlined the need for the International Community to move with speed to protect the innocent people and deliver humanitarian assistance. I have made it very clear to him that this task can be accomplished most effectively if it is undertaken within the context of the United Nations and not otherwise.

In the interest of speedy action and since there is already a United Nations presence in Rwanda in the form of UNAMIR, it will not, in my view, be necessary to envisage the setting up of new force altogether. What is needed is to build on what is on the ground, with an adjusted mandate to cope with the expanded tasks of providing security to the displaced persons where needed and delivering humanitarian assistance. You will agree with me that since the United Nations is already engaged in Rwanda, the accent should be put on strengthening and expanding that engagement instead of transferring responsibility elsewhere. Besides, the magnitude of the tragedy in that country require the kind of coordination and resources which can effectively be sustained through a global network such as could be successfully managed only by an organization like the United Nations. This has been the practice in other situations of dire need elsewhere in the world. It must not be set aside in the case of Africa.



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With this background, it is my understanding, therefore, that the operation in Rwanda will continue to be a United Nations Undertaking with all that it implies in terms of political engagement and resource commitment. Africa as a region will then see how it can bring practical and effective support to this United Nations Undertaking. It is in this context that I am proceeding to undertake follow-up action to what you have done so far including expanding on the consultations you have had with some African countries you indicated.

Once more I wish to thank you for what you are doing and to urge you to persist in your efforts at ensuring that the International Community and the United Nations in particular, continues to help in Rwanda.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Salim Ahmed Salim