SUBJECT: INSECURITY CONTINUES AROUND KIGALI

1. (C) SUMMARY: INTERNAL INSECURITY, MARKED BY INTERPARTY VIOLENCE, PLAGUED KIGALI ALL WEEK. AN OPPOSITION MARCH NOVEMBER 19 ENDED IN CLASHES THAT INJURED AN ESTIMATED 50 PEOPLE. THE AMBASSADOR IMPRESSED UPON BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER THE NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP TO END THE VIOLENCE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR PEACE ACCORDS. END SUMMARY.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

2. (U) THE MURDER OF AN INTERAHAMWE LEADER (YOUTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S MRND PARTY) THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 16 IN A NEIGHBORHOOD OUTSIDE KIGALI, SPARKED REVENGE KILLING OF AT LEAST FIVE MDR YOUTH IN THE SAME AREA.
As of November 20, houses in the area are still being burned and those arrested have been released, according to a human rights group. Reports from another area of Kigali also involve political party murders, this time by an Interahamwe youth disguised in an opposition PSD uniform.

Demonstration for Arusha

3. (U) On Thursday November 19, the opposition political parties, MDR, PSD, PL, and PDC, held a demonstration in Kigali which started at approximately 0700. They were joined by members of the PSR and MFBP. The crowd assembled near the center of town and marched through the section of Kigali in front of the prison to Nyamirambo and eventually to the regional stadium for an all day rally.

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4. (U) Upon termination of the rally, there was a confrontation between the parties mentioned above and the Interahamwe, the youth group of the MRND. There were numerous reports of windows being broken, vehicles and houses damaged and major traffic blockages in the areas of downtown and on the route leading to the regional stadium. Reports indicate 50 persons injured, at least two seriously.

5. (U) There are unconfirmed reports of tear gas being used. There were also reports of houses being pillaged and burned in several areas of the city during the evening of the 19th and the early morning of November 20th. Kigali authorities claim that the youth of the oppositions1

6. (C) The minister of defense told the ambassador that MDR, PL, PSD youth were set on deliberately causing trouble. The Interahamwe spent the night getting revenge.
7. (C) IN A LONG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA
NOVEMBER 18, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS THE ARUSHA PROCESS,
I RAISED THE ISSUE OF INTERNAL SECURITY. I URGED THE
PRESIDENT TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN MAKING CLEAR TO
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THE PRESIDENT AS PRAISING THE PREFETS FOR THEIR GOOD WORK, NOT FOR GIVING THEM STRICT ORDERS ON WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO BE FAIR TO ALL PARTIES.

8. (C) THE PRESIDENT, AGAIN DEFENSIVE, SAID THAT THE PRESS WAS TREATING HIS PARTIES UNFAIRLY. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE PRESS HAD SIMPLY CRITICIZED THE CDR FOR ITS DEMONSTRATION ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, AND HAD NOT CRITICIZED THE USE OF THE PSD AND MDR WHICH

HAD SUBSEQUENTLY ATTACKED THEM. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT HE HAD BEEN BADLY MISLED ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CDR; THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO INVESTIGATE WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS. I TOLD HIM THAT NOT ONLY WAS THE CDR UNRULY, UNLIKE THE LIES THEY HAD SPREAD ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS, BUT THE GENDARMES HAD FIRED INTO THE OFFICE OF THE PSD AND HAD TRIED TO HIT THE OFFICE OF MDR LEADER TWAGIRAMUNGU. I ASKED THE PRESIDENT HOW MANY SHOTS HAD BEEN FIRED. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD 20 OR 30, BECAUSE THEY TOOK PLACE CLOSE TO HIS OFFICE. I SAID THAT WAS OUR COUNT ALSO, THAT WE HAD FOUND HOLES IN THE PSD WALLS ACCOUNTING FOR ALMOST ALL OF THE BULLETS THAT HAD BEEN FIRED.

9. (C) I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT IF HE WAS COMMITTED TO THE ARUSHA PROCESS, HE HAD TO DO MORE ON INTERNAL SECURITY. I SAID IT WAS MY VIEW THAT THE RPF WOULD ULTIMATELY NOT AGREE TO A PEACE ACCORD WITH ME? Q THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED MY JUDGMENT THAT HE NEEDED TO DO MORE ON THE INTERNAL SECURITY FRONT AND SAID HE WOULD BECOME MORE ACTIVE TO PROTECT SECURITY OF PEOPLE IN RWANDA. WE WILL SEE.

10. (C) I MADE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE GASANA, STRESSING THE NEED FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF ALL PARTIES, BUT ESPECIALLY THE MRND, TO REDUCE
THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE BY THEIR YOUTH MOVEMENTS. FLATEN

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