

2021

Agreement to Integrate the RPF into the Rwandan Military

N/A

Original: French

TRANSLATION

ELEMENTS OF THE PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMIES

I. ARMED FORCES

1. National Army

A. FUNCTIONS AND PRINCIPLES

Subject to modalities and principles to be mutually agreed upon between the two parties in the present Protocol of Agreement, for the formation of the National Army, the latter shall have the following functions and shall be guided by the following principles:

Functions:

- (a) Defend the national territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the country;
- (b) Participate, within the framework established by laws and regulations and in consultation with competent authorities, in operations of maintenance and restoration of law and order as well as execution of laws;
- (c) Participate in relief operations in the event of natural calamities;
- (d) Contribute to the development of the country, especially through reconstruction and production activities.

PRINCIPLES

- (a) As an institution, the National Army shall be governed by the laws and regulations in force in the country;
- (b) The National Army shall be at the disposal of the Government and shall be subordinated to its authority, the two institutions abiding by the Constitution, Laws, principles governing democracy, and the Rule of Law;

- (c) The National Army shall be non-partisan;
- (d) The National Army shall be a regular army composed solely of volunteer Rwandese citizens recruited on the basis of their competence. The National Army shall be open to any Rwandese National, irrespective of his ethnic group, region, sex, religion or language;
- (e) Members of the National Army shall have the right to be informed about the socio-political life of the country. They shall benefit from civic and political education;
- (f) Members of the National Army shall not be affiliated to political parties or to any other association of a political nature. They shall neither take part in activities or demonstrations of political parties or associations. They shall not portray their political allegiances in public;
- (g) Members of the National Army shall exercise their right to vote. Given the current organization of the Army., however, its members cannot participate in local elections.
- (h) Members of the National Army may present their candidature for political elective posts on condition that they relinquish their military posts.

B. Size, Structure and Organization

1. The strength of the National Army (Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Corporals and Privates) shall be thirteen thousand (13,000) men.
2. The National Army shall comprise:
 - An Army Command High Council;
 - Army Headquarters;
 - Four (4) Territorial Brigades made up of three Battalions each deployed as follows:
 - *1st Brigade to cover Byumba Prefecture;
 - *2nd Brigade to cover Kigali, Kibungo and Gitarama Prefectures;
 - *3rd Brigade to cover Butare, Gikongoro and Cyangugu Prefectures;
 - *4th Brigade to cover Kibuye, Gisenyi and Ruhengeri Prefectures.
 - Special Units under the Army Headquarters;

- *A Para-commando Battalion
- *A Reconnaissance Battalion;
- *A Military Police Battalion whose detachments shall be deployed in the various Brigades, leaving only two Companies in Kigali.

- Support and Service Units under the Army Headquarters:
 - *An Engineering Battalion;
 - *A Field Artillery Battalion
 - *An anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion;
 - *An Air Force squadron;
 - *A Logistics Center;
 - *Medical Services;
 - *An Army Band-company
 - *The Training Center in Bugesera;
 - *Commando Training Centre in Bigogwe.

There are also schools under the Ministry of Defence: "Ecole Supérieure Militaire" (Staff College) and "Ecole des Sous-Officiers" (Non Commissioned Officers School).

3. Military Ranks within the National Army shall fall under the following three categories:

CATEGORY 1: TROOPS

- Private
- Lance Corporal
- Corporal

CATEGORY 2: -NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

- Sergeant
- Staff Sergeant
- Sergeant Major
- "Warrant Officer"
- Warrant Officer Class I

- CATEGORY 3: (a) - Junior Officers
- Second Lieutenant
 - Lieutenant
 - Captain

(b) Senior Officers:

- Major
- Lieutenant -Colonel
- Colonel

(c) -General Officers:

- Brigadier
- Major-General
- Lieutenant General

Ranks of "Premier Sergeant Major", "Adjutant Principal" and "Commandant" shall be abolished. Servicemen currently holding these ranks shall maintain them until they are promoted to higher ranks. They shall be the last ones to hold those ranks. New Ranks of "Lance Corporal" and "Brigadier" shall be established.

4. Military duties shall be exercised under contract or permanent terms. Rank and file as well as Non-Commissioned Officers with the rank of Sergeant and Staff Sergeant, shall be employed under Contract. The contract shall be valid for seven years renewable once and applicable to the category of servicemen aged between 18 and 40. Other servicemen shall be employed on permanent terms.

5. Modalities for the promotion in ranks shall be decided upon by the Government.

6. Servicemen may move from a lower category to an upper category, especially after passing a test organized for that purpose.

7. The age of retirement shall be:

- 45 years for Non-Commissioned Officers employed under contract and for junior officers;
- 50 years for senior officers
- 55 years for general officers.

7. Upon reaching the retirement age, servicemen employed under permanent terms, and exercising specialized functions shall, however, benefit from a service

extension and be employed under contract terms. In this situation, they cannot expect to be promoted within the normal ranks.

8. A Criminal Investigation and Prosecution department shall be attached to the Military courts.
9. The Government shall establish a programme of civics and political education for servicemen.

C. Formation of the National Army:

1. Process of Forming the National Army:

The formation of the National Army shall be done through the following stages:

- the setting up of an International Neutral Force;
- the establishment of an Army Command High Council;
- the disengagement of forces;
- the training of servicemen;
- the deployment of troops in the units.

1.1. Deployment of the International Neutral Force:

(a) Composition.....

(b) General Functions:

- Guarantee the general security of the country
- Oversee the security of the process of constituting the National Army;
- Extend all forms of assistance to the relevant authorities.

1.2 Establishment of an Army Command High Council:

An Army Command High Council is hereby established and constitutes, within the framework of the policy outlined by the Government, the highest Military Army Organ of consultation and decision-making in matters related to defence and organization of the Army. It shall be accountable to the Government through the Ministry of Defence:

(a) Composition:

The Army Command High Council is made up of:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| - The Chief of Staff | - Chairman |
| - The Deputy Chief of Staff | - Vice-Chairman |
| - Brigade Commanders (4) | - Members |
| - Deputy Brigade Commanders (4) | - Members |

(b) Functions:

The Army Command High Council shall exercise the following functions:

- Study the modalities of implementing the Government defence policy;
- decide, in line with the Government general policy, on a doctrine underlying the use of the army by establishing mechanisms and strategies for the defence of the national territory and maximum utilization of resources;
- approve plans for the utilization of the Army;
- set out broad outlines for the organisation of army supplies and logistics;
- provide advice, either on its own initiative or upon the request of the Minister of Defence, on defence policy plans, the overall organization of the Army, the state of military service and on any military issue of general concern;
- ensure the implementation of the organisation plans of the Army.
- study the important issues confronting the units and take decisions to be implemented by the Army headquarters or make recommendations to the Ministry of Defence for appropriate action;
- ensure that the country's defence policy is implemented;
- supervise the process of forming the National Army.

C. Meetings:

The Army Command High Council shall meet once a month in an ordinary session upon notification by its Chairman. The Chairman may call for an extraordinary session when and as needed and, especially on instructions from the Minister of Defence or at the request of anyone of its members. The agenda of the meeting shall be specified upon notification to attend:

- The Army Command High Council shall establish its rules of procedure.
- Decisions are taken by consensus and communicated to the Ministry of Defence
- Decisions or recommendations by the Army Command High Council shall be conveyed to the echelons concerned by the Chief of Staff.

D. The Army Headquarters:

The Army Headquarters is an organ liaising between the Army as an institution and the executive power. It shall be responsible for the daily administration and command of the Army. It shall implement decisions by the Army Command High Council and coordinate the activities of the Army, in conformity with directives issued by the High Council. The Army Headquarters shall be under the Chief of Staff, assisted by a Deputy Chief of Staff.

Functions of the Chief of Staff:

- Implement the Country's defence policy (in conformity with the modalities laid down by the Army Command High Council.
- Assist the Minister of Defence in the organization and utilization of the National Army;
- Assume the command of the National Army and coordinate its activities in conformity with the directives issued by the Army Command High Council.
- Implement the decisions by the Army Command Military High Council;
- Ensure communication between the Army Command High Council and the Minister of Defence;
- Within the framework of implementing the Peace Agreement and in cooperation with the International Neutral Force:
 - Shall conduct the process of forming the National Army and participate in the process of demobilization;

- Shall ensure the maintenance of peace and security.
- Coordinate the activities of the Army Headquarters.

Functions of the Deputy Chief of Staff:

- Assist the Chief of Staff in his various duties.
- Stand in for the Chief of Staff in the event of his absence or impediment and dispose of all the matters.
- In addition administer two of the Army headquarters departments.

Organization and Functions of Army Headquarters Departments:

- Department 1 (G1):
Management of personnel
- Department 2 (G2): Security and Military Intelligence:
 - Security of National Army staff and equipment
 - Research and utilization of Intelligence.
- Department 3 (G3): Organization, training, education, operations, political education and civics;
 - Elaboration of the doctrine underlying the use of the National army;
 - Proposals on the links of the various units;
 - Military training and education;
 - Civics and political education;
 - Elaboration of military defence plans, in line with the directives from the Minister of Defence and the Government policy;
 - Planning of daily and periodic activities within the national army.
- Department 4 (G4): Logistics
 - Participation in preparing the budget;
 - Providing units with supplies;
 - Management of National Army property.

1.3 Assembly Points:

a) Definition and Characteristics:

- Assembly zones shall be referred to as zones situated on either side of the buffer zone demarcated by the ceasefire line, as identified by the Neutral Military Observer Group at the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement on 12th July, 1992 on the one hand, and by the positions of the Rwandese Armed Forces as identified by the Neutral Military Observer Group on 14th March, 1993, on the other hand.
- An assembly point is a clearly identified place within the zone defined above, where combattants of each of the two forces shall be gathered, after leaving their original positions for the period required for the constitution of units from troops of the two forces.
- Each party shall identify, in the zone it occupies, assembly points capable of accommodating at least two thousand (2,000) combattants.

Those assembly points should, as much as possible, be located on State or community owned property and far from built-up areas.

- In identifying an assembly point, account shall be taken of such factors as the possibility for an easy organisation of supplies, it being clearly understood that "supplies" refer only to the supply and distribution of non-lethal items.

b) Role of Assembly Points:

- Facilitate disengagement process;
- Facilitate the process of selection of elements for the future National Army;
- Facilitate the demobilization process;
- Facilitate the return of war-displaced people into their property.

c) Command and Liaison:

- Each assembly point shall be under a Military Commander nominated by the party concerned.
- The Military Commander shall be answerable to the Command to which he is accountable and to the Army Command High Council, with regard to the following:

.Staff discipline;

.Observance by the troops of the Peace Agreement, especially special provisions relating to the definitive cessation of hostilities;

.Observance of the directives and orders emanating from the Army Headquarters.

.Control of armaments, ammunition and other equipment belonging to Units within the assembly points.

- The Military Commander shall send to the Army Headquarters a daily situation report on the personnel, equipment and ammunition in the assembly point and an account of relevant activities carried out in conformity with directives from the Army Headquarters.
- The Military Commander shall liaise with the Command to which he is accountable and the International Neutral Force. The latter may, however, nominate its own liaison officer.

(d) Security of Assembly Points:

- Each assembly point shall be surrounded by a security perimeter with a radius of The Military Commander shall communicate the length of the radius adopted to the Army Headquarters and the international Neutral Force.
- The Military Commander of each assembly point shall constitute a force equal to 10% of the strength of the unit, but at least not below a 120-men company, required to ensure the security of the assembly point. The personnel of that force shall be equipped only with personal weapons and complementary Company armament, and shall be deployed strictly within the security perimeter.
- Additional security measures in each assembly point shall be decided upon by mutual agreement between the Commander of the assembly point and the Army headquarters.

(e) Safeguarding of Arms, Ammunition and Military Equipment:

- Once the troops arrive in the assembly point, each party shall undertake identification of its troops and make an inventory of all armaments and ammunitions.

- The Army Command High Council and the International Neutral Force shall cross-check the inventory of arms and ammunition as well as the identification of servicemen.

With the exception of weapons carried by the Company on duty in each assembly point, all other arms, ammunition and equipment shall be stockpiled in places to be locked and placed under the joint supervision of the International Neutral Force and the party concerned.

However, light weapons required for military exercises in the assembly point may be put at the disposal of the Commander whenever necessary. These exercises shall be carried out according to a programme known to the Army Command High Council and the International Neutral Force. The weaponry utilized shall be returned to the depot upon completion of each exercise.

The Army Command High Council and the International Neutral Force shall determine the date on which all arms and ammunition shall be collected for storage. The same date shall apply for the collection and storage of arms and ammunition in all assembly points.

(f) Troop Activities

It is forbidden to servicemen in an assembly point to move outside that assembly point without the permission of its Commander. In any case, it shall be strictly forbidden to move about armed.

Troops may undertake the following activities in the Assembly Points:

- Physical exercises, cultural and leisure-time activities;
- Activities provided for in the first phase of the military training programme;
- replenishment of food, fuels, lubricants and medical supplies;
- maintenance and repair of equipment;
- infrastructure improvement and mine-clearing in their assembly points.

(g) Procedure to be followed in the event of incident or ceasefire violation:

- Commanders of each echelon shall take immediate steps with regard to their troops to put an end to any incident or ceasefire violation.

- Any Commander informed of an incident or violation shall immediately issue a warning to the instigators of the incident or violation and, if they belong to his unit, take necessary disciplinary action.
- Without prejudice to any disciplinary action to be taken by the Unit Commander, the authors or those responsible for the incident or violation shall be liable to punishment by the Army Headquarters.
- The Military Commander shall also be duty bound to report any incident or violation to his immediate superior, to the International Neutral Force and the Army Headquarters.
- In the event of an incident or violation, the Unit shall refrain from taking retaliation action and shall strive to avoid any action that may trigger escalation.
- The International Neutral Force shall be informed of any incident or violation and shall have the responsibility of tracking down the instigators.

(h) The Personal Identification File:

A personal identification file shall be opened for each serviceman as soon as he reports to the Assembly Point. The file shall include the following:

Family name and First name; Rank; Years of Service within the Rank; Regimental Number; Sex; Date of Birth; Marital Status; Being a Munyarwanda; Type and Serial Number of Weapon; Specialization; Military or Civilian Diploma, Certificate or Brevet; Blood Group.

The Army Command High Council may decide to include additional elements of identification.

(i) Selection of Servicemen:

The selection of servicemen to constitute the National Army and those to be demobilized shall be carried out in the assembly point.

Servicemen eligible for forming the National Army should meet the following requirements:

Officers:

- Should be volunteers;
- be serving as Officers;
- be a Munyarwanda
- be physically fit, i.e. they should obtain a certificate of physical fitness from a registered physician;
- However, the war-wounded and handicapped shall remain eligible for army service, according to their specializations, unlike the disabled servicemen who shall be demobilized but assisted. This shall apply to all categories of servicemen;
- be at least 21 years of age;
- have a diploma from a Higher Military Academy or be holders of a University degree for those who have not attended a Higher Military Academy, provided that they have followed Military Courses for Officers.

(b) Non-Commissioned Officers:

Should be volunteers;

- be serving as Non-Commissioned Officers;
- be a Munyarwanda;
- be physically fit;
- be at least 18 years old;
- have a certificate testifying completion of at least 3 years of secondary school.

(c) Troops:

Should be volunteers;

- be serving in the army
- be a Munyarwanda;
- be physically fit;
- be at least 18 years old;
- be holders of at least a primary school certificate.

NB:

For all 3 categories of servicemen, a cross-check shall be carried out in case of any doubt concerning personal particulars as per criteria listed above.

Items which have not yet met the consensus of the

Two Delegations.

- Page 5, Item 1.1(a): the composition of the International Neutral Force shall be determined when the two delegations consider item IV referred to as "Supervisory Organs" under the agenda of negotiations on the army.
- Page 7 and 8 (Army Headquarters): yet to be discussed.
- Pages 9, 10 and 11: Assembly Points .
- Page 9: the entire point (a) is yet to be discussed
- Page 10: item (d), first dash: the length of the radius is yet to be determined
item(d), second dash: the sentence phrased as "the complementary Company Armaments" is yet to be discussed.
- Page 11: 3rd paragraph under item (e), the phrase proposed by the Rwandese Government starting with "However, light weapons" and ending by "shall be returned to the depot upon completion of each exercise" is to be approved by the RPF.
- Page 13: The issue related to the training and professional qualifications of the categories of servicemen is not yet settled.