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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DIM-01
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01
	IML-00	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01
	TRSE-00	T-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/045W		

-----33D89E 241328Z /38

O 241324Z MAR 94  
 FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3168  
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
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 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE  
 USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE  
 ATO AFRICA IMMEDIATE

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0859

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DEPT FOR AF/C, DSS/OP, DS/OP/AF, USAID  
LONDON FOR MCKINLEY  
YAOUNDE FOR DAO  
EUCOM FOR J3

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, BY  
SUBJECT: STATUS OF SITUATION IN BURUNDI--MARCH 24, 1994

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
HARRY R. MELONE

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REFS: A) REILLY/OPS CENTER TELECON 3/24/94;  
- B) STATE 076599 (NOTAL)

1. (LOU) CONTRARY TO UNCONFIRMED REUTERS PRESS REPORT CITED REE TEL, THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT/NOT BEEN OVERTHROWN. AT LEAST SOME ERRONEOUS REPORTS ABOUT BURUNDI HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO SOME GRB OFFICIALS, LIKE THE INTERIOR MINISTER. VISITING AF DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR ARLENE RENDER, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, MET WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER KANYENKIKO AND PRESIDENT CYPRIEN NTARYAMIRA AT THEIR OFFICES IN THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING TODAY FROM 0915 TO 1115. SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW. FOLLOWING THESE MEETINGS DAS BUSHNELL WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS IN WHICH SHE STRONGLY URGED A HALT IN THE KILLINGS AND VIOLENCE AND FOR AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO PEACE.

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2. (U) THE OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL AMCIT COMMUNITY REMAINS SAFE, INCLUDING VISITING AF OFFICIALS WHO ARE DUE TO DEPART ON SATURDAY MORNING'S SABENA FLIGHT. (FYI: PLANNED TRIP TO THE INTERIOR ON MARCH 25 BY DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER HAS BEEN CANCELLED/CANCELLED. END FYI.) DESPITE AN UNSTABLE SITUATION IN BUJUMBURA OUTLYING AREAS, THE AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE OPEN.

3. (U) GRB OFFICIALS ARE CONFRONTED BY A SERIOUS SITUATION IN SOME SUBURBAN QUARTIERS OF BUJUMBURA (NOT/NOT AFFECTING BUJUMBURA CENTER WHERE MISSION PERSONNEL LIVE AND WORK) WHERE ELEMENTS OF THE BURUNDI SECURITY FORCES WERE ORDERED BACK TO PATROLS TO QUELL VIOLENCE. SOME OF THE VIOLENCE HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ARMED HUTU ASSAILANTS. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME ELEMENTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SERIOUS EXCESSES. IN CLASHES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE WEEKENDS, MANY DEATHS ARE SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED BUT THERE IS NO/NO ESTIMATE OF OVERALL NUMBERS. LATE YESTERDAY, RSO OBSERVATIONS IN SOME CALM AREAS LIKE KAMENGE AND KINAMA INDICATED MORE THAN EIGHTY (80) DEAD. THIS MORNING PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA TOLD AF VISITORS THAT HE HAD NO CREDIBLE ESTIMATES BUT BELIEVED THE FIGURE COULD BE IN THE HUNDREDS.

4. (U) THE GRB YESTERDAY ISSUED ORDERS FOR THE MILITARY

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TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AFFECTED AREAS, BUT AS OF THIS MORNING HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE WAS STILL REPORTED IN KAMENGE AND KINAMA IN QUARTIERS, PREDOMINATELY HUTU. THERE WERE REPORTS LAST NIGHT THAT THE GENDARME CHIEF OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAFF HAS BEEN FIRED SINCE HE WAS UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY COMMAND AND CONTROL HIS FORCES. DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER HAVE REQUESTED A MEETING TOMORROW WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE BURUNDI CRISIS.

5. (LOU) COMMENT: GRB LEADERS ARE STUCK IN A SITUATION WHERE THE MILITARY STATES IT IS CONFRONTING ARMED CIVILIAN EXTREMISTS IN COUNTRY AND, IN GENERAL, AS AN ARMED POPULATION, HUTU AND TUTSI. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME SECURITY FORCES ORDERED TO THE QUARTIER BY THE GRB ARE REFUSING TO WITHDRAW AS NOW DIRECTED SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED. THE PRESIDENT MADE A STRONG STATEMENT ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT CALLING ON ALL BURUNDIANS TO RESTORE CALM, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. HE TOLD AF VISITORS

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-----33D8A7 241329Z /38

O 241324Z MAR 94  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3169  
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AEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE  
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AEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
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THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH ALL POLITICAL  
PARTIES TODAY TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT POINT  
THE WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. END COMMENT.

6. (U) EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND UPDATE THE  
SITUATION. LANGE

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