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ACTION RP-10

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CA-02 OASY-00 EUR-01
OIGO-01 TEDE-00 IO-16 ADS-00 OIC-02 SR-00 FMP-00
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P 291521Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6079
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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GENEVA FOR RMA

YAOUNDE FOR DAO

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TAGS: PREF, RW
SUBJECT: AF/DAS AND AF/C DIRECTOR DISCUSS RWANDA'S
HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

REF: KIGALI 1107

1. DURING THEIR 3-DAY STAY IN RWANDA MARCH 19-23,
AF/DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR ARLENE
RENDER LOOKED INTO QUESTIONS OF BURUNDI REFUGEES IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR AND THROUGH A VISIT TO A
REFUGEE CAMP IN BUTARE PREFECTURE. AF/C DIRECTOR

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DISCUSSED ISSUES RELATING TO DISPLACED PERSONS AND SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES IN A MEETING WITH ICRC. THIS REPORT TOUCHES ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR MEETINGS.

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2. UNHCR SPECIAL ENVOY ON BURUNDI REFUGEES, MICHEL MOUSSALLI, STRESSED THE URGENCY OF HAVING A GOVERNMENT IN PLACE THAT CAN SET IN PLACE THE STRUCTURES NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE REGION'S MANY REFUGEE ISSUES. HE SAID UNHCR IS NOW ON THE GROUND IN BURUNDI TO AID THE REINSTALLATION OF THE RETURN OF RECENT REFUGEES FROM TANZANIA, ADDING THIS HAD BEEN AN URGENT MATTER TO KEEP BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT NGOS ARE DOING FOR DISPLACED TUTSIS AND WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR RETURNING HUTUS. HE CITED THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE SPONTANEOUS RETURN ISSUE, WHERE UNHCR IS NOW HELPING 12,500 RETURNEES (CENSUS RESULTS; UP FROM 8,500 REPORTED REFTTEL), WITH PROSPECTS THAT THE NUMBER WILL CLIMB CONSIDERABLY.

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3. UNHCR'S EMERGENCY COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE, DANIEL BELLAMY, TOLD THE VISITORS THAT OVERALL MORTALITY RATES FOR BURUNDI REFUGEES DROPE TO 0.74 FOR MARCH 5-11, THE BEST WEEK SINCE THE EMERGENCY BEGAN IN OCTOBER. DYSENTARY AND MALARIA STILL REMAIN MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE RECENT VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE A FLOW OF NEW REFUGEES TO RWANDA. A NEW CENSUS IS SCHEDULED FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL, BUT 260,000 WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PLANNING FIGURE UNTIL THEN.

CAMP VISIT

4. AF/DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER VISITED SAGA I, A REFUGEE CAMP OF 18,000 PERSONS ABOUT 45 MINUTES DRIVE SOUTHEAST OF BUTARE, TOWARD THE BURUNDI BORDER. THE CONGESTED CONDITIONS OBSERVED BY DCM IN NOVEMBER (THREE WEEKS INTO THE EMERGENCY) HAD ABATED WITH HUTS SPREAD MORE WIDELY ON THE HILLSIDES. OVERALL MORTALITY RATE AT SAGA I FOR MARCH 5-11 WAS 0.25, WELL BELOW THE OVERALL AVERAGE FOR THAT WEEK OF 0.74. DURING THE SAME TIMEFRAME, MORTALITY RATE FOR

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CHILDREN UNDER FIVE AT THE CAMP WAS 1.43, AGAIN WELL BELOW THE OVERALL AVERAGE OF 1.54 FOR THIS CATEGORY. THE MEDIUM-TERM WATER SYSTEM, INSTALLED BY CARE INTERNATIONAL, PIPING WATER FROM A SOURCE ON ONE HILL TO THE CAMP ON THE OTHER, IS FUNCTIONAL AND PROVIDES 17 LITERS OF WATER PER DAY PER PERSON. 400 LATRINES ARE NOW INSTALLED, EACH SERVING AN ESTIMATED 44 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 01373 01 OF 02 291524Z PERSONS. A THERAPEUTIC FEEDING CENTER, RUN BY MSF/B, CONDUCTS A THREE-STAGE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND, WHERE NECESSARY, THEIR PARENTS. (AS OUR VISIT TOOK PLACE ON SUNDAY, WE DID NOT WITNESS ANY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS OR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS.)

5. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURES OF SAGA I IS ITS ADJACENT SITE FOR UNACCOMPANIED STUDENTS. THE 454 STUDENTS, MOSTLY OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE, WITH

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THE ASSISTANCE OF A PRIEST, HAVE ORGANIZED A COMMUNAL KITCHEN AND A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION THAT IS BEGINNING TO ATTRACT STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL OTHER REFUGEE CAMPS. FOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE TEACHING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, SOME IN CLASSROOMS PUT AT THEIR DISPOSAL BY NEARBY PRIVATE SCHOOLS. THE "STUDENT CAMP" INCLUDES A SMALL LIBRARY (WITH BOOKS REGISTERED FOR EASY TRACKING) AND A MAKESHIFT STUDY HALL SUPPLIED WITH TWO HOURS OF ELECTRICITY NIGHTLY BY A SMALL GENERATOR. SOME OF THE STUDENTS' HUTS, MADE OF BENT STICKS COVERED WITH LEAFY BRANCHES AND PLASTIC SHEETING, WERE SECURED WITH HINGED DOORS AND PADLOCKS |

6. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DCM'S FIRST VISIT TO SAGA I IN NOVEMBER, SHE ALERTED UNHCR TO THE PRESENCE OF AN ESTIMATED 300 UNACCOMPANIED STUDENTS AND URGED ATTENTION TO THEIR SITUATION TO KEEP THEM FROM DRIFTING INTO RADICAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. IN NOVEMBER, STUDENT LEADERS REPORTED HAVING RECEIVED FOOD BUT NO COOKING UTENSILS AND NO POLES FOR CONSTRUCTING THEIR HUTS. THE CHANGE IS IMPRESSIVE.

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END COMMENT.

ICRC

7. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE, PHILIPPE GAILLARD, REVIEWED
FOR AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER ICRC'S WORK WITH THE
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WAR-DISPLACED. HE SAID THE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS NOW
IN THE RPF ZONE IS 45,000, WITH ABOUT 300 A DAY
RETURNING FROM DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS IN THE
GOVERNMENT ZONE TO THEIR HOMES BEHIND THE RPF LINES.
HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY FOR ICRC
WORKERS AS THEY AID THOSE RETURNING TO THE RPF AREA.
HE TOLD AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER THAT THE MINISTER OF
DEFENSE HAS ACCUSED ICRC OF "ENCOURAGING" RETURN, A
HIGHLY POLITICAL ISSUE. GAILLARD SAID ICRC'S AID TO
RETURNING DISPLACED, INCLUDING SEEDS AND TOOLS FOR
PLANTING, MAY BE DRAWING SOME BACK, BUT, HE STRESSED,
ICRC IS FOLLOWING THEM BACK, NOT ENCOURAGING THEM TO
GO. HE ADDED THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THESE PEOPLE TO BECOME
SELF-SUFFICIENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID IT WILL
COST THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY USD 25 MILLION TO
FEED THE 350,000 STILL DISPLACED FOR ANOTHER YEAR,
BUT THE PRICE TAG FOR THEIR REINSERTION IS JUST USD
ONE MILLION.

8. AF/DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER CLEARED
MEETING REPORTS BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM KIGALI.

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