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STATE  092124  080422Z
ORIGIN SS-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AGRE-00 AID-01 AIT-03 AMAD-01 ARA-01
   AS-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 C-01
   OASY-00 DOE-00 ANHR-01 DS-00 EAP-01 EUR-01 FBO-01
   HA-09 H-01 IMIC-01 TEDZ-00 INR-00 IO-16 L-01
   ADS-00 MFLO-03 MMP-00 M-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 OCS-06
   OIC-02 OIG-04 OIS-01 OMB-01 OPB-01 PA-01 PC-01
   PER-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-01
   SSO-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SA-01 ASDS-01 FMP-00

SNIS-00 NISC-02 PMB-00 /075R

DRAFTED BY: WGRW01: KAISTON: JTY
APPROVED BY: WGRW01: RFENDRICK
S/S-O: CHEINECK

DES (E)RED DISTRIBUTION:
SS SSO TF1-3 WGRW01 CMS P M FMP MFLO CA DS INR PM AF PA
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O 080421Z APR 94
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AM EMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2661
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM IMMEDIATE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6953
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8702

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AM EMBASSY LUANDA IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE
AM EMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L  S T A T E  092124

E.O. 12356: DECL: QADR
TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CASC, PREL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAR 2006  200103014

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1. (U) AMB. RAWSON CALLED AT 4 PM EDT AND REPORTED RELATIVE QUIET, ALTHOUGH A PERIOD OF SHELLING HAD JUST STARTED. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF AMERICANS KILLED OR INJURED. AMERICANS ARE BEING ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME AND STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.

2. (U) THE RPF BATTALION LEFT THEIR COMPOUND THIS AFTERNOON AND BEGAN FIGHTING WITH THE RWANDAN MILITARY. THE AIRPORT IS CONTROLLED BY RWANDAN GOVERNMENT PARACOMMANDOS. NO POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE COME FORWARD IN THE CRISIS. RAWSON REPORTED THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY IS APPARENTLY CALM, BUT THERE IS SOME VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH.

3. (U) THE MILITARY ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A CRISIS COMMITTEE AND CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT FRIDAY MORNING. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE MINISTERS OF SOCIAL WORK, INFORMATION, AND AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN KILLED. ELEVEN UNAMIR ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 092124 080422Z CONFIRMED DEAD. UNAMIR'S KIGALI SECTOR HEADQUARTERS WAS HIT AND CAUGHT FIRE, BUT THERE WERE NO APPARENT INJURIES.

4. (U) THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE BELGIANs WERE CONSIDERING EVACUATION, BUT THE FRENCH THOUGHT IT PREMATURE. HE THOUGHT EVACUATION BY LAND TO THE SOUTH WOULD BE THE LEAST DANGEROUS OPTION. OF THE 250 AMCITS, ABOUT 170 WOULD WANT TO LEAVE.

5. (U) THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED A STATEMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE AND ATTACKS ON UN PERSONNEL. THE STATEMENT DEMANDS THAT FREE ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT BE RESTORED AND URGES ALL PARTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORD AND RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE.

6. (C) APPROVED ORDERED DEPARTURE OF ALL USG EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS IN KIGALI. THE BELGIAN EMBASSY SAID THE GOB DECIDED TO DEFER DECISION ON EVACUATION UNTIL TOMORROW. ALTHOUGH BURUNDI HAS STAYED QUIET SO FAR, ORDERED
DEPARTURE FOR DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL FOR BUJUMBURA HAS BEEN REQUESTED.

7. KIGALI - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
CHRISTOPHER