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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: MEGRANDFIELD
APPROVED BY: AF/FO: PXBUSHNELL
AF/C: RJFENDRICK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
NSC WASHDC 2981
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TAGS: PHUM PREL ASEC OFDP RW
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS RWANDAN THREATS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVIST MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. DEPARTMENT CONVOKED RWANDAN AMBASSADOR
UWIMANA APRIL 22 TO EXPRESS DEPARTMENT'S OUTRAGE OVER
THREATS MADE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 21 TO HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVIST MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA. UWIMANA PROMISED TO
INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE THREAT HAD BEEN MADE BY A RWANDAN
EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER OR DEPENDENT. END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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3. RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA, IN WASHINGTON FOR MEETINGS ARRANGED BY AFRICA WATCH WITH DEPARTMENT (HA AND AF), NSC AND SENATORS KENNEDY AND SIMON, WAS THREATENED AFTERNOON OF APRIL 21 AS SHE LEFT A BRIEFING AT THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES OFFICE. ONE PERSON IN A GROUP OF RWANDANS WAITING OUTSIDE WHEN THE MEETING ENDED MADE A DIRECT THREAT AGAINST MS. MUJAWAMARIYA'S CHILDREN, WHO ARE IN HIDING IN RWANDA. THE GROUP INCLUDED RWANDAN EMBASSY STAFF AND SPOUSES, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE PERSON WHO MADE THE THREAT WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE EMBASSY. WHEN SENATOR KENNEDY CALLED AMBASSADOR UWIMANA LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 21 TO EXPRESS HIS OUTRAGE OVER THE THREAT, THE SENATOR REPORTED THAT AMB. UWIMANA HIMSELF MADE FURTHER THREATENING STATEMENTS ABOUT MS. MUJAWAMARIYA'S CHILDREN. (COMMENT: SINCE NEITHER KENNEDY NOR UWIMANA SPEAKS THE OTHER'S LANGUAGE, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A MISCOMMUNICATION. END COMMENT.)

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4. DEPARTMENT CONVOKED RWANDAN AMBASSADOR ALOYS UWIMANA MORNING OF APRIL 22 TO EXPRESS OUTRAGE AT THE THREAT AGAINST MS. MUJAWAMARIYA. AF DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL TOLD AMBASSADOR UWIMANA THAT IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE THREAT WAS ISSUED BY SOMEONE FROM THE RWANDAN EMBASSY, THIS BEHAVIOR IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. AMBASSADOR UWIMANA, VISIBLY UPSET AND ANGRY, TRIED TO DIVERT THE DISCUSSION OFF ON AN IRRELEVANT TANGENT, AND MADE REFERENCE TO MS. MUJAWAMARIYA'S COMPORIMENT AND RELATIONSHIP WITH HER EX-HUSBAND, WHOM HE ALLEGED WAS A MEMBER OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY. DAS BUSHNELL STERNLY REMINDED AMB. UWIMANA THAT THE ISSUE AT HAND WAS THE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE MAKING THREATS AGAINST MS. MUJAWAMARIYA HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. DAS BUSHNELL SAID THAT MS. MUJAWAMARIYA HAD TOLD HER THAT THE PERSON WHO MADE THE THREAT WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE RWANDAN EMBASSY. DAS BUSHNELL WENT ON TO REITERATE THAT NO MATTER WHO UTTERED THE THREAT, THE IMPRESSION HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT AND BY SEVERAL KEY SENATORS WAS THAT THE THREAT CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE RWANDAN EMBASSY, AND THAT THIS TYPE OF BEHAVIOR GIVES SENATORS, THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE NSC A VERY BAD IMPRESSION OF RWANDA. SHE URGED THE AMBASSADOR TO INVESTIGATE WHO HAD ISSUED THE THREAT, AND TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF IT WAS AN EMBASSY

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DIPLOMAT OR DEPENDENT.

6. AMBASSADOR UWIMANA DENIED MAKING ANY THREAT HIMSELF
IN THE CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR KENNEDY, AND SAID THAT
HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE SENATOR TO BE REFERRING TO THREATS
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TO THE CHILDREN IN RWANDA, NOT IN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR
UWIMANA SAID THAT IF THE THREAT ISSUED AFTER THE REFUGEE
MEETING APRIL 21 TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY AN
EMBASSY OFFICER OR DEPENDENT, HE WOULD TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY AND WOULD APOLOGIZE. HE ALSO NOTED,
HOWEVER, THAT MANY PRIVATE RWANDAN CITIZENS HAD ATTENDED
THE REFUGEE BRIEFING AND THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY OVER
THEM.

7. DAS BUSHNELL URGED THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN TO FIND OUT
WHO HAD ISSUED THE THREAT, AND TO LET HER KNOW AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. AMB. UWIMANA PROMISED TO CONTACT DAS BUSHNELL
AS SOON AS HE OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. THE
MEETING ENDED CORDIALLY.

8. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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