PAGE 01  STATE  120800  062200Z
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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: JELEADER
APPROVED BY: AF/FO: PXBUSHNELL
AF/C: AXRENDER
AF/C: KCAISTON

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PAGE 02  STATE  120800  062200Z
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GENEVA FOR US MISSION

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM PREL RW US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH CALL FOR ACTION ON RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
UNCLASSIFIED

2. SUMMARY. IN A 5/4 MEETING WITH AF/DAS BUSHNELL, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FOR AFRICA AND RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST URGED AGAINST ADMITTING MEMBERS OF RWANDA'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO THE U.S., CALLED FOR A JOINT DONOR STATEMENT DENYING AID TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, CALLED FOR JAMMING EXTREMIST RADIO RTLM, AND URGED SUPPORT FOR A UN FORCE TO PROTECT DISPLACED AND ASSURE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. BUSHNELL EXPLAINED U.S. GOALS IN RWANDA AND HER OWN FRUSTRATION AT NOT BEING ABLE TO END THE VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

3. ALISON DESFORGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH AND RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA MET 5/4 WITH AF/DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL. THEY ARGUED FOR THE FOLLOWING POLICY INITIATIVES:

-- DENY VISAS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO KEEP THEM ISOLATED.

-- ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT WITH OTHER DONORS DENYING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW LEADERS IN HOPES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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PAGE 03     STATE 120800 062200Z
INFLUENCING THEIR BEHAVIOR.

-- JAM BROADCASTS OF EXTREMIST RADIO RTLM.

-- SUPPORT INVESTIGATION AND TRIALS.

-- SUPPORT EXPANDED UN FORCE UNDER CURRENT UNAMIR MANDATE FOR PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

4. AF/DAS BUSHNELL OUTLINED THE KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES IN RWANDA: STOP THE MASSACRES, OBTAIN A CEASEFIRE, ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD, ASSURE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND KEEP THE VIOLENCE FROM SPREADING TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SHE THEN RESPONDED TO ISSUES RAISED BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.

-- VISAS. THE U.S. HAS DENIED VISAS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT WASHINGTON, TELLING THEM WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO THEM UNTIL THE MASSACRES END. THEY CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE PREVENTED FROM VISITING THE UN.
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-- JOINT DONOR MESSAGE. THE U.S. IS USING VOA, BBC, AND
RFI, VIA INTERVIEWS AND EDITORIALS, TO PRESS FOR AN END
TO THE MASSACRES AND ENCOURAGING HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER
IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES TO MAKE THE SAME DEMAND.
PRESIDENT CLINTON'S MESSAGE OF LAST SATURDAY WAS HEARD,
AND WELL RECEIVED, IN RWANDA.

-- JAMMING. THE U.S. HAS EXAMINED THIS POSSIBILITY AND
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PAGE 04 STATE 120800 062200Z
REJECTED IT FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS, BUT WE
REMAIN EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY RTLM'S INFLAMATORY MESSAGES.

-- INVESTIGATION. BOTH THE GOR AND THE RPF WANT AN
INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION. THE U.S. ENCOURAGED HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AYALO LASSO TO BECOME
INVOLVED. HE IS FORMING A TEAM TO GO INTO RWANDA AND WE
ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING FINANCIALLY.

-- EXPANDED UNAMIR. THE U.S. IS LOOKING INTO A RANGE OF
OPTIONS AND THE QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

4. IN REPLY TO BUSHNELL, THE HUMAN RIGHTS VISITORS
RAISED SEVERAL POTENTIAL PITFALLS IN ANY INVESTIGATION.
THEY CAUTIONED THAT THE INQUIRY WOULD REQUIRE A
SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TEAM, SECURITY FOR ITS MEMBERS AND
THOSE IT TALKS TO, LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION FACILITY, AND
INDEPENDENCE FROM EITHER GOVERNMENT OR RPF ESCORTS.

5. ON UN FORCE EXPANSION, DESFORGE POINTED OUT THAT 600
UNAMIR TROOPS REMAIN IN NAIROBI AND COULD CONCEIVABLY BE
IN KIGALI IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS. SHE SAID TO DO
OTHERWISE WAS MORALLY UNCONCIONABLE. SHE ARGUED AGAINST
ACCEPTING THE RPF CLAIM THAT ALL TUTSIS WERE ALREADY DEAD
AS A RECIPE FOR INACTION. SHE URGED BEGINNING BY
INSERTING TROOPS IN THE SOUTH WHERE THE AGGRESSORS ARE
MILITIA NOT REGULAR ARMY AND CONTENDED THAT THESE
MINIMALLY TRAINED YOUTH WOULD NOT RESIST IN THE FACE OF
UN FORCES.

8. COMMENT. AFRICA WATCH AND MONIQUE ARE PERSISTENT IN
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THEIR SEARCH FOR ACTION ON RWANDA. DAS BUSHNELL TOLD THEM SHE, TOO, WAS FRUSTRATED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO DO SOMETHING CONCRETE TO STOP THE CONTINUING MASSACRES.

CHRISTOPHER

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