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Secretary-General in Addis. The Mission proceeded to Luanda in an attempt to broker a cease-fire agreement.

8 September 1998 The Victoria Falls Summit attended by the seven Heads of State with the exclusion of the rebels, came up with a draft agreement.

14 September 1998 The Mauritius SADC (Annual Heads of State) Summit proposed that Kabila meets with the rebels. The SADC Summit gives Zambian President Chiluba a 'go ahead' to lead all mediation efforts to end the crisis. Chiluba was to be assisted by Presidents Chissano of Mozambique and Mkapa of Tanzania. The Mauritius Summit also

the legitimacy of the intervention of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia on the side of Kabila.

24 September 1998 President Omar Bongo called a Summit in Gabon, attended by Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Angola, the Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and Namibia. The Central African Summit dealt with the peace modalities.

19-20 September 1998 Presidents Frederick Chiluba of Zambia and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania met with their counterparts Presidents Museveni of Uganda and Bizimugu of Rwanda, it was another efforts by SADC to resolve the conflict.

26 October 1998 SADC Foreign and Defense Ministers met in Zambia together with delegates from Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, the OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim and representatives from the RCD and Libya. The meeting produced a 'draft' cease-fire accord.

18 January 1999 Windhoek Summit attended by Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda and President Nujoma announced that these countries have agreed on a cease-fire document.

22 March 1999 A SADC meeting in Botswana reiterates its support for Kabila but also register its concern over the spill over effects of the crisis to the rest of the region.

15 April 1999 The Lusaka Summit began and it was attended by representatives of the RCD and the DRC Officials. The aim was to prepare for the implementation of a ceasefire agreement. The RCD walked out the talks citing that they were expecting to have a face-to-face engagement with President Kabila.

4 May 1999 President Frederick Chiluba expresses willingness to work with Gaddafi on the implementation of the Sirte Agreement. This initiative is stalled by Rwanda's statement that it will only recognize Chiluba peace efforts.

25 June 1999 Lusaka Peace talks are held in Lusaka under the auspice of SADC with no clear indication of an early signing of a ceasefire.

21 July 1999 Defense and foreign ministers from the countries with troops in the DRC have established two structures to implement the Lusaka ceasefire agreement. The Joint Military Commission (JMC) to review the day-to-day implementation of the ceasefire and the Ministerial-Level Committee to serve as the supreme advisory body until the UN deployed peacekeepers arrive in the DRC.

August 1999 The SADC Summit in Mozambique endorsed the recommendation that all RCD founder members should sign the ceasefire agreement in order to overcome the political impasse between the two factions.

Bilateral Efforts:

## Diplomatic Initiatives: A Chronology

### Track One Diplomacy

#### International Initiatives:

28 August-3 September 1998 During the 12<sup>th</sup> Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Durban, a meeting was held between the parties to the Congo conflict. The meeting called by President Nelson Mandela and attended by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan called for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

29 September 1998 Aldo Ajello, Special Envoy of the European Union embarked on a twelve-day trip to various countries in the continent seeking a solution to the crisis. The visit also included South Africa.

22 October 1998 The Security Council of the UN issued a statement calling for an end to the fighting and the respect of the sovereignty of the DRC.

30 October 1998 Susan Rice, US Assistant Secretary of state for Africa also embarked on a trip to the Great Lakes region and held talks with all the parties to the conflict in the DRC. She expressed a need for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

26-28 November 1998 The 20<sup>th</sup> Franco-African Summit was held in Paris and Uganda and Rwanda were criticized for their 'aggression' against the DRC. Although President Chirac of France announced that a ceasefire agreement would be signed in December 1998 Kabila denies this and the rebels refute any ceasefire without their involvement.

24-26 December 1998 Gaddafi hosts negotiations in Libya where he held separate talks with Presidents Museveni and Kabila.

9-11 February 1998 US Defense Secretary William Cohen arrives in South Africa and reiterated his country's position on finding a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the DRC.

15-18 February 1999 Prime Minister of Belgium Jean-Luc Dehaene on a state visit to South Africa urged all parties to the conflict to seek a peaceful solution of the crisis.

1 April 1999 UN Special Envoy to the DRC, Moustapha Niasse (former Senegalese Foreign Minister), is mandated by the Secretary General to look into the positions of all parties and to make recommendations on a possible UN role in support of the already existing peace efforts. The Special Envoy made his report in a 2300<sup>th</sup> session of the UN.

6 August 1999 The UN Security Council passes a Resolution 1258 which authorizes the deployment of up to 90 UN military Liaison Officers (MLO) and other civilian staff to be part of the JMC established to supervise the Lusaka agreement. These officials are to be part of the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)

#### Continental Initiatives:

11 August 1998 An OAU delegation led by Momadou Ba, arrived in Kinshasa and it declared its commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. The delegation was also scheduled for Kigali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

10 September 1998 Ministers of Defense from the DRC, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and those from Rwanda and Uganda held a meeting in Addis Ababa to

Zimbabwe sent in reinforcements of 3 000 soldiers while Angola sent extra 1000 troops into the DRC a move highly criticized by Rwanda.

## JULY 1999

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1 July 1999 The cease-fire talks in Lusaka are disrupted by conflict of ideas within

the RCD factions. The Goma-faction argued against the presence of the Kisangani faction leader, Wamba dia Wamba in Lusaka.

2 July 1999 Representatives of the DRC and the RCD factions in Lusaka hold direct talks without their respective backers.

The MLC announced that it has taken the northeastern town of Gbadolite in Equateur province.

7 July 1999 There are reports of a breakthrough in the Lusaka talks following the participants agreeing to the signing of the cease-fire.

7 July 1999 Rwanda has reportedly dispatched 7 000 troops into the DRC despite its unilateral cease-fire declaration.

9 July 1999 Fighting was reported in the town of Kabinda. RCD-Goma vice president Moise Nyarugabo accused the government of attacking rebel positions in the area.

9 July 1999 The May-Mayi Forces objected to the cease-fire agreement and vowed not to honor any initiative as long as their people are still under foreign occupation and aggression.

10 July 1999 A Cease-fire agreement is signed by all six Heads of State of the countries involved in the DRC conflict. The document is however, in a state of disarray due inherent divisions within the RCD movement.

Zimbabwe announced that it would begin withdrawing its troops from the DRC in three to four months time.

14 July 1999 Despite the signing of the agreement, the MLC accused the government, through the help of Chad, of attacking their positions in Gbadolite.

Justice Minister Mwenze Kongolo announced that President Kabila has decided to grant general amnesty to all members of the rebellion. The rebels rejected the amnesty offer.

## AUGUST 1999

1 August 1999 Jean-Pierre Bemba, the leader of the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) signed the cease-fire agreement. He became the first rebel leader to sign the agreement.

The RCD-Goma expressed its willingness to sign the agreement on condition that Wamba is not allowed to sign.

In short, both RCD factions want an exclusive right to sign the agreement.

7 August 1999 Violent clashes between the RCD-Goma faction backed by the Rwandan Army and the RCD Kisangani group backed by Ugandan army erupt.

Uganda's Chief of Staff, Brigadier James Kazini, alleged that his forces fired at the RCD-Goma after the latter attempted to stop the people from meeting Wamba dia Wamba.

14 August 1999 Another fighting erupted between the Rwandan Peoples Army (RPA) and the Ugandan Peoples' Democratic Forces (UPDF) over the control of the city's international airport and several key installations. The recent fighting

between these foreign troops in the DRC is indicative of the fact that both

countries had opposing interests in the DRC. For instance, Rwanda was bitter with This

Uganda's control of Kisangani, which was captured by them (Rwanda).

DRC Conflict: A Chronology

Political Situation Prior to 2nd August 1998

MAY 1998

17 May President Kabila celebrates his 1st year ascendancy to power; almost all invited African Leaders boycotted the event.

Kabila refutes the accuracy of the report accusing his government of Human Rights abuses and he announces that an election would be held in 1999.

In an attempt to 'please' the Congolese people, Kabila started a propaganda campaign against the Tutsis that resulted in the killing of a number of Tutsis in Kinshasa.

Kabila's action strained his relations with Rwanda and Uganda. The relations had already been strained because the two countries realized Kabila's inability to curb rebel movements in the eastern DRC.

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JUNE 1998

Kabila reshuffles his government and 'res' six ministers who were under investigation on corruption.

Commandant Celestine Kifwa (Kabila's long-time ally) is appointed Army Chief and he replaced a Rwandese, James Kabare.

Kabila orders all remaining Rwandan soldiers, most of whom were training and in charge of his army, to leave the DRC. This action was caused by allegations that a coup was being planned within the DRC, which was supported by Rwanda.

AUGUST 1998

1 August The Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) is loosely formed and is made up of a number of anti-Kabila personalities among others, Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, Arthur Zahidi Ngoma, Jean-Pierre Ondekane and Sylvain Mbuki.

2 August The Banyamulenge Tutsi soldiers in the eastern part of the DRC announced the start of 'a war of liberation' against President Laurent Desire Kabila. A military officer, Sylvain Mbuki, formally broadcast the announcement over the radio accusing Kabila of 'misrule, nepotism and corruption'.

The 24-31 August rebellion was launched by the elements of the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) troops, of about 25 000 men, belonging to the elite unit of the 10th Battalion based in Goma.

4 August Humanitarian workers observed that there was Rwandan troop movements around Bukavu, Goma, Beni, Butembo and Rutshuru. This is however, denied by the Rwandan Foreign Minister, Anastase Gasana.

5 August following the influx of at least 20 Banyamulenge soldiers into Zambia the country decided to shut down its border with the DRC. In a separate incident, the rebels announced that Arthur Z'Ahigi Ngoma has been nominated as its leader or 'the coordinator' of the rebellion.

6 August Reports reveal that the situation is tense, in Kinshasa persecution of Tutsis by government soldiers is reported. The DRC Representative to the UN appeals to the Security Council to intervene and accused Rwanda of aggression}:

6 August For the 1st time since the outbreak of the war, President Kabila makes a public statement in which he informs the Congolese that they should 'prepare for a long war' and further accuses Rwanda of 'aggression'.

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28 October 1998 Presidents Mandela and Nujoma held talks in Windhoek. Mandela stated that both of them are committed in the withdrawal of foreign troops in the DRC. Nujoma later on refuted the statement when he stated that his troops would only withdraw on Kabila's request.  
6 November 1998 Talks between President Nelson Mandela and Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame are held. Kagame acknowledged that the Rwandan soldiers were supporting the rebels in the DRC.  
29 November 1998 President Nelson Mandela hold discussions with the rebel RCD leader, Ernest Wamba dia Wamba.  
25 February 1999 South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo met with President Dos Santos in Luanda in another round of talks on the DRC crisis.  
25 February 1999 President Mandela held talks with Bishop Musengwa, one of the opposition leaders in the DRC.  
5 March 1999 President Mandela hold talks with Presidents Mugabe and Nujoma in Pretoria and the three Heads of State agreed that 'signii-\201cant' progress was taking place towards the peaceful resolution of the crisis.  
3-9 June 1999 Tanzanian President was involved in initiatives to arrive at a common position between the RCD factions and the MLC. A Committee was set up to deal with the issue of leadership but nothing materialized.  
9 August 1999 President Mbeki meets with the Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, - and Tanzania as part of continuing discussions to properly resolve the conĩ-\202ict. The President also mandated Foreign Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to work jointly with Zambian Minister of State, Eric Silwamba to tackle the leadership issue.  
27 August 1999 South African Foreign Affairs Minister held a meeting with

President Museveni of Uganda and Vice-President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. The meeting aimed at clarifying the arrangement that all 50-founding members of the RCD should sign the agreement.

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action also goes to show that security interests did not only motivate both countries' intervention in the DRC. On the contrary, it is logical to assume that there are economic interest relating to the control of mineral resources in the area. 18 August Clashes between Rwanda and Uganda in Kisangani came to a stop following the agreement by the country's two leaders to allow the implementation of the ceasefire immediately. They also agree to dispatch a military team to investigate the causes of the recent clashes. In an event of the findings being inconclusive, both countries stated that they would recommend that all 28 founder members of RCD should sign the Lusaka Accord. 31 August 1999 The 50-founding members of the RCD signed the ceasefire agreement in Lusaka. The document now stands accepted by all parties to the DRC crisis. The question of who would represent the rebels in the Joint Military Commission (JMC)

SEPTEMBER 1999

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2 September The two rival RCD factions have prevented progress in the ceasefire following their failure to agree on who between the two factions should nominate representatives to the JMC and the Political Committee. President Chiluba of Zambia was locked in discussions with the leaders in attempt to overcome this new impasse.

3 September 1999 The Joint Military Commission (JMC) meets in Lusaka to discuss the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the RCD rival factions. General Rashid Lallali of Algeria is officially declared chairman of the JMC.

17 September RCD Goma killed about 30 allied militiamen in the eastern parts of the DRC.

21 September RCD Goma denies government claims that it is preparing for an offensive on the diamond rich town of Mbuji Mayi in Kasai Orientale.

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discuss the ways of implementing a cease-fire accord hammered out during the Pretoria and Victoria Falls Summits.

17-18 September 1998 The OAU Summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, pledged their support of efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully as agreed to during the Franco-African Summit.

25 February 1999 Tony Lloyd, the British Foreign Office Minister held talks with President Mugabe as part of his four-day visit to the region. He also held talks with President Dos Santos of Angola.

28 February 1999 US Under Secretary of State, Thomas Pickering, held discussions with President Mugabe in an attempt to show US commitment to a peaceful solution in the DRC.

18 April 1999 Diplomatic initiatives by Colonel Gaddafi result in the Sirte agreement between Uganda, the DRC and Chad. The agreement called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the DRC; the establishment of a neutral African Peacekeeping force and the start of a national dialogue in the DRC.

Chadian troops began withdrawing from the DRC and Libya dispatched about 40 military personnel to Uganda to prepare for the deployment of an African Peacekeeping Force. The Sirte agreement excluded Rwanda, Angola the RCD and other countries with troops in the DRC. Uganda's signing of the Sirte Accord contributed to the strained relations with Rwanda.

15 May 1999 The Libyan leader host another mini-Summit in Sirte to further discuss peace initiatives and the implementation of the Sirte Agreement.

10 August 1999 The EU Special Envoy to the Great Lakes announced that the Union would put pressure on the rebels to sign the agreement.

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Regional Initiatives:

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7 August 1998 South African Minister of Defense, Joe Modise and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo and Minister of safety and Security Mufamadi arrived in Lubumbashi for a fact-finding mission and where they also met with the DRC President Laurent Kabila.

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o i 8 August 1998 The Victoria Falls Summit called by President Mugabe, attended by Angola, Namibia, the DRC, Rwanda and Botswana. A four member Committee, made up of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Zambia, was set up to monitor the conflict and also to continue with diplomatic initiatives.

18 August 1998 SADC Defense Ministers met in Zimbabwe with a notable absence of the South African Minister Joe Modise. The meeting was to deliberate or to review the findings of the four member Committee set up previously. The things,

Committee was tasked, among other

Kabila's

accusations of Rwandan and Ugandan 'aggression'.

23 August 1998 President Nelson Mandela convened the Pretoria Summit, which was attended by SADC Heads of State as well as Presidents from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The Summit came up with a 10-point draft proposal on a cease-fire. Presidents of Zimbabwe and Angola were not present at the Summit. The DRC representative stated that a cease-fire agreement depends on a prior withdrawal by Rwanda and Uganda.

26 August 1998 A Peace Mission headed by South Africa involving Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia met with the OAU



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22 January 1999 An RCD congress brings about a restructuring of the movement, the General Assembly extended from 28 to 147 members with the inclusion of 22 military personnel. A political council of 10 members is elected to lead the movement.

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30 January 1999 A political spilt is looming within the RCD; Ernest Wamba dia Wamba at loggerheads with his deputy Arthur Zâ\200\231Ahidi Ngoma this culminates in the latterâ\200\231s resignation from the movement. Some non-Tusti Congolese concerned with Banyamulengeâ\200\231s holding of â\200\230many positions within the movement. The Eastern town of Uvira is tense due to'continuing tensions between Rwanda and Banyamulenge rebels. The tension came about when Rwanda arrested four Banyamulenge ofï-\201cers.

#### FEBRUARY 1999

18 February A splinter group from the RCD, called Forces du Futur is launched under the leadership of Arthur Zahidi Ngoma, one of the founder members of the RCD. Ngoma accused the RCD of being to centrist and that it did not have sufï-\201cient representation of the anti-Kabila forces.

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Witney Schneidman was dispatched to Angola on a â\200\230fact-ï-\201nding missionâ\200\231.

20 February President Kabila announced the dissolution of his cabinet and also the â\200\230unbanningâ\200\231 of political parties.

21 February A Communique is issued after a four-nation summit between Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and the DRC, in which these countries vowed to â\200\230defendâ\200\231 the latterâ\200\231s sovereignty as a state.

UN Human Rights monitors in the DRC express concern over the situation of detained Tustis in Kinshasa.

#### MARCH 1999

Intense ï-\201ghting was reported between the Banyamulenge (Congolese Tustis) troops and the Rwandan army in Uvira. This became an indication that there are deeply embedded tensions within the rebel alliance. Rwanda declared that their involvement in the DRC was linked to the protection of the Banyamulenge from other ethnic groups. On the other hand the Banyamulenge stated that Rwanda saw them as an 'excuseâ\200\231 for their involvement in the country.

Residents and missionaries alleged that 100 civilians were killed in RCD reprisal attack at Kamituga in South Kivu.

The end of Februaryâ\200\224beginning of March period (as reï-\202ected in the â\200\234Diplomatic

Initiative Chronologyâ\200\231) was awash with different attempts to ï-\201nd a solution. These attempts were almost conducted concurrently but without any proper co-ordination.

The peace initiatives, mainly by the British and US government ofï-\201cials were undermined when President Mugabe announced the consolidation of his military support in the DRC

#### APRIL 1999

3 April Vice-President Paul Kagame declares that the Rwandan troops would remain in the DRC as long as his country's national interests are under threat.

5 April Wamba dia Wamba moves his base to Kisangani as the situation within the RCD become tense.

## OCTOBER 1998

The Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) was reportedly making significant military inroads towards Kindu, Kabila's headquarters.

16 October After two or so weeks of fighting, the rebels capture Kindu, and they hold 400 prisoners and number of arms. The 'Kabila Alliance had intended to use Kindu to launch counteroffensive against the rebels in the eastern part of the country.

The rebel officials announce that 40% of the country is firmly under their control.

26 October The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean Charles Okoto, reiterate Kabila's stance that he will not negotiate with the rebels.

29 October The UN Human Rights reports reveals that both government had rebels have committed gross human rights violations in the DRC since the war began. Such violations included summary executions and sexual violence. The international community increases its pressure on Rwanda to admit its involvement in the DRC conflict.

## NOVEMBER 1998

1 November A mini-Summit of Kabila allies takes place in Lubumbashi, attended by Mugabe, Nujoma and Kabila. The leaders made it clear that their military operations in the DRC would continue.

3 November Kabila object to the proposal made by the US that foreign troops backing his government should withdraw from the DRC as a condition for a cease-fire.

Rebels announced that they have captured 400 Chadian troops.

Army Chiefs of Staff from Kabila allies hold a meeting in Kinshasa in connection with the implementation of 'a counter offensive' in eastern Congo.

In a 'retaliatory

A new rebel group The National Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) was launched, supported by Uganda, under the leadership of Jean-Pierre Bemba, son of a leading business personality Bemba Saolona (close to Mobutu). The 'MLC operated from the province of Equator in northern Congo. The launch of the MLC strained the relations between Rwanda and Uganda.

A new group called the RCD Renovators was also launched, with the purpose of challenging the mainstream echelons of the movement.

Progress in the diplomatic initiatives was prevented by President Kabila insistence that he would have direct talks with rebels.

## DECEMBER 1998

A planned SADC Heads of State Summit on 27-28 December 1998 aimed at securing a cease-fire agreement was postponed. The main stumbling bloc being the participation of rebels in the negotiations. President Kabila was still against the idea of direct talks with rebels.

## JANUARY 1999

A massacre reportedly occurred in Malobola, south Kivu where missionaries alleged that about 500 civilians were killed.

Mayi-Mayi warriors accused the RCD of attacks in which 10 civilians were reportedly killed.

7 August Within 11 days of the start of the war, the towns of Bukavu, Uvira and Kindu falls into the rebels.

10 August DRC government officials start accusing Uganda of 'aggression' after reports that Ugandan troops were seen entering the DRC to support the rebels.

17 August The rebels formally announce their movement, the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) under the chairmanship of Ernest Wamba dia Wamba (An academic background and he hails from the Bokongo people of the Matadi area). Moise Nyarugabo (former member of the DRC government) deputizes him.

Rebels also began attacks on the western parts of the country and they captured Muanda and the Banana naval base. The strategy was to force Kabila's army to simultaneously face attacks on different fronts.

The military campaign into Kinshasa however, failed because of the arrival of support from Zimbabwean and Angolan troops.

19 August Zimbabwean Defense Minister, informed reporters that a SADC meeting has agreed to offer military support to President Laurent Kabila. This was said to be in accordance with 'SADC Agreements'.

21 August Military advisers and technicians from Zimbabwe arrived in Kinshasa amid calls from the RCD to negotiate with Kabila. It was assumed that the rebels issues this call because of the 'SADC decision' to back Kabila.

23 August Under the command of Bob Ngoy, the rebels capture Kisangani, the second largest town in the DRC. The fall of Kisangani prompted the Ugandan government to commit more troops in the DRC with a specific aim of controlling key areas including the Kisangani airport.

30 August Rebels held key towns in eastern provinces near the DRC border with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi thus giving them control over this part of the country.

At these early stages of the war, the 'Kabila Alliance' (Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia) appeared stronger than the 'rebel alliance' as it successfully prevented the rebel advances from the port of Kitona into Kinshasa.

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#### SEPTEMBER 1998

11 September Rebels capture Shabunda, a town in south Kivu.

11 September Kabila meets with Chadian President Idriss Deby who offers his support to Kabila.

14 September Rwanda accuses the DRC of training and arming the Hutu militias after a group of Mayi-Mayi and Rwandan Hutu Interahamwe attack a rebel-held town of Goma. '

15 September The Rebels states that 2 000 Sudanese troops have joined Kabila at Kindu with financial support from Libya. The DRC and Sudan deny the allegations.

28 September The government of Chad dispatches 1 000 contingent to the DRC in support of Kabila.

The war accorded Kabila an opportune time to be perceived as a nationalist following his strong accusations that Uganda's and Rwanda's intervention was 'imperialist' in nature.

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9 April UN Security Council adopts the Resolution 1234 which re-declaring the international obligation of all state to recognize the DRC's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The government announced that a national dialogue would take place in Rome on 30th April 1999. The significance of the Dialogue had already been undermined by

President Kabila's pronouncement that the event was not to be confused with peace negotiations.

A defense pact is signed by Zimbabwe; the DRC; Angola; Namibia; the four countries pledged to come to each other's rescue in an event of a military attack.

20 April Kabila dissolves the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL) after accusing its of corruption and political Opportunism and replaces it with the Comites du Pouvoir Populaire (CPP).

28 April It is announced that the Rome Dialogue, which was supposed to take place on 30th April 1999 is cancelled on financial grounds and it is postponed for 8-15 May 1999 in Nairobi, Kenya. The government was adamant that the planned National Dialogue in Nairobi would go ahead with or without rebels.

30 April The RCD rebels denounced the government's proposals for a National Debate scheduled to take place on 8-15 May on the grounds that there was no sufficient consultation between them and the government.

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#### MAY 1999

3 May The planned Nairobi meeting is postponed to the 14th May in order to make room for further consultations and proper preparations.

7 May Haemorrhagic fever outbreak reported in rebel-held Wasta and the first ever fight between Kinshasa and the rebel-held town landed in Goma to deliver medical supplies.

11 May President Kabila forces bomb the town of Goma and over 50 people are killed and 50 wounded. Another attack is carried out by the government in Uvira, over 15 people killed.

15 May The stipulations of the Sirte agreement are released in which it is revealed that Kabila offered to have direct talks with rebels.

16 May 1999 Wamba dia Wamba loses his position and he is replaced by Emile Hunga although the former refuses to step-down. The change of guard was instituted during the movement's special congress of 50 founder members and 22 military officers. Hunga, who spent almost 30 years in exile in Belgium, fought together with President Kabila to oust Mobutu. However, he later went into exile after falling out of favor with Kabila only to return after 2nd August.

26 May Chad began withdrawing from the DRC in accordance with the Sirte Accord.

29 May Rwanda announced a unilateral ceasefire in the DRC.

#### JUNE 1999

3 June The RCD announces structural changes within the movement; the executive and the council are to be headed by the movement's leader Emile Hunga as unlike previously where they were under different heads.

7 June The hometown of Kabila, Manono, Katanga Province, come under rebel control.

The DRC officials issued a statement accusing Rwanda of planning to partition the country by annexing the eastern Congo

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Mayi-Mayi warriors accused the RCD of attacks in which 10 civilians were reportedly killed.

22 January 1999 An RCD congress brings about a restructuring of the movement, the General Assembly extended from 28 to 147 members with the inclusion of 22 military personnel. A political council of 10 members is elected to lead the movement.

30 January 1999 A political split is looming within the RCD; Ernest Wamba dia Wamba at loggerheads with his deputy Arthur Zâ\200\231Ahidi Ngoma this culminates in the latterâ\200\231s resignation from the movement. Some non-Tusti Congolese concerned with Banyamulengeâ\200\231s holding of â\200\230many positions within the movement. The Eastern town of Uvira is tense due to continuing tensions between Rwanda and Banyamulenge rebels. The tension came about when Rwanda arrested four Banyamulenge officiâ\201\201cers.

#### FEBRUARY 1999

18 February A splinter group from the RCD, called Forces du Futur is launched under the leadership of Arthur Zahidi Ngoma, one of the founder members of the RCD. Ngoma accused the RCD of being too centrist and that it did not have sufficient representation of the anti-Kabila forces. The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Witney Schneidman was dispatched to Angola on a fact-finding missionâ\200\231. 20 February President Kabila announced the dissolution of his cabinet and also the unbanningâ\200\231 of political parties. 21 February A Communiqué is issued after a fourâ\200\224nation summit between Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and the DRC, in which these countries vowed to defendâ\200\231 the latter's sovereignty as a state. UN Human Rights monitors in the DRC express concern over the situation of detained Tustis in Kinshasa.

#### MARCH 1999

Intense fighting was reported between the Banyamulenge (Congolese Tustis) troops and the Rwandan army in Uvira. This became an indication that there are deeply embedded tensions within the rebel alliance. Rwanda declared that their involvement in the DRC was linked to the protection of the Banyamulenge from other ethnic groups. On the other hand the Banyamulenge stated that Rwanda saw them as an 'excuseâ\200\231 for their involvement in the country. Residents and missionaries alleged that 100 civilians were killed in RCD reprisal attack at Kamituga in South Kivu. The end of February-beginning of March period (as reflected in the Diplomatic Initiative Chronologyâ\200\231) was awash with different attempts to find a solution. These attempts were almost conducted concurrently but without any proper coordination. The peace initiatives, mainly by the British and US government officials were undermined when President Mugabe announced the consolidation of his military support in the DRC.

#### APRIL 1999

3 April Vice-President Paul Kagame declares that the Rwandan troops would remain in the DRC as long as his countryâ\200\231s national interests are under threat. 5 April Wamba dia Wamba moves his base to Kisangani as the situation within the RCD became tense.



9 April UN Security Council adopts the Resolution 1234 which re-declaring the international obligation of all state to recognize the DRC's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The government announced that a national dialogue would take place in Rome on 30th April 1999. The significance of the Dialogue had already been undermined by President Kabila's pronouncement that the event was not to be confused with peace negotiations.

A defense pact is signed by Zimbabwe; the DRC; Angola; Namibia; the four countries pledged to come to each other's rescue in an event of a military attack. 20 April Kabila dissolves the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL) after accusing its of corruption and political opportunism and replaces it with the Comites du Pouvoir Populaire (CPP).

28 April It is announced that the Rome Dialogue, which was supposed to take place on 30th April 1999 is cancelled on financial grounds and it is postponed for 8-15 May 1999 in Nairobi, Kenya. The government was adamant that the planned National Dialogue in Nairobi would go ahead with or without rebels.

30 April The RCD rebels denounced the government's proposals for a National Debate scheduled to take place on 8-15 May on the grounds that there was no sufficient consultation between them and the government.

## MAY 1999

3 May The planned Nairobi meeting is postponed to the 14th May in order to make room for further consultations and proper preparations.

7 May Haemorrhagic fever outbreak reported in rebel-held Wata and the first ever fight between Kinshasa and the rebel-held town landed in Goma to deliver medical supplies.

11 May Pro-Kabila forces bomb the town of Goma and over 50 people are killed and 50 wounded. Another attack is carried out by the government in Uvira, over 15 people killed.

15 May The stipulations of the Sirte agreement are released in which it is revealed that Kabila offered to have direct talks with rebels.

16 May 1999 Wamba dia Wamba loses his position and he is replaced by Emile Hunga although the former refuses to step-down. The change of guard was instituted during the movement's special congress of 50 founder members and 22 military officers. Ilunga, who spent almost 30 years in exile in Belgium, fought together with President Kabila to oust Mobutu. However, he later went into exile after falling out of favor with Kabila only to return after 2nd August.

26 May Chad began withdrawing from the DRC in accordance with the Sirte Accord.

29 May Rwanda announced a unilateral ceasefire in the DRC.

## JUNE 1999

3 June The RCD announces structural changes within the movement; the executive and the council are to be headed by the movement's leader Emile Hunga as unlike previously where they were under different heads.

7 June The hometown of Kabila, Manono, Katanga Province, come under rebel control.

The DRC officials issued a statement accusing Rwanda of planning to partition the country by annexing the eastern Congo.

7 August Within 10 days of the start of the war, the towns of Bukavu, Uvira and Kindu falls into the rebels.

10 August DRC government officials start accusing Uganda of 'aggression' after reports that Ugandan troops were seen entering the DRC to support the rebels.

17 August The rebels formally announce their movement, the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) under the chairmanship of Ernest Wamba dia Wamba (An academic background and he hails from the Bokongo people of the Matadi area).

Moise Nyarugabo (former member of the DRC government) deputizes him.

Rebels also began attacks on the western parts of the country and they captured Muanda and the Banana naval base. The strategy was to force Kabila's army to simultaneously face attacks on different fronts.

The military campaign into Kinshasa however, failed because of the arrival of support from Zimbabwean and Angolan troops.

19 August Zimbabwean Defense Minister, informed reporters that a SADC meeting has agreed to offer military support to President Laurent Kabila. This was said to be in accordance with 'SADC Agreements'.

21 August Military advisers and technicians from Zimbabwe arrived in Kinshasa amid calls from the RCD to negotiate with Kabila. It was assumed that the rebels issues this call because of the 'SADC decision' to back Kabila.

23 August Under the command of Bob Ngoy, the rebels capture Kisangani, the second largest town in the DRC. The fall of Kisangani prompted the Ugandan government to commit more troops in the DRC with a specific aim of controlling key areas including the Kisangani airport.

30 August Rebels held key towns in eastern provinces near the DRC border with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi thus giving them control over this part of the country.

At these early stages of the war, the 'Kabila Alliance' (Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia) appeared stronger than the 'rebel alliance' as it successfully prevented the rebel advances from the port of Kitona into Kinshasa.

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#### SEPTEMBER 1998

11 September Rebels capture Shabunda, a town in south Kivu.

11 September Kabila meets with Chadian President Idriss Deby who offers his support to Kabila.

14 September Rwanda accuses the DRC of training and arming the Hutu militias after a group of Mayi-Mayi and Rwandan Hutu Interahamwe attack a rebel-held town of Goma.

15 September The Rebels states that 2 000 Sudanese troops have joined Kabila at Kindu with financial support from Libya. The DRC and Sudan deny the allegations.

28 September The government of Chad dispatches 1 000 contingent to the DRC in support of Kabila.

The war accorded Kabila an opportune time to be perceived as a nationalist following his strong accusations that Uganda's and Rwanda's intervention was 'imperialist' in nature.

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Secretary-General in Addis. The Mission proceeded to Luanda in an attempt to broker a cease-fire agreement.

8 September 1998 The Victoria Falls Summit attended by the seven Heads of State with the exclusion of the rebels, came up with a draft agreement.

14 September 1998 The Mauritius SADC (Annual Heads of State) Summit proposed that Kabila meets with the rebels. The SADC Summit gives Zambian President Chiluba a 'go ahead' to lead all mediation efforts to end the crisis. Chiluba was to be assisted by Presidents Chissano of Mozambique and Mkapa of Tanzania. The Mauritius Summit also the legitimacy of the

intervention of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia on the side of Kabila.

24 September 1998 President Omar Bongo called a Summit in Gabon, attended by Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Angola, the Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and Namibia. The Central African Summit dealt with the 'peace modalities'.

19-20 September 1998 Presidents Frederick Chiluba of Zambia and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania met with their counterparts Presidents Museveni of Uganda and Bizimugu of Rwanda, it was another efforts by SADC to resolve the conflict.

26 October 1998 SADC Foreign and Defense Ministers met in Zambia together with delegates from Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, the OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim and representatives from the RCD and Libya. The meeting produced a 'draft' cease-fire accord.

18 January 1999 Windhoek Summit attended by Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda and President Nujoma announced that these countries have agreed on a cease-fire document.

22 March 1999 A SADC meeting in Botswana reiterates its support for Kabila but also register its concern over the spill over effects of the crisis to the rest of the region.

15 April 1999 The Lusaka Summit began and it was attended by representatives of the RCD and the DRC Officials. The aim was to prepare for the implementation of a cease-fire agreement. The RCD walked out the talks citing that they were expecting to have a 'face-to-face' engagement with President Kabila.

4 May 1999 President Frederick Chiluba expresses willingness to work with Gaddafi on the implementation of the Sirte Agreement. This initiative is stalled by Rwanda's statement that it will only recognize Chiluba peace efforts.

25 June 1999 Lusaka Peace talks are held in Lusaka under the auspice of SADC with no clear indication of an early signing of a cease-fire.

21 July 1999 Defense and foreign ministers from the countries with troops in the DRC have established two structures to implement the Lusaka cease-fire agreement. The Joint Military Commission (IMC) to review the day-to-day implementation of the cease-fire and the Ministerial-Level Committee to serve as the supreme advisory body until the UN deployed peacekeepers arrive in the DRC.

August 1999 The SADC Summit in Mozambique endorsed the recommendation that all RCD founder members should sign the cease-fire agreement in order to overcome the political impasse between the two factions.

Bilateral Efforts:

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DRC Coni-\202ict: A Chronology

Political Situation Prior to 2nd August 1998

MAY 1998

17 May President Kabila celebrates his i-\201rst year ascendancy to power; almost all invited African Leaders boycotted the event.

Kabila refutes the accuracy of the report accusing his government of Human Rights abuses and he announces that an election would be held in 1999.

In an attempt to 'please' the Congolese people, Kabila started a propaganda campaign against the Tustis that resulted in the killing of a number of Tustis in Kinshasa.

Kabilaâ\200\231s action strained his relations with Rwanda and Uganda. The relations had already been strained because the two countries realized Kabila's inability to curb rebel movements in the eastern DRC.

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JUNE 1998

Kabila reshuffles his government and 'i-\201res' six ministers who were under investigation on corruption.

Commandant Celestine Kifwa (Kabilaâ\200\230s long-time ally) is appointed Army Chief and he replaced a Rwandese, James Kabare.

Kabila orders all remaining Rwandan soldiers, most of whom were training and in charge of his army, to leave the DRC. This action was caused by allegations that a coup was being planned within the DRC, which was supported by Rwanda.

AUGUST 1998

1 August The Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) is loosely-formed and is made up of a number of anti-Kabila personalities among others, Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, Arthur Zahidi Ngoma, Jean-Pierre Ondekane and Sylvain Mbuki.

2 August The Banyamulege Tusti soldiers in the eastern part of the DRC announced the start of 'a war of liberation' against President Laurent Desire Kabila. A military ofi-\201cer, Sylvain Mbuki, formally broadcast the announcement over the radio accusing Kabila of 'misrule, nepotism and corruption'.

The 2nd August rebellion was launched by the elements of the Congolese Armed Forces (PAC) troops, of about 25 000 men, belonging to the elite unit of the 10th Battalion based in Goma.

4 August Humanitarian workers observed that there was Rwandan troop movements around Bukavu, Goma, Beni, Butembo and Rutshuru. This is however, denied by the Rwandan Foreign Minister, Anastase Gasana.

5 August following the ini-\202ow of at least 20 BanyamUlenge soldiers into Zambia the country decided to shut down its border with the DRC. In a separate incident, the rebels announced that Arthur Z'Ahigi Ngoma has been nominated as its leader or 'the coordinator' of the rebellion.

6 August Reports reveal that the situation is tense, in Kinshasa persecution of Tustis by government soldiers is reported. The DRC Representative to the UN appeals to the Security Council to intervene and accused Rwanda of 'aggression':

6 August For the i-\201rst time since the outbreak of the war, President Kabila makes a public statement in which he informs the Congolese that they should 'prepare for a long war' and further accuses Rwanda of 'aggressionâ\200\231.

Zimbabwe sent in reinforcements of 3 000 soldiers while Angola sent extra 1000 troops into the DRC a move highly criticized by Rwanda.

## JULY 1999

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1 July 1999 The cease-fire talks in Lusaka are disrupted by conflict of ideas within

the RCD factions. The Goma-faction argued against the presence of the Kisangani faction leader, Wamba dia Wamba in Lusaka.

2 July 1999 Representatives of the DRC and the RCD factions in Lusaka hold direct talks without their respective backers.

The MLC announced that it has taken the northeastern town of Gbadolite in Equateur province.

7 July 1999 There are reports of a breakthrough in the Lusaka talks following the participants agreeing to the signing of the cease-fire.

7 July 1999 Rwanda has reportedly dispatched 7 000 troops into the DRC despite its unilateral cease-fire declaration.

9 July 1999 Fighting was reported in the town of Kabinda. RCD-Goma vice president Moise Nyarugabo accused the government of attacking rebel positions in the area.

9 July 1999 The May-Mayi Forces objected to the cease-fire agreement and vowed not to honor any initiative as long as their people are still under foreign occupation and aggression.

10 July 1999 A Cease-fire agreement is signed by all six Heads of State of the countries involved in the DRC conflict. The document is however, in a state of disarray due to inherent divisions within the RCD movement.

Zimbabwe announced that it would begin withdrawing its troops from the DRC in three to four months time.

14 July 1999 Despite the signing of the agreement, the MLC accused the government, through the help of Chad, of attacking their positions in Gbadolite.

Justice Minister Mwenze Kongolo announced that President Kabila has decided to grant general amnesty to all members of the rebellion. The rebels rejected the amnesty offer.

## AUGUST 1999

1 August 1999 Jean-Pierre Bemba, the leader of the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) signed the cease-fire agreement. He became the first rebel leader to sign the agreement.

The RCD-Goma expressed its willingness to sign the agreement on condition that Wamba is not allowed to sign.

In short, both RCD factions want an exclusive right to sign the agreement.

7 August 1999 Violent clashes between the RCD-Goma faction backed by the Rwandan Army and the RCD Kisangani group backed by Ugandan army erupt.

Uganda's Chief of Staff, Brigadier James Kazini, alleged that his forces fired at the RCD-Goma after the latter attempted to stop the people from meeting Wamba dia Wamba.

14 August 1999 Another fighting erupted between the Rwandan Peoples Army (RPA) and the Ugandan Peoples Democratic Forces (UPDF) over the control of the city's international airport and several key installations. The recent fighting

between these foreign troops in the DRC is indicative of the fact that both

countries had opposing interests in the DRC. For instance, Rwanda was bitter with Uganda's control of Kisangani, which was captured by them (Rwanda).

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## Diplomatic Initiatives: A Chronology

### Track One Diplomacy

#### International Initiatives:

28 August-3 September 1998 During the 12th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Durban, a meeting was held between the parties to the Congo conflict. The meeting called by President Nelson Mandela and attended by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan called for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

29 September 1998 Aldo Ajello, Special Envoy of the European Union embarked on a twelve-day trip to various countries in the continent seeking a solution to the crisis. The Visit also included South Africa.

22 October 1998 The Security Council of the UN issued a statement calling for an end to the fighting and the respect of the sovereignty of the DRC.

30 October 1998 Susan Rice, US Assistant Secretary of state for Africa also embarked on a trip to the Great Lakes region and held talks with all the parties to the conflict in the DRC. She expressed a need for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

26-28 November 1998 The 20th Franco-African Summit was held in Paris and Uganda and Rwanda were criticized for their 'aggression' against the DRC. Although President Chirac of France announced that a ceasefire agreement would be signed in December 1998 Kabila denies this and the rebels refute any ceasefire without their involvement.

24-26 December 1998 Gaddafi hosts negotiations in Libya where he held separate talks with Presidents Museveni and Kabila.

9-11 February 1998 US Defense Secretary William Cohen arrives in South Africa and reiterated his country's position on finding a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the DRC.

15-18 February 1999 Prime Minister of Belgium Jean-Luc Dehaene on a state visit to South Africa urged all parties to the conflict to seek a peaceful solution of the crisis.

1 April 1999 UN Special Envoy to the DRC, Moustapha Niasse (former Senegalese Foreign Minister), is mandated by the Secretary General to look into the positions of all parties and to make recommendations on a possible UN role in support of the already existing peace efforts. The Special Envoy made his report in a 200230close200224door200231 session of the UN.

6 August 1999 The UN Security Council passes a Resolution 1258 which authorizes the deployment of up to 90 UN military Liaison Officers (MLO) and other civilian staff to be part of the JMC established to supervise the Lusaka agreement. These officials are to be part of the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)

#### Continental Initiatives:

11 August 1998 An OAU delegation led by Mornadou Ba, arrived in Kinshasa and it declared its commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. The delegation was also scheduled for Kigali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

10 September 1998 Ministers of Defense from the DRC, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and those from Rwanda and Uganda held a meeting in Addis Ababa to

28 October 1998 Presidents Mandela and Nujoma held talks in Windhoek. Mandela stated that both of them are committed in the withdrawal of foreign troops in the DRC. Nujoma later on refuted the statement when he stated that his troops would only withdraw on Kabila's request.

6 November 1998 Talks between President Nelson Mandela and Rwandan Vice-President Paul Kagame are held. Kagame acknowledged that the Rwandan soldiers were supporting the rebels in the DRC.

29 November 1998 President Nelson Mandela hold discussions with the rebel RCD leader, Ernest Wamba dia Wamba.

25 February 1999 South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred N20 met with President Dos Santos in Luanda in another round of talks on the DRC crisis.

25 February 1999 President Mandela held talks with Bishop Musengwa, one of the opposition leaders in the DRC.

5 March 1999 President Mandela hold talks with Presidents Mugabe and Nujoma in Pretoria and the three Heads of State agreed that 'significant' progress was taking place towards the peaceful resolution of the crisis.

3-9 June 1999 Tanzanian President was involved in initiatives to arrive at a common position between the RCD factions and the MLC. A Committee was set up to deal with the issue of leadership but nothing materialized.

9 August 1999 President Mbeki meets with the Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, - and Tanzania as part of continuing discussions to properly resolve the conflict. The President also mandated Foreign Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to work jointly with Zambian Minister of State, Eric Silwamba to tackle the leadership issue.

27 August 1999 South African Foreign Affairs Minister held a meeting with President Museveni of Uganda and Vice-President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. The meeting aimed at clarifying the 'new' arrangement that all 50-founding members of the RCD should sign the agreement.

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discuss the ways of implementing a cease-fire accord hammered out during the Pretoria and Victoria Falls Summits.

17-18 September 1998 The OAU Summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, pledged their support of efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully as agreed to during the Franco-African Summit.

25 February 1999 Tony Lloyd, the British Foreign Office Minister held talks with President Mugabe as part of his four-day visit to the region. He also held talks with President Dos Santos of Angola.

28 February 1999 US Under Secretary of State, Thomas Pickering, held discussions with President Mugabe in an attempt to show US commitment to a peaceful solution in the DRC.

18 April 1999 Diplomatic initiatives by Colonel Gaddafi result in the Sirte agreement between Uganda, the DRC and Chad. The agreement called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the DRC; the establishment of a neutral African Peacekeeping force and the start of a national dialogue in the DRC.

Chadian troops began withdrawing from the DRC and Libya dispatched about 40 military personnel to Uganda to prepare for the deployment of an African Peacekeeping Force. The Sirte agreement excluded Rwanda, Angola the RCD and other countries with troops in the DRC. Uganda's signing of the Sirte Accord contributed to the strained relations with Rwanda.

15 May 1999 The Libyan leader host another mini-Summit in Sirte to further discuss peace initiatives and the implementation of the Sirte Agreement.

10 August 1999 The EU Special Envoy to the Great Lakes announced that the Union would put pressure on the rebels to sign the agreement.

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Regional Initiatives:

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7 August 1998 South African Minister of Defense, Joe Modise and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo and Minister of safety and Security Mufamadi arrived in Lubumbashi for a fact-finding mission and where they also met with the DRC President Laurent Kabila.

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o ' 8 August 1998 The Victoria Falls Summit called by President Mugabe, attended by Angola, Namibia, the DRC, Rwanda and Botswana. A four member Committee, made up of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Zambia, was set up to monitor the conflict and also to continue with diplomatic initiatives.

18 August 1998 SADC Defense Ministers met in Zimbabwe with a notable absence of the South African Minister Joe Modise. The meeting was to deliberate or to review the findings of the four member Committee set up previously. The things,

Committee was tasked, among other

Kabila's

accusations of Rwandan and Ugandan 'aggression'.

23 August 1998 President Nelson Mandela convened the Pretoria Summit, which was attended by SADC Heads of State as well as Presidents from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The Summit came up with a 10-point draft proposal on a cease-fire.

Presidents of Zimbabwe and Angola were not present at the Summit. The DRC representative stated that a ceasefire agreement depends on a prior withdrawal by Rwanda and Uganda.

26 August 1998 A Peace Mission headed by South Africa involving Ministers of



Foreign Affairs from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia met with the OAU  
with investigating

action also goes to show that security interests did not only motivate both countries' intervention in the DRC. On the contrary, it is logical to assume that there are economic interest relating to the control of mineral resources in the area. 18 August Clashes between Rwanda and Uganda in Kisangani came to a stop following the agreement by the country's two leaders to allow the implementation of the cease-fire immediately. They also agree to dispatch a military team to investigate the causes of the recent clashes. In an event of the findings being inconclusive, both countries stated that they would recommend that all 28 founder members of RCD should sign the Lusaka Accord. 31 August 1999 The 50-founding members of the RCD signed the cease-fire agreement in Lusaka. The document now stands accepted by all parties to the DRC crisis. The question of who would represent the rebels in the Joint Military Commission (JMC)

#### SEPTEMBER 1999

2 September The two rival RCD factions have prevented progress in the cease-fire following their failure to agree on who between the two factions should nominate representatives to the JMC and the Political Committee. President Chiluba of Zambia was locked in discussions with the leaders in attempt to overcome this new impasse. 3 September 1999 The Joint Military Commission (JMC) meets in Lusaka to discuss the implementation of the cease-fire agreement. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the RCD rival factions. General Rashid Lallali of Algeria is officially declared chairman of the JMC. 17 September RCD Goma killed about 30 allied militiamen in the eastern parts of the DRC. 21 September RCD-Goma denies government claims that it is preparing for an offensive on the diamond rich town of Mbuji Mayi in Kasai Orientale.