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INFO

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L-03 ADS-00 NSA-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5116

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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YAOUNDE FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PGOV, PHUM, RW

SUBJECT: UNAMIR SIDESTEPS NAMING CULPRIT IN RUHENGERI INCIDENT; PARTIES TO EXPLORE RECONCILIATION

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REF: (A) KIGALI 4169, (B) KIGALI 4060

1. (C) SUMMARY. UNAMIR ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO THE RUHENGERI

ATROCITIES WITHOUT IDENTIFYING BLAME AT A PRESS

CONFERENCE 11/26. GOVERNMENT MILITARY COMMANDERS

SUPPORT AT THE SAME TIME DISCREDITED MIO

OS STER OF

DEFENSE AND RESUMPTION OF JOINT COMMISSIONS WITH

RPF. THE UN/SYG'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR

DATE/CASE ID: 18 JAN 2005 200401096

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BROADBASED GOVERNMENT CAN BE PUT IN PLACE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. LEADERS OF FRACTURED POLITICAL PARTIES WILL MEET IN MOMBSA DURING WEEKEND UNDER CHURCH AUSPICES TO TRY TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES BEFORE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. ALTHOUGH UNAMIR’S STRATEGY WILL UPSET MANY RWANDANS FOR NOT NAMING NAMES, IT HAS BOUGHT VALUABLE TIME IN THE RACE TO PUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

UNAMIR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE
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2. (U) IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE, UNAMIR COMMANDER GENERAL DALLAIRE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A FORMAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO THE "ATROCITIES" COMMITTED IN RUHENGERI NOVEMBER 17-18. HE SAID THE UNAMIR INVESTIGATION TEAM HAD CONFIRMED 37 DEAD AND 2 WOUNDED BY GUNS, PISTOLS, AND "SWORDS OF THE BAYONETTE FAMILY," BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PERPETRATORS BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS AND LOGISTICAL AND PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS. HE RECOMMENDED UNAMIR TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PEACE PROCESS IN RWANDA, CALLED FOR THE COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES, AND ANNOUNCED HIS DETERMINATION TO ACCELERATE DEPLOYMENT AND TIGHTEN OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY IN THE DMZ.

3. (C) QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS SUGGESTED MOST PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE HAD HOPED THE INITIAL INQUIRY WOULD NAME THE RPF AS CULPRITS. TWO QUESTIONS EVEN TRIED TO LINK FRENCH-CANADIAN DALLAIRE TO FRENCH-CANADIAN WIFE OF RWANDA’S TUTSI MINISTER AND IMPUTE TO HIM HER PRO-RPF SYMPATHIES.

4. (C) OTHER RWANDANS WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THE MORE AMBIGUOUS OUTCOME OF THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION. DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT’S CABINET TOLD CHARGE AND VISITING AF/RA MILITARY ADVISOR THAT UNAMIR WOULD BE WISE NEVER TO NAME A RESPONSIBLE PARTY. A JOURNALIST TOLD CHARGE THAT WHETHER UNAMIR KNEW THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR NOT, IT WOULD BE BEST NOT SAY.

OFFICERS SUPPORT MINISTER OF DEFENSE
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5. (U) A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING A MEETING 11/25 OF RWANDAN ARMY UNIT COMMANDERS EXPRESSED INDIGNATION AT
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THE "MASSACRES ... PERPETRATED BY THE RPF" AND REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO HAD ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE UNILATERALLY SUSPENDING TALKS WITH THE RPF (REF A). IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION, HOWEVER, IT ALSO CALLED FOR THE MIXED COMMISSIONS TO BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE COMMUNIQUE IS SIGNED BY COL. BAGOSORA, DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S CABINET, EVEN THOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MINISTER WAS AT THE MEETING.

6. (C) COMMENT. ONE MILITARY PRESENT AT THE MEETING TOLD CHARGE THE COMMUNIQUE REFLECTED THE TENOR OF THE MEETING. THE ARMY, HE SAID, FELT OBLIGED TO SUPPORT THE MINISTER, WHOSE POSITION HAD BEEN OVERTURNED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT HAD TRIED TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM HIS COMMUNIQUE BY CALLING FOR THE JOINT COMMISSIONS TO RESUME. END COMMENT.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES
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7. (U) The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, former Foreign Minister of Cameroon, arrived in Kigali 11/23. Dr. Kabia, Senior Political Advisor, and Pierre Desende (Chadian), Political Advisor, have arrived to serve on his staff.

8. (C) Booh-Booh and Dallaire have conveyed to Charge and visiting AF/RA Military Advisor a sense of urgency in the wake of the Ruhengeri events. During Charge's courtesy call 11/26, Booh-Booh said UNAMIR aims to have the broad-based government in place before Christmas. Echoing what General Dallaire told Charge and visiting AF/RA Military Advisor, he said UNAMIR is trying to accelerate preparations for the demobilization phase. Dallaire is urging New York to accelerate arrival of the second battalion so assembly and cantonment sites can be identified and prepared for the disengagement of forces sooner than the end of April as called for in the current schedule. Dallaire had confirmed earlier that standard operating procedures he drafted for the RPF battalion that is to come to town is currently under
CONSIDERATION BY BOTH SIDES. CHARGE NOTED THAT THE
ARRIVAL OF THE RPF BATTALION HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS A
PRIMARY CONCERN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE DIRECTOR
OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET.

PARTY RECONCILIATION TALKS
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9. (LOU) THE ALL-AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, A
PROTESTANT UMBRELLA GROUP BASED IN NAIROBI, HAS INVITED
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TO MOMBSA WEEKEND NOVEMBER 27-28 LEADERS OF THE
DISPARATE FACTIONS OF THE MDR AND THE PL. REPORTEDLY
BOTH PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU AND
EX-PRIME MINISTER DISMAS NSENGUYAREMYE WILL ATTEND FOR
THE MDR. JUSTIN MUGENZI, PARTY PRESIDENT, AND LANDO
NDANINGWA, TUTSI MINISTER AND PARTY VICE-PRESIDENT ARE
EXPECTED FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY (PL). REPORTEDLY ALL THE
BISHOPS FROM RWANDA, REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUPS, AND OTHER SELECT CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS ARE
INVITED.

10. (C) COMMENT. MANY RWANDANS ARE HOPING THESE TALKS
WILL HELP THESE TWO TROUBLED PARTIES FIND THE
COMPROMISES NEEDED TO REUNITE AND ALLOW THE PRIME
MINISTER-DESIGNATE TO FORM AN UNCONTESTED, AND THEREBY
STABLE, COALITION GOVERNMENT.

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COMMENT
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11. (C) BY NOT NAMING A CULPRIT IN THE RUHENGURI
INCIDENT, UNAMIR IS LIKELY TO UPSET MANY RWANDANS,
PARTICULARLY THOSE CONVINCED THE RPF DID IT. MANY
OTHERS, HOWEVER, WILL SEE THIS AS THE ONLY VIABLE
APPROACH TO A DELICATE ISSUE AND A SKILLFUL WAY OF
BUYING TIME LEADING UP TO THE FORMATION OF THE
BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

LEADER

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