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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MASS, AORC, OAU, RW
SUBJECT: ARUSHA TALKS SUSPENDED

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0332G
1. SUMMARY: The Arusha talks were suspended late June 24 after the parties failed to agree on a Tanzanian proposed compromise. Rwandan foreign minister Ngulinzira blamed the RPF, then President Habyarimana and the political climate in Kigali. However, discussions may continue in Cairo. The MDR has reaffirmed Prime Minister Dismas Nsengiyaremye as its choice for Prime Minister in the next government, and asserts the cabinet has no right to reject him. When the suspension becomes known in Kigali, there will be frightened predictions of new warfare, and angry mutual accusations. Already we have heard of RPF troop movements and menacing activity in the DMZ. I believe the Tanzanian compromise was a good one, acceptable in Kigali, and may yet form the basis for an agreement. END SUMMARY.

Suspension in Arusha

2. According to DCM Joyce Leader in Arusha,

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After a failure of the parties to agree on compromise proposals, the facilitator suspended the negotiations, Tanzanian and Rwandan ministers headed for Cairo, and it was announced that further discussions would take place during the OAU Summit.

3. (U) Foreign minister Ngulinzira publicly blamed the RPF for failure to accept the Tanzanian compromise. RPF delegate Mazimpaka denied that the RPF had rejected the proposals, insisting that further instructions from RPF headquarters were necessary.

4. (U) According to Radio Rwanda, the compromise would have divided military leadership positions down to the battalion level at a ratio of 55 percent GOR and 45 percent RPF for the 18 officers implicated, that is, 10 positions for the GOR, and 8 for the RPF. On the question of the transition period, the government would be formed within the week following signature and would meet
TEMPORARILY IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE UNTIL SECURITY CONDITIONS WERE ADEQUATE IN KIGALI.

INTERNAL POLITICS

5. (U) AFTER PUBLICLY BLAMING THE RPF FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE TALKS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON TO ADD BLAME ALL AROUND. FIRST, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE TALKS BROKE DOWN BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL

...
6. (U) MEANWHILE, THE MDR LEADERSHIP MET ALL DAY JUNE 24 CONCLUDING AT 1:00 AM JUNE 25. THEIR DECISION WAS TO REAFFIRM PRIME MINISTER DISMAS NSENGIYAREMYE AS THE MDR CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER IN THE NEW TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THEY ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ONLY ALLOWED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MDR CHOICE, NOT TO APPROVE OR REJECT IT, AND, THEREFORE, THE CHOICE SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE RPF WITHOUT
FURTHER ADO. THE MDR SOUGHT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE IN A WAY TO PRESERVE PARTY UNITY, AND TOOK NO ACTION TO SANCTION PARTY PRESIDENT TWAGIRAMUNGU AS THREATENED.

7. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF CABINET RUHIGIRA AND DEFENSE MINISTER GASANA, I GAINED A CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE CHALLENGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT DRIVEN BY THE MRND, AS MOST PEOPLE ASSUME, BUT IS RATHER A RESULT OF PROBLEMS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HAD WITH HIS OWN COALITION PARTNERS IN THE PL AND PSD. GASANA SAID HE HOPED THAT THE PL AND PSD WOULD EXTRACT SOME CONCESSIONS FROM DISMAS SO THEY COULD GO FORWARD AND REAPPOINT HIM, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THE MRND MINISTERS HAD CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN WORKING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF HIS AUTOCRATIC STYLE.

8. COMMENT: U.S. OBSERVER LEADER WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE SUSPENSION FROM ARUSHA AND DAR ES SALAAM. NEWS OF THE SUSPENSION HAS NOT YET HIT THE STREETS IN KIGALI, SO THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION. BUT IT IS PREDICTABLE THAT THERE WILL BE MAJOR CONCERN, WORRY AND ANXIETY IN KIGALI. ALREADY MANY HAVE EXPRESSED FEARS OF A RENEWED RPF ATTACK AS THE NEGOTIATIONS GROUND PAST THE JUNE 24 DEADLINE. LAST NIGHT BOTH THE CABINET DIRECTOR FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE CALLED ME TO REPORT OMINOUS RPF TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN THE RUHENGERI AREA, AND THE FLIGHT OF A NUMBER OF PERSONS FROM THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE AS A RESULT. THOUGH I AM INCLINED TO SEE THESE MOVEMENTS LARGELY AS A REFLECTION OF RWANDAN NERVOUSNESS, I SUGGESTED THAT THEY SPEAK WITH NGULINZIRA IN ARUSHA AND URGE HIM TO TALK WITH THE RPF. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT DCM LEADER FOLLOW UP WITH THE RPF IF THE DEFENSE MINISTER OR THE CABINET DIRECTOR TAKE THE ISSUE TO NGULINZIRA.

9. I BELIEVE THAT THE TANZANIAN PROPOSED COMPROMISE WAS REASONABLE AND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN KIGALI AS WELL AS TO THE GOR DELEGATION IN ARUSHA. I WILL ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT LEADERS HERE TO MAKE THAT POINT WITH THE TANZANIANS AND TO REITERATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RETURN TO ARUSHA FOR A FINAL SESSION
AND SIGNATURE. MEANTIME, THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE EXAGGERATED CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THE SUSPENSION, WILD FEARS AND ACCUSATIONS, AND PREDICTIONS OF DOOM.

PAGE 04 KIGALI 02406 02 OF 02 250930Z AND GLOOM. I SEE NO REASON TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PESSIMISM. THE PARTIES HAVE COME SO FAR IN THIS NEGOTIATION, IT IS ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE THAT THEY COULD BREAK IT OFF COMPLETELY NOW. THE LONGING FOR PEACE IN KIGALI IS SUCH AN OVERWHELMINGLY POPULAR CONCEPT THAT NO ONE HERE CAN OPPOSE IT AND EXPECT TO RETAIN ANY POPULARITY. EVEN THE CDR, WHICH REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT, IS NO LONGER WILLING TO OPPOSE THE CONCEPT OF THIS PEACE AGREEMENT. END COMMENT. FLATEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions ***  n/a
*** Current Classification ***