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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LUANDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092124

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CASC, PREL

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SUBJECT: WGRW01: SITREP 1

1. (U) AMB. RAWSON CALLED AT 4 PM EDT AND REPORTED RELATIVE QUIET, ALTHOUGH A PERIOD OF SHELLING HAD JUST STARTED. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF AMERICANS KILLED OR INJURED. AMERICANS ARE BEING ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME AND STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.

2. (U) THE RPF BATTALION LEFT THEIR COMPOUND THIS AFTERNOON AND BEGAN FIGHTING WITH THE RWANDAN MILITARY. THE AIRPORT IS CONTROLLED BY RWANDAN GOVERNMENT PARACOMMANDOS. NO POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE COME FORWARD IN THE CRISIS. RAWSON REPORTED THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY IS APPARENTLY CALM, BUT THERE IS SOME VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH.

3. (U) THE MILITARY ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A CRISIS COMMITTEE AND CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT FRIDAY MORNING. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE MINISTERS OF SOCIAL WORK, INFORMATION, AND AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN KILLED. ELEVEN UNAMIR ARE

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CONFIRMED DEAD. UNAMIR'S KIGALI SECTOR HEADQUARTERS WAS HIT AND CAUGHT FIRE, BUT THERE WERE NO APPARENT INJURIES.

4. (U) THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE BELGIANS WERE CONSIDERING EVACUATION, BUT THE FRENCH THOUGHT IT PREMATURE. HE THOUGHT EVACUATION BY LAND TO THE SOUTH WOULD BE THE LEAST DANGEROUS OPTION. OF THE 250 AMCITS, ABOUT 170 WOULD WANT TO LEAVE.

5. (U) THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED A STATEMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE AND ATTACKS ON UN PERSONNEL. THE STATEMENT DEMANDS THAT FREE ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT BE RESTORED AND URGES ALL PARTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORD AND RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE.

6. (C) M APPROVED ORDERED DEPARTURE OF ALL USG EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS IN KIGALI. THE BELGIAN EMBASSY SAID THE GOB DECIDED TO DEFER DECISION ON EVACUATION UNTIL TOMORROW. ALTHOUGH BURUNDI HAS STAYED QUIET SO FAR, ORDERED

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DEPARTURE FOR DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL FOR
BUJUMBURA HAS BEEN REQUESTED.

7. KIGALI - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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