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EXCISE

PB-1

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	EUR-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	PM-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/034W				

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O 011132Z JUN 92
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0803
 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

PB
 Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 () Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify
 Date 9/8/98 Exemption B1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 02203

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINS, PGOV, RW
 SUBJECT: TENSIONS IN RWANDA
 REF: KIGALI 2184

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUMMARY

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 2. RWANDA HAS EXPERIENCED FOUR STRAIGHT DAYS OF
 POLITICAL TENSION. IT BEGAN WITH POLITICAL CLASHES
 BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS IN KIGALI ON ASCENSION DAY,
 THURSDAY (REFTEL). THURSDAY'S EVENTS LEFT AT LEAST
 TWO DEAD AND AN ESTIMATED FORTY PERSONS INJURED. IT
 ALSO LED TO A TAXI STRIKE ON FRIDAY WHEN CABDRIVERS
 DEMANDED THE ARREST OF A PERPETRATOR OF THURSDAY'S
 PROBLEMS. ALSO ON FRIDAY, APPARENTLY REACTING TO A
 DEMOBILIZATION STORY, A BATTALION LEFT THE FRONT AND
 MOVED INTO RUHENGERI PRIMARILY FOR LOOT. WHEN LOYAL

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TROOPS OPPOSED THEM, MAJOR VIOLENCE ENSUED, WITH ORDER RESTORED ONLY BY SATURDAY MORNING. THE TOLL WAS ABOUT 15 DEAD AND MANY INJURED. ON SATURDAY THE VIOLENCE SPREAD TO GISENYI WHERE MUTINOUS SOLDIERS BEGAN LOOTING AND WERE PUT DOWN BY OTHER TROOPS WHO THEN HAD TO CLEAN UP A TOWN OF CIVILIAN LOOTERS AS WELL AS MILITARY. THE RESULT WAS ANOTHER 15 DEAD AND SCORES INJURED. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE ACTUAL VIOLENCE ON SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY REMAINED TENSE, FILLED WITH RUMORS OF MORE VIOLENCE IN KIGALI, AND RWANDA REMAINS VERY WORRIED TODAY, EVEN THOUGH BUSINESS IS OPEN AS USUAL ON MONDAY MORNING. END SUMMARY.

RUHENGERI

3. THE APPARENT TRIGGER FOR THE UNREST IN RUHENGERI WAS INADEQUATE REPORTING IN THE KINYARWANDA RADIO OF THE GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DEMOBILIZATION OF THE ARMY. IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE BROADCAST, IT WAS NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING PLANS FOR RETRAINING

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DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, A COMMENDABLE INDICATION OF ADVANCED PLANNING AND OPTIMISM BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN KINYARWANDA IT SIMPLY CAME OUT THAT THE ARMY WAS TO BE DEMOBILIZED. TROOPS OF THE 32ND BATTALION APPARENTLY RETURNED TO RUHENGERI THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 29 FROM THEIR POSITION IN THE VOLCANS PARC AT THE FRONT AND BEGAN FIRING THEIR GUNS AND LOOTING SHOPS. THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY THE 22ND BATTALION BASED IN RUHENGERI WHICH SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN ORDER. MORTAR ROUNDS AND SHOOTING WERE HEARD THROUGH THE NIGHT. BY SATURDAY MORNING RUHENGERI WAS RESTORED TO CALM. RADIO RWANDA ANNOUNCED A TOTAL OF FIFTEEN DEAD AND MANY INJURED IN THE RUHENGERI TURMOIL. EARLY REPORTS FROM MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN KIGALI INDICATE MOST OF THE DEAD WERE MILITARY. THERE ARE NO AMERICANS IN RUHENGERI, AND THE DIGIT FUND PERSONNEL IN KARISOKE ARE ALL SAFE.

4. THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL REPORTING OF THE PROBLEMS IN RUHENGERI EXCEPT FOR A REPORT THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WENT UP TO RUHENGERI TO SPEAK WITH THE TROOPS ON SATURDAY. REPORTS REACHING KIGALI SATURDAY

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EVENING INDICATED CIVILIAN ROADBLOCKS HAD BEEN
ERECTED AT TWO SITES ON THE MAIN ROAD BETWEEN
RUHENGERI AND GISENYI. THESE WERE DISMANTLED,
ACCORDING TO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, FOLLOWING AN
ORDER FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTER.

GISENYI

5. TROUBLE BEGAN IN GISENYI SATURDAY AFTERNOON WHEN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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SOLDIERS BASED IN GISENYI BEGAN SHOOTING AND
LOOTING. SEVERAL SHOPS AND HOMES WERE LOOTED, BUT BY
THE END OF THE DAY THE COMMANDER OF THE GISENYI
MILITARY UNIT SUPPORTED BY LOYAL TROOPS HAD MOVED TO
CONTROL THE TOWN. THE FRENCH REPORTED ABOUT 15 DEAD
AND ABOUT 50 ARRESTED TO RESTORE A TENSE CALM TO
GISENYI BY SUNDAY MORNING.

6. ON SUNDAY NIGHT RADIO RWANDA REPORTED ON THE DEAD
AND INJURED, AND ANNOUNCED THAT MUCH OF THE LOOT HAD
BEEN RECOVERED. THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TREATED THE
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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GISENYI PROBLEM ALSO AS A MUTINY IN THE ARMY, WHILE GOVERNMENT SOURCES TREATED IT AS MORE ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF INDISCIPLINE. A CURFEW WAS REIMPOSED ON GISENYI FROM 6:00 P.M. UNTIL 5:00 A.M. AMERICANS AT A NEARBY ADVENTIST COLLEGE WERE UNAFFECTED BY THE VIOLENCE AND REMAIN SAFE.

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7. [

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8. REMEMBERING THE MUTINY A YEAR AGO WHICH STARTED IN RUHENGERI, MOVED TO GISENYI AND ENDED UP THE THIRD DAY IN KIGALI, KIGALI REMAINED APPREHENSIVE THROUGHOUT THE DAY SUNDAY. SURVEILLANCE BY THE POST SECURITY OFFICER, THE GUARD CONTRACTOR, AND A SOURCE IN THE PRESIDENCY INDICATED CALM THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL IN THE EVENING, AND LIFE HAS RETURNED TO A

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JITTERY NORMAL JUNE 1.

COMMENT

9. CAUSES FOR THE TENSION ARE MULTIPLE. IN ADDITION TO THE UNFORTUNATE STORY ON DEMOBILIZATION, MUTUAL ACCUSATIONS BETWEEN MUGENZI OF THE PL AND NGIRUMPATSE OF THE MRND THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY. THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PARTIES OF OPPOSITION AND THE RPF IN BRUSSELS ON FRIDAY ALSO CONTRIBUTED, AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PARTIES AND THE RPF BLAMED "PROVOCATION OF THE REGIME

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 KIGALI 02203 02 OF 02 011138Z OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA, THE MRND AND THE MRND YOUTH MILITIA FOR THURSDAY'S TROUBLES. EACH OF THESE FACTORS IS CITED AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TENSION, BUT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY CAUSES, NOR DOES THIS LIST RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BROADER CONSPIRACY, FROM THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT, SEEKING TO EXPLOIT KNOWN FEARS IN THE SOCIETY.

10. ALTHOUGH BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER MADE STATEMENTS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY INTENDED TO CALM THE TENSIONS, NEITHER RECEIVED ADEQUATE COVERAGE ON THE NATIONAL RADIO BECAUSE THE RADIO JOURNALISTS WERE ON STRIKE FROM FRIDAY NOON UNTIL LATE SATURDAY. THUS THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT RWANDANS GOT TO TEMPER THE WILD RUMORS THAT WERE CIRCULATING WAS FROM EXAGGERATED ACCOUNTS ON BBC, RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL AND BURUNDI RADIO AND TV. RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE OF POSSIBLE TROUBLES ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. WE HAVE EXERCISED THE WARDEN NET FOUR TIMES IN THE PAST FOUR DAYS, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT IS POSED TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY OR OTHER FOREIGN COMMUNITIES IN KIGALI. WE WILL HOLD AN EAC MEETING JUNE 2 TO CONSIDER EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DETERIORATION OF COHESIVENESS IN THE ARMED FORCES. WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN THE TRAVEL ADVISORY. END COMMENT.

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