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FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RUEORDF/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//IS//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUCJACC/USCENTCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL //CARA//
RUWSMXI/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUEOACC/CDRPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUEALGX/SAFE

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7290
INFO RUTABU/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 7249
RUFHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 2589
RUTAKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2242
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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: PREF, RW
SUBJECT: 1991 WORLD REFUGEE REPORT: RWANDA

REF: STATE 32385

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. RWANDAN SOCIETY IS COMPOSED OF TWO DOMINANT ETHNIC

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GROUPS, THE HAMITIC "WATUTSI" TRIBE (APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION), AND THE BANTU "BAHUTU" TRIBE (APPROXIMATELY 89 PERCENT). ETHNIC DIVISIONS IN RWANDA ARE COMPLEX: HUTUS AND TUTSIS SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE, SHARE A COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER. SMALL NUMBERS OF "BATWA," OR PYGMIES, ARE ALSO FOUND IN RWANDA. REFUGEE ISSUES IN RWANDA REVOLVE AROUND HISTORICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE HUTU AND TUTSI TRIBES.

2. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE APPROXIMATELY 400,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES LIVING OUTSIDE RWANDA ARE TUTSIS. TUTSI REFUGEES ORIGINALLY FLED RWANDA AS A RESULT OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE. CLAIMED ITS INDEPENDENCE. ADDITIONAL WAVES OF TUTSI REFUGEES FLED RWANDA IN THE 1960'S WHEN REPEATED ARMED ATTACKS BY TUTSI EXILES INVARIABLY RESULTED IN ETHNIC VIOLENCE AGAINST TUTSIS LIVING INSIDE RWANDA. THE MOST RECENT ATTACK OF TUTSI EXILES OCCURRED IN OCTOBER 1990 AND RESULTED IN THE FLIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 7,000 REFUGEES TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. DURING THE 1960'S, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT REPEATEDLY CALLED ON ALL RWANDAN REFUGEES DISPLACED BY ETHNIC VIOLENCE TO RETURN TO RWANDA. IN NOVEMBER 1990, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT RENEWED THIS CALL BY FORMALLY RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF RETURN OF ALL RWANDAN REFUGEES. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT LATER OFFERED TO EXTEND AN AMNESTY TO ALL REFUGEES/EXILES INVOLVED IN THE RECENT ATTACKS.

4. RWANDA PROVIDES PERMANENT ASYLUM TO APPROXIMATELY 23,000 HUTU REFUGEES WHO FLED HUTU/TUTSI VIOLENCE IN NEIGHBORING BURUNDI IN THE 1970'S. WHEN ETHNIC VIOLENCE WAS RENEWED IN BURUNDI IN 1988, APPROXIMATELY 40,000 NEW HUTU REFUGEES SOUGHT TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN RWANDA. MOST OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO BURUNDI VIA VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AS THE ETHNIC SITUATION THERE IMPROVES.

 MAJOR REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS, 1990

5. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA IN 1990 WAS THE OCTOBER 1 INVASION FROM UGANDA BY THE PREVIOUSLY LITTLE KNOWN RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF). THE BACKBONE OF THE RPF INVASION FORCE CONSISTED OF APPROXIMATELY 4,000 FORMER UGANDAN ARMY (NRA) SOLDIERS OF RWANDAN/TUTSI ORIGIN WHO DESERTED WITH THEIR ARMS

AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF WAR MATERIEL. AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION, THE RPF LEADERSHIP INCLUDED THE FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NRA, MAJOR GENERAL FRED RWIGEMA, AND THE FORMER COMMANDERS OF NRA INTELIGENCE AND MEDICAL SERVICES. THE RPF HAS ALSO RECRUITED SOLDIERS AND RAISED FUNDS FROM RWANDAN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA, TANZANIA, ZAIRE, BURUNDI, THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE. AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION AND SUBSEQUENT PROTRACTED GUERRILLA WAR, APPROXIMATELY 7,000 NEW REFUGEES FLED TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO ESCAPE THE VIOLENCE IN RWANDA. EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO REPATRIATE THE REFUGEES AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES INSIDE RWANDA PERMIT. THOUSANDS OF RWANDANS WERE DISPLACED INSIDE RWANDA DUE TO THE WAR, BUT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THESE HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND FIELDS.

6. THE WAR EFFECTIVELY DERAILED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF RWANDA AND UGANDA AIMED AT RESOLVING THE RWANDAN REFUGEE PROBLEM ON A BILATERAL BASIS. BEGUN IN FEBRUARY 1989 IN KIGALI UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR, THESE NEGOTIATIONS CULMINATED

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IN RWANDAN-UGANDAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING IN JULY 1990 WHICH APPROVED A UNHCR ACTION PLAN FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA. THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE UNHCR PLAN INCLUDED

- A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT RWANDAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA TO INFORM THEM OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS.

- A SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE PREFERENCES OF RWANDAN REFUGEES AND ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO WOULD OPT TO BE REPATRIATED, VERSUS THE NUMBER WHO WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN IN UGANDA.

- A VISIT TO RWANDA BY REFUGEES IN UGANDA TO VIEW FIRST HAND CONDITIONS AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS INSIDE RWANDA.

7. THE ELEMENTS OF THE UNHCR ACTION PLAN, INCLUDING THE VISIT TO RWANDA SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER, WERE OVERCOME BY THE EVENTS OF THE WAR. AS UNHCR SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL SOLUTION FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES, IT WILL HAVE TO PICK UP WHERE IT LEFT OFF WITH THE RWANDA-UGANDA ACTION PLAN.

8. IN LATE 1990 THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHT OF RETURN OF ALL RWANDAN REFUGEES LIVING ABROAD. AS INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION FOCUSED ON THE RWANDAN REFUGEE PROBLEM, THE

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GOVERNMENTS OF RWANDA, UGANDA, BURUNDI, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SUMMIT MEETING TOGETHER WITH UNHCR IN EARLY 1991 IN ORDER TO FIND A LASTING, REGIONAL SOLUTION FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES. THREE OPTIONS ARE FORESEEN FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES: RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT IN RWANDA, NATURALIZATION IN THEIR CURRENT HOST COUNTRIES, OR "PERMANENT RESIDENCY" STATUS ALLOWING THEM TO REMAIN IN PLACE BUT RETAIN RWANDAN CITIZENSHIP AND THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO RWANDA FOR VISITS FREELY AND WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION.

9. EARLIER IN 1990, IN AN EFFORT TO HELP REDUCE TENSIONS ALONG THE RWANDA/BURUNDI BORDER, APPROXIMATELY 1,000 BURUNDI REFUGEES LOCATED IN THE UNHCR ADMINISTERED MUHERO REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTHERN RWANDA WERE TRANSFERRED TO A NEW SITE AT GASELI IN CENTRAL RWANDA. THE INHABITANTS OF THE CAMP ARE THE LAST REMNANT OF AN ESTIMATED 40,000 BURUNDI (HUTU) REFUGEES WHO FLED ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN BURUNDI IN AUGUST 1988. THE NEW SITE IS JUDGED MORE APPROPRIATE BY UNHCR OFFICIALS AND IS LOCATED A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THE BURUNDI BORDER.

10. IN 1990 APPROXIMATELY 10,000 RWANDAN "ECONOMIC REFUGEES" WERE EXPELLED FROM TANZANIA AND REINTEGRATED INTO THEIR COMMUNES OF ORIGIN IN RWANDA. MOST OF THESE "REFUGEES" HAD LEFT RWANDA AFTER 1986 IN SEARCH OF ARABLE LAND IN TANZANIA. THE BULK OF THE EXPULSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN MARCH AND MAY AND WERE THE RESULT OF UNILATERAL DECISIONS BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT. THE EXPULSIONS RESULTED IN A REFUGEE-LIKE SITUATION WITH REPORTED BEATINGS AND PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION OF RWANDANS WHO LEFT TANZANIA WITH ONLY THE BELONGINGS THEY COULD CARRY ON THEIR HEADS. THE "REFUGEES" WERE TEMPORARILY HOUSED IN A TRANSIT CAMP IN KIBUNGO PREFECTURE PRIOR TO PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

 RWANDA IS A REFUGEE RECEIVING COUNTRY

11. RWANDA IS A REFUGEE RECEIVING COUNTRY. REFUGEE DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE BY UNHCR, AND ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN RWANDA IS CHANNLED THROUGH UNHCR AND THE RWANDAN RED CROSS. REFUGEES IN RWANDA CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES:

A. "INTEGRATED REFUGEES," CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF ETHNIC HUTUS FROM NEIGHBORING BURUNDI WHO FLED HUTU/TUTSI ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN 1972-74 AND NOW ENJOY PERMANENT RESIDENCY STATUS AND ARE WELL INTEGRATED

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INTO THE RWANDAN ECONOMY. THE POPULATION OF
"INTEGRATED REFUGEES" IS ESTIMATED AT 23,601 AND IS
DISTRIBUTED IN FOUR AREAS IN RWANDA, INCLUDING
BUGARAMA IN THE SOUTHWEST (CYANGUGU PREFECTURE),
MUVUMBA IN THE NORTHEAST (BYUMBA PREFECTURE), RILIMA
IN THE BUGESERA REGION SOUTH OF KIGALI, AND NASHO IN
THE SOUTHEAST (KIBUNGO PREFECTURE). THE NASHO
SETTLEMENT CONSISTS MAINLY OF BANYARWANDA TUTSI
PASTORALISTS WHO IN 1982 FLED UGANDA, WHERE THEY HAD
MIGRATED FROM RWANDA IN THE 1920'S. MOST OF THE NASHO
REFUGEES ARE CONSIDERED RWANDAN B9 ALL CONCERNED.

B. SHORT TERM REFUGEES AT THE UNHCR TRANSIT CENTER IN
KIGALI, FOR WHOM THE UNHCR IS SEEKING A THIRD COUNTRY
OF ASYLUM AND RESETTLEMENT. UNHCR RECOGNIZES THESE
INDIVIDUALS AS REFUGEES UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1951

CONVENTION ON REFUGEES, AND PROVIDES FOOD, HOUSING AND
EDUCATION ALLOWANCES. AT THE END OF 1990 THERE WERE 14
REFUGEES IN THE CENTER WHOSE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
INCLUDED KENYA (1), SOUTH AFRICA (2), GABON (1),
UGANDA (2) AND ZAIRE (8). IN 1990 UNHCR ARRANGED THIRD
COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT FOR 21 REFUGEES FROM THE CENTER:
THREE ZAIRIANS WERE SETTLED IN BELGIUM, ONE ZAIRIAN
WAS SETTLED IN DENMARK AND 17 BURUNDIANS WERE SETTLED
IN CANADA. SEVERAL TRANSIT CENTER CASES REMAIN
OUTSTANDING, INCLUDING A UNHCR REQUEST TO SETTLE IN
THE UNITED STATES TWO SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN WHO FLED
APARTHEID-RELATED KILLINGS IN THEIR TOWNSHIP MORE THAN
24 MONTHS AGO WHICH LEFT BOTH OF THEIR PARENTS DEAD.

C. SHORT TERM REFUGEES IN THE UNHCR ADMINISTERED CAMP
AT GASELI, CONSISTING OF 1,062 BURUNDI HUTUS WHO FLED
ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN BURUNDI IN 1988 AND
SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSED REPATRIATION. PLANS TO RESETTLE
THE BURUNDI REFUGEES IN NORTHERN ZAIRE IN 1990 FAILED
TO MATERIALIZE. IN 1989, THE GOR GRANTED PERMANENT
ASYLUM TO 100 OF THESE REFUGEES WHO WERE THEN
INTEGRATED INTO THE RWANDAN SCHOOL SYSTEM AT THE
SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT
AGREED TO GRANT PERMANENT ASYLUM TO AN ADDITIONAL 108
SCHOOL AGED GASELI REFUGEES IN 1990, BUT THESE PLANS
WERE DERAILED BY THE RPF INVASION. APPROXIMATELY 100
REFUGEES QUIT THE CAMP IN 1990 TO RETURN TO BURUNDI,
AND UNHCR ANTICIPATES ADDITIONAL REPATRIATIONS IN 1991
AS CONDITIONS IN BURUNDI IMPROVE. UNHCR REPORTS THAT
IF REPATRIATIONS CONTINUE APACE, IT MAY BE ABLE TO
CLOSE THE GASELI CAMP IN 1991.

RWANDA IS A REFUGEE GENERATING COUNTRY

12. AS A RESULT OF THE OCTOBER 1990 RPF INVASION OF RWANDA, APPROXIMATELY 7,000 RWANDANS FLED RWANDA FOR UGANDA, BURUNDI AND ZAIRE TO ESCAPE GROWING HUTU/TUTSI ETHNIC TENSION AND THE FIGHTING ALONG THE UGANDAN BORDER. UNHCR REPORTS THAT 2 TO 3 HUNDRED RWANDAN REFUGEES WHO FLED FIGHTING IN RUHENGERI PREFECTURE ARE NOW IN GOMA, ZAIRE TOGETHER WITH APPROXIMATELY 120 RWANDAN REFUGEES FROM BURUNDI WHO ENLISTED IN THE RPF BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE WAR EFFORT. APPROXIMATELY 600 RWANDANS FLED TO BURUNDI FROM THE BUGESERA REGION OF SOUTHERN RWANDA AND ARE HOUSED IN A REFUGEE CAMP NEAR KIRUNDO PENDING REPATRIATION. APPROXIMATELY 6,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE LOCATED IN A UNHCR ADMINISTERED CAMP NEAR MBARARA, UGANDA WHERE THEY FLED THE FIGHTING IN NORTHEAST RWANDA. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION, BUT UNHCR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CERTIFY THAT THE LANDS THEY INHABITED IN THE MUTARA REGION HAVE BEEN CLEARED OF ALL MINES LAID BY THE RPF.

13. APPROXIMATELY 400,000 LONG-TERM RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE LOCATED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE LIVED FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THOSE FORMALLY CLASSIFIED AS REFUGEES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT

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AN ADDITIONAL 1 TO 2 MILLION RWANDANS, HUTU AND TUTSI ALIKE, LIVE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF COLONIAL ERA BOUNDARY DEMARCATIONS. UNHCR PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES ON RWANDAN REFUGEES ABROAD FOR THE REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN KINSHASA IN EARLY 1991:

- BURUNDI: 267,455.

- UGANDA: 73,154 IN UNHCR ADMINISTERED RURAL SETTLEMENTS (THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT AN ADDITIONAL 50 THOUSAND HAVE SPONTANEOUSLY SETTLED ELSEWHERE IN UGANDA. THE TOTAL FIGURE IS SUBJECT TO DISPUTE BECAUSE LARGE NUMBERS OF KINYARWANDA SPEAKING PEOPLES HAVE LIVED IN SOUTHERN UGANDA SINCE THE 1920'S IN TERRITORY THAT PREVIOUSLY WAS RULED BY THE TUTSI KING IN RWANDA.)

- TANZANIA: 22,300

- ZAIRE: APPROXIMATELY 30,000 (UNHCR HAS TRADITIONALLY ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 12 AND 20 THOUSAND RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE LIVING IN ZAIRE. THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT DISPUTES THIS FIGURE AND CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE 75 THOUSAND RWANDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE.)

- KENYA: 1,960

- U.S.A., EUROPE AND OTHER REGIONS: 10,970

14. RELIABLE FIGURES ON REPATRIATED RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT THE TOTAL FOR 1990 WAS CERTAINLY NO MORE THAN 25. SINCE 1984 THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAS ADMITTED APPROXIMATELY 500 RWANDAN REFUGEES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

THE RIGHT OF RETURN OF RWANDAN REFUGEES

15. IN LATE 1990 THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT FORMALLY AND PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHT OF RETURN OF ALL RWANDAN REFUGEES. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS VIEWED AS A RADICAL CHANGE IN POLICY, IN FACT, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAD FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHT OF RETURN OF RWANDAN REFUGEES AT THE OUTSET OF BILATERAL TALKS WITH UGANDA IN 1989. IN THE 1960'S, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT REPEATEDLY CALLED ON ALL RWANDANS DISPLACED BY ETHNIC VIOLENCE TO RETURN TO RWANDA. THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT WESTERN ASSISTANCE IN RE-INTEGRATING RWANDAN REFUGEES. RWANDA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES, AND WITH OVER 7 MILLION INHABITANTS IT IS THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRY IN AFRICA, AND CURRENTLY HAS THE WORLD'S HIGHEST FERTILITY RATE (OVER 8 CHILDREN PER CHILD BEARING AGE FEMALE).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

16. THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS SUMMARIZE THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN RWANDA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1990. ALL REFUGEE RELATED FIGURES AND STATISTICS USED IN THIS REPORT WERE OBTAINED FROM UNHCR KIGALI.

A) TOTAL REFUGEE POPULATION: 24,677 INCLUDING 23,601 "INTEGRATED BURUNDI REFUGEES" WITH PERMANENT RESIDENCY STATUS, 1,062 BURUNDI REFUGEES IN THE UNHCR CAMP AT GASELI, AND 14 AT THE UNHCR TRANSIT CAMP IN KIGALI. THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT WAS ARRANGED FOR 21

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REFUGEES FROM THE TRANSIT CAMP, INCLUDING THREE ZAIRIANS WHO WERE SETTLED IN BELGIUM, ONE ZAIRIAN SETTLED IN DENMARK AND 17 BURUNDIANS SETTLED IN CANADA. 15 NEW ARRIVALS WERE REGISTERED BY UNHCR IN 1990, INCLUDING ONE KENYAN, 2 UGANDANS AND 12 ZAIRIANS. APPROXIMATELY 7,000 RWANDANS FLED INTO NEIGHBORING UGANDA, BURUNDI AND ZAIRE TO ESCAPE

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VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCTOBER 1990 RPF INVASION.

B) NATIONAL/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEES: VIRTUALLY ALL REFUGEES IN RWANDA ARE ETHNIC HUTUS FROM BURUNDI, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 14 REFUGEES IN THE UNHCR TRANSIT CENTER IN KIGALI. THIS LATTER GROUP INCLUDES ONE KENYAN, TWO SOUTH AFRICANS, ONE GABONESE, TWO UGANDANS AND 8 ZAIRIANS.

C) NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED REFUGEES GRANTED PERMANENT RESIDENCY/ASYLUM IN 1990: AS NOTED ABOVE, THE GOR AGREED TO GRANT PERMANENT ASYLUM TO 108 SCHOOL AGED BURUNDI REFUGEES FROM THE GASELI CAMP IN 1990. HOWEVER, THE OCTOBER INVASION PREVENTED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNHCR FROM INTEGRATING THE CHILDREN INTO THE RWANDAN SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THE OFFER OF ASYLUM WAS NOT FULFILLED.

D) NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATIONS FROM RWANDA IN 1990: UNHCR ESTIMATES THAT SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 100 REFUGEES FROM THE GASELI CAMP RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO BURUNDI IN 1990, AND ADDITIONAL UNHCR SPONSORED REPATRIATIONS WERE PLANNED FOR EARLY 1991. THERE WERE NO INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATIONS.

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