

UDC 341.123

**V. O. AVDIEIEV**

*Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, Ukraine*

## **UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA: ANALYSIS OF THE UN ACTIVITY AND ACCOMPANYING FACTORS**

Fighting between the Armed Forces of the mainly Hutu Government of Rwanda and the Tutsi-led Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) first broke out in October 1990 across the border between Rwanda and its northern neighbor, Uganda. In October 1993, the Security Council, by its resolution 872 (1993), established international force, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), to help the parties implement the agreements, monitor its implementation and support the transitional Government.

The United Nations solicited troop contributions, but initially only Belgium with a half a battalion of 400 troops, and Bangladesh with a logistical element of 400 troops, offered personnel. It took five months to reach the authorized strength of 2,548. But because of many unresolved issues between the parties, implementation of the agreements was delayed. Consequently, the inauguration of the transitional Government never took place.

In April 1994, the Presidents of Rwanda and of Burundi were killed while returning from peace talks in Tanzania, when the Rwandese plane crashed in circumstances that are still to be determined, as it was landing in Kigali, Rwanda's capital. This set off a tidal wave of political and ethnic killings: the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of ministers and UNAMIR peacekeepers were among the first victims. UNAMIR sought to arrange a ceasefire, without success, and its personnel came increasingly under attack. After some countries unilaterally withdrew their contingents, the Security Council, by its resolution 912 (1994) of 21 April 1994, reduced UNAMIR's strength from 2,548 to 270. Despite its reduced presence, UNAMIR troops managed to protect thousands of Rwandans who took shelter at sites under UNAMIR control.

In July, RPF forces took control of Rwanda, ended the civil war, and established a broad-based Government. The new Government declared its commitment to the 1993 peace agreement and assured UNAMIR that it would cooperate on the return of refugees.

UN learned the lesson of handling Rwanda conflict. Internal and external factors vectored the leaders of the mission to the actions which peacekeepers should avoid in the future.

*Language advisor L. I. Rusanova*