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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
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	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/073W		

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P 081500Z NOV 93
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5001
 INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
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 GENEVA FOR RMA AND AID
 ADDIS ABABA FOR OFDA/FARNSWORTH
 ROMB FOR WFP
 YAOUNDE AND BUJUMBURA FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PEF, PHUM, PREL, RW, BY
 SUBJECT: BURUNDI REFUGEES: DRAMATIC PROPORTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
 DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200003723

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1. (LOU) SUMMARY. UNHCR REPORTS REFUGEE SITUATION REACHING DRAMATIC PROPORTIONS: ADVISES PLANNING FOR WORST CASE SCENARIO AND SUGGESTS PERMANENT TECHNICAL TEAM BE CONSIDERED FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL EXPERTS. HEALTH/SANITATION AND FOOD AVAILABILITY REMAIN SERIOUS PROBLEMS. SITE PLANNER WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND NGO'S. PROTECTION ISSUES MOUNTING. END SUMMARY.

2. (LOU) THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR/KIGALI REPRESENTATIVE AND EMERGENCY COORDINATOR GRANDI'S NOV. 5 REPORT TO UNHCR HEADQUARTERS, MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY. UNHCR BRIEFING FOR DONORS SET FOR LATE NOVEMBER G.

3. (LOU) OVERVIEW. UNHCR REPORTED TO GENEVA THAT THE EMERGENCY IS REACHING "DRAMATIC PROPORTIONS," WITH CONGESTED CAMPS IN ALREADY OVERPOPULATED AREAS. UNSATISFACTORY FOOD RATIONS, UNTENABLE SANITATION CONDITIONS AND LACK OF APPROPRIATE SHELTER ARE CONTRIBUTING TO DETERIORATING HEALTH STATUS OF

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REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED RELATIVELY HEALTHY. UNHCR ADVOCATES CAREFULLY PLANNED MULTI-SECTORAL (WATER, SANITATION, HEALTH, SHELTER, SITE PLANNING) PROGRAMME TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RWANDAN RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. REPORT CAUTIONS THAT ANY ACTION MUST CONSIDER POSSIBLE SOCIAL/POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS GIVEN CONTINUED DISPLACEMENT OF 350,000 PERSONS IN NORTHERN RWANDA AND LIKELIHOOD OF DROUGHT IN THE SOUTH. UNHCR EMERGENCY STAFF RECOMMEND PLANNING FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO ON GROUNDS THAT CONDITIONS REMAIN ADVERSE TO EARLY REPATRIATION.

4. (LOU) FOOD. UNHCR RECOMMENDS HEADQUARTERS WORK WITH WFP ON IMPROVING FOOD RATION. THE CEREALS RATION IS LOW, SUGAR IS UNAVAILABLE, MAIZE NEEDS TO BE MILLED, AND BEANS ARE SOON TO BECOME UNAVAILABLE.

5. (LOU) SITES. UNHCR SITE PLANNER IS WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NGO'S ON MAKING READY 19 SITES IDENTIFIED. SOME WILL INVOLVE MOVING REFUGEES.

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6. (LOU) IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS. UNHCR IS CONCLUDING AGREEMENTS WITH THE BELGIAN RED CROSS AND THREE MSF'S (BELGIUM, HOLLAND, FRANCE) SO FUNDS CAN BE RELEASED. (COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED CARE INTERNATIONAL TO ENSURE IT CONCLUDES AGREEMENT EARLY TO ASSURE FUNDING FOR ITS WORK IN WATER SECTOR. WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER EARMARK. END COMMENT.)

7. (LOU) ASSESSMENT. UNHCR TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WATER, SAMITATION, AND HEALTH CONCLUDED ASSESSMENT 11/5. RESULTS LIKELY TO BE PRESENTED TO 11/8 DONOR MEETING. UNHCR/KIGALI RECOMMENDING MORE PERMANENT TECHNICAL TEAM BE FIELDDED TO RWANDA, POSSIBLY WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, ONCE THESE EXPERTS DEPART.

8. (LOU) PRIORITY NEEDS. UNHCR REPORTS THAT IT IS DEVELOPING A DOCUMENT TO HELP HEADQUARTERS DETERMINE CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT, LOCAL PURCHASES, PAYMENTS TO PARTNERS, AND ADDITIONAL STAFF. IF SUCH A DOCUMENT IS

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5002
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DISTRIBUTED AT DONOR MEETING, WILL FAX TO RP.

9. (C) PROTECTION. UNHCR/KIGALI REP RODRIGUEZ ADVISED DCM THAT CHARGES ARE EMERGING OF PALIPEHUTU TRAINING BEING CONDUCTED IN RWANDA AMONG REFUGEES. HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE AREA SOUTH OF KIGALI KNOWN AS BUGESERA. HE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE CONCERNS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO SAID THERE ARE REPORTS OF BURUNDI OFFICIALS CROSSING INTO RWANDA AND PROPAGANDIZING AMONG REFUGEES FOR THEIR EARLY RETURN TO BURUNDI.

10. (C) COMMENT. SIMILARY PROTECTION ISSUES HAVE ARISEN IN PAST BURUNDI REFUGEE SITUATIONS. THE FORMER CHARGE, WHICH WAS NEVER PROVEN, LED IN 1992 TO THE REMOVAL OF REFUGEES FROM MASSACRES IN CIBITOKI TO

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A CAMP TO THE NORTHEAST OF KIGALI. THE LATTER IS
REMINISCENT OF REPORTS THAT THE SUDDEN RETURN OF
REFUGEES IN 1988 WAS DUE IN PART TO CAMP RUMORS THAT
REFUGEES WHO DID NOT RETURN BY PLANTING TIME WOULD
LOSE THEIR LAND. END COMMENT.

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