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Synopsis: A Broken Promise - The Failure of UNAMIR

Question: What were the causes responsible for United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda’s (UNAMIR) failure?

Thesis: The failure of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was the direct result of its rules of engagement, an inadequate mandate and lack of global collaboration.

Counter Arguments:
1. Limitations and legal protocols are a necessary procedure in ensuring the goal of the mission is met.
2. The Security Council realized the brutality of the genocide by consistently adopting new and changing mandates to address the situation.
3. The global economic and social circumstances at the time of the genocide reflected the actions that could have been taken in Rwanda.

Argument 1: The boundless limitations set forth by the rules of engagement strictly constraints the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations.
   1. A French aircraft carrying ammunition and arms for the Rwandan Armed Forces was spotted on the 22nd of January 1994. However, Romeo Dallaire was powerless and unable to confiscate the weapons since it infringed upon his mandate to do so.
   2. In spite of the consistent demand before and during the genocide, demand for authorization to terminate the conflict were denied as its intervention capacity was condensed.\footnote{Kofi Annan, \textit{head of the UN Department of peacekeeping Operations}.}
   5. The harsh restrictions placed on Dallaire and his peacekeepers confined their actions so that very little could be done except for providing humanitarian efforts and protection of a small number of people while he constantly and futilely tried for a ceasefire.

Argument 2: Following an adequate mandate that meets the needs of the current situation is an essential part of achieving the goals in a peacekeeping mission.
   1. From a heavy reduction from 2,548 to 270 troops, UNAMIR needed more troops and support as resolution 918 was imposed on May 17, 1994.
Although urgent action and military strength was demanded, it took 6 months for U.N.’s member states to supply up to 5,500 troops.\textsuperscript{5}

Almost at the end of April 1994, Kigali was isolated into divisions owned by RGF and RPF where there were frequent exchanges of weaponry and mortar fire as it become clear to the Secretary General that UNAMIR did not have the power to immobilize the on going massacres nor protect the citizens of Kigali as approximately 200,000 people had lost their lives in the previous three weeks.\textsuperscript{6}

It was not until May 4\textsuperscript{th} that the Secretary General announced that the situation was genocide.\textsuperscript{7}

On May 6\textsuperscript{th}, the Security Council prepared an emergency plan to provide humanitarian assistance and refuge of displace persons and indicated the possible need of a further expansion in financial and logistic implications or international attendance in Rwanda.\textsuperscript{8}

\textbf{Argument 3:} The lack of an amalgamated approach by the member states of the United Nations resulted in the failure of UNAMIR.

"We come here today partly in recognition of the fact that we in the United States and the world community did not do as much as we could have and should have done to try to limit what occurred" – President Clinton\textsuperscript{9}

"Most U.S. officials opposed to American involvement in Rwanda and were firmly convinced that they were doing all they could—and, most important, all they \textit{should}—in light of competing American interests and a highly circumscribed understanding of what was ‘possible’ for the United States to do"\textsuperscript{10}

Besides the failure of providing troops to Rwanda, the U.S. led a victorious attempt in remove many other peacekeepers in Rwanda as the U.S. opposed many authorizations of U.N. reinforcements. They refused to use its developed technology to jam radio broadcasts which were spreading propaganda in Rwanda.\textsuperscript{11}

Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, did not permit officials to calm the situation as a "genocide" until May 21 as the U.S. officials stalled three weeks before using the term in public\textsuperscript{12}