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SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

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16 NOVEMBER 1998

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DRC UPDATE

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According to media reports, Rwanda and Uganda have formed a joint military command in eastern

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Democratic Republic of
Congo Update
98/053

16 & 17 November 1998

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EU considers options concerning DRC

New resistance movement in DRC

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goes on to say that the following options are open to the EU:

Pressure on the belligerents: It is recommended that the EU consider what pressure it can apply

jointly or bilaterally on the various parties to overcome the current stalemate. The priorities in this

regard are to pressure President KABILA to recognize the existence of a rebellion, to negotiate

with all political forces inside Congo, including the rebels, and to start a realistic democratization

process. The report goes on to say that the EU has very little direct leverage. Indirect leverage can

be applied by pressuring the Allies that support him: Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia. Following

its admission of a troop presence in Congo, the EU intends pressurising Rwanda to sign a cease-fire

in order to reach an agreement and eventually withdraw troops with appropriate guarantees.

International Military Force: All peace plans on the table include the specific element of an

international force to give guarantees and monitor the implementation of any cease-fire agreement

and troop withdrawal. African representatives at the EU-SADC Ministerial meeting made it clear

they would be requesting this support from the international community. The EU cannot avoid this

issue and must account for the likely repercussions when it decides whether or not to raise its

current profile. It is recommended that the EU analyse the possibilities, in close coordination with

the UN and US, and prepare its response to the expected request for financial and human

resources.

International Conference on security and cooperation for the region: This conference would

not be appropriate to diffuse the present crisis and would take place after the situation has been

normalized. It would aim to address medium and long-term problems related to security and

cooperation in the region and create the conditions for the establishment of a new partnership

between the international community and African countries. It should be organized by the OAU

and UN and would look at possibilities to strengthen the regional capability to deal with crisis

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in the Equateur province of the DRC with the aim to link up with the RCD rebels against the

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