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of a largely Russian operation. They probably also believe they have laid the political groundwork for a unilateral Russian initiative if the UN determines there is still insufficient progress for deployment of a UN force. The outcome of UN meetings on April 12 in Geneva may bring Russian policy into sharper focus.
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Thailand: Khmer Rouge Connections



Burundi/Rwanda: Presidents Killed

The aircraft carrying Burundian President Ntaramira and Rwandan President Habyarimana was reportedly shot down last night as it prepared to land in Kigali, according to Embassy Kigali. The Rwandan military sealed off the crash site, disarmed Belgian UN peacekeepers at the airport, and confirmed to the UN that all aboard the plane had been killed.

A military delegation informed the UN Secretary-General's special representative in Rwanda that the military intended to take power temporarily and resisted his suggestion that it work closely with existing governmental authorities. Embassy Kigali today reported sporadic gunfire in the capital. Bujumbura is reported to be calm.

Comment: It is not known who shot down the plane, whether hard-line Hutu Rwandan soldiers, the former rebels of the Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), or someone else seeking to fan Hutu-Tutsi tensions. The incident may also spark an upsurge of violence in Burundi.

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Date 4/12/01 Exemption B1, 1.5 (d)

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Burundi, in the wake of ethnic bloodshed that claimed 30-50,000 lives after the assassination of the previous president in an October coup attempt, has been extremely tense and riven by mistrust between the Tutsi military and the multi-ethnic government. The constitutional successor to the Burundian president is Parliament President Ntibantuganya, a Hutu member of the ruling FRODEBU party. He is generally considered a moderate on ethnic issues. []

Rwanda has been gripped by ethnic and political tension owing to the inability of rival factions to agree on the composition of a multiparty, multi-ethnic transition government called for in the peace agreement that ended the 1990-93 civil war. Because of Habyarimana's failure to swear in a government, Rwanda lacks a constitutional successor.
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Angola: Government Hesitates

The government is hesitating over whether to accept the mediators' most recent proposal for the distribution to UNITA of ministerial and high-ranking government positions in a government of national reconciliation, according to Embassy Lusaka. Savimbi on April 5 said he and UNITA were ready for peace; he expressed optimism that a new settlement was only a few days away, according to press reports.

Comment: The government's hesitation stems from its fear that UNITA will renege on the agreement, as it did on the 1990 Bicesse Accords. Washington's recent refusal to accept an extensive bilateral agreement, which would have included iron-clad guarantees to assist the government if indeed UNITA reneged, further unsettled Luanda. The government has also indicated its displeasure with the mediators' proposal to give UNITA the public works ministry - with its opportunities for patronage and graft.

Savimbi, who has not yet seen the proposal, is staking out the high ground simply by indicating his willingness to come to an agreement. If the government approves the accord, his tune may change.
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