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INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
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	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00
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DRAFTED BY: AF:PBUSHNELL:JR
APPROVED BY: AF:PBUSHNELL
AF/C:ARENDER

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115709

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, ET, TZ, UG, CG, EG, FR, BE, SZ
SUBJECT: RPF GENERAL KAGAME SEES UNHCR TEAM VISIT AS
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FASTEST MEANS TO END MASSACRES

REF: (A) STATE 114678 (B) STATE 114677 (C) STATE 114636

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 1, RPF COMMANDING GENERAL PAUL KAGAME TOLD AS DAS BUSHNELL THAT THE IMPENDING VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM FROM UNHCR MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MECHANISM AT HAND TO HALT MASSACRES HE CLAIMED WERE CONTINUING IN GOR CONTROLLED TERRITORY. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SEND A STRONG MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING THE MASSACRES THAT THEY

CANNOT KILL WITH IMPUNITY. A COMBINATION OF UN/SAF OR OAU INTERVENTION FORCE TO PROTECT REFUGEES WAS ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO THE RPF; CONTINUING TO USE SYG REP BOOH BOOH AS A MEDIATOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS NOT. KAGAME CONFIRMED THAT FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING IN KIGALI EVEN AS UNAMIR GENERAL DELLAIRE CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO SEEK AGREEMENT TO A CEASE-FIRE. KAGAME REITERATED THAT THE RPF WAS KEEPING THE BORDER TO TANZANIA OPEN AND PLEDGED HE WOULD SAFEGUARD THE LIVES OF RWANDANS AND RELIEF PERSONNEL IN

AREAS UNDER HIS CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. AS HE HAD PROMISED BUSHNELL ON APRIL 30, KAGAME TELEPHONED ON MAY 1 TO DISCUSS WAYS TO END THE ON-GOING MASSACRES AND ACHIEVE A CEASE FIRE. HE STRESSED THAT HIS FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS SAVING PEOPLE'S LIVES. MANY IN GOR CONTROLLED TERRITORY CONTINUE TO HIDE OUT IN THE BUSHES, HE SAID; WHAT WAS SAVING THEM WAS THEIR OWN DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AND THE GOR DECISION TO PLACE GENS D'ARMES ON THE FRONT LINES RATHER THAN TO USE THEM AS HUNT CIVILIANS. HE

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EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE TOWNS OF BUTARE AND CHYANGUGU, AND FOR THOSE TRAPPED IN THEIR HOMES IN KIGALI AND IN THE HOTEL MILLE COLLINES. UNAMIR GENERAL DALLAIRE'S EFFORTS TO SECURE A SAFE PASSAGE FROM THE GOR FOR KIGALI AND MILLE COLLINES RESIDENTS HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL, KAGAME SAID.

3. KAGAME REPEATED HIS ASSERTION OF APRIL 30 THAT A CEASE FIRE WOULD NOT STOP THE CIVILIAN MASSACRES BEHIND GOR LINES. THIS WAS WHY THE RPF HAD CONDITIONED ITS AGREEMENT TO A CEASE FIRE ON AN END TO THE KILLINGS, HE SAID. THE GOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS CALLED FOR THE RPF TO RETREAT BACK TO LINES HELD BEFORE THE APRIL 6 PLANE CRASH (ALONG THE UGANDA BORDER). A MOVE THE RPF WILL NOT CONSIDER. THAT SAID, KAGAME ASSURED BUSHNELL THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT MWYNYIE TO CONFIRM RPF PARTICIPATION AT THE TALKS TO BE CONVENED IN ARUSHA ON MAY 3.

4. BUSHNELL OUTLINED FOR KAGAME ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (REFTEL). KAGAME AGREED WITH EACH OF THEM, ASSERTING THAT A COMBINED UN/OAU OR EVEN AN OAU INTERVENTION FORCE TO PROTECT REFUGEES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RWANDAN BORDER WOULD MEET WITH RPF APPROVAL. HE

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EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR THE RPF'S ARMS EMBARGO, STATING HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO SECURE AN EMBARGO FOR SOME TIME. IN RESPONSE TO BUSHNELL'S QUESTION ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF SYG REP BOOH BOOH, KAGAME SAID THAT BOOH BOOH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE RPF AS A MEDIATOR.

5. AS A PRACTICAL MEANS TO END CIVILIAN KILLING
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IMMEDIATELY, KAGAME SAID A VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM FROM THE UNHCR MIGHT DETER THE GOR FORCES FROM CONTINUING THE MASSACRES. HE URGED THAT THE VISIT INCLUDE TRIPS TO BUTARE, CHYANGUGU AND AREAS OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL WHERE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES. UNAMIR, HE SAID, HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THOSE AREAS. KAGAME ALSO STRESSED THAT THE TEAM SHOULD REQUIRE GOR PROTECTION, IN ADDITION TO A UNAMIR ESCORT. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL. IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS OF THE MASSACRES IMMEDIATELY, OR ELSE THEY WOULD CONTINUE. KAGAME SAID THE TEAM WOULD BE WELCOMED INTO RPF TERRITORY, ALONG WITH ANY RELIEF AGENCY THAT SOUGHT ENTRY.

6. KAGAME STRESSED THAT ANOTHER WAY TO BRING THE MASSACRES TO AN END QUICKLY WAS TO SEND THE WORD TO THOSE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE GOR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD NOT ALLOW THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS TO CONTINUE WITH IMPUNITY. HE CLAIMED IGNORANCE OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT OF APRIL 18 WHICH NAMED NAMES. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RADIO ADDRESS OF APRIL 30.

7. BUSHNELL'S QUERY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE BORDER WITH TANZANIA MET WITH A STRONG ASSERTION THAT THE RPF WAS KEEPING THE BORDER OPEN. KAGAME STATED THAT AFTER THEIR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON APRIL 30 HE HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE BORDER HAD NOT BEEN CLOSED. HE SAID THE RPF WAS ON RECORD FOR HAVING REQUESTED THE GOT TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO CROSS THE BORDER BOTH WAYS IN THE EVENT SOME WANTED TO

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RETURN TO RWANDA. REFUGEES STREAMING ACROSS UNARMED AND UNIMPEDED, HE NOTED INCLUDED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, CIVILIANS THE RPF RECOGNIZED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN MASSACRES, AND EVEN SOME GOR SOLDIERS.

8. SINCE KAGAME'S ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WAS A MOBILE TELEPHONE NOT ALWAYS NEAR HIM, BUSHNELL ASKED THE GENERAL TO CONTACT HER AGAIN ON MAY 2 TO REVIEW EVENTS OF THE DAY. SHE STRESSED THAT IT WAS CRITICAL THAT THE RPF CONTINUE TO KEEP ALL BORDERS UNDER THEIR CONTROL OPEN, THAT THEY PROVIDE PROTECTION TO ANY RELIEF WORKERS SEEKING ACCESS TO AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL, AND THAT THEY NOT HARM UNARMED CIVILIANS. KAGAME SAID HE HAD BEEN DOING HIS BEST IN EACH OF THOSE AREAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

9. COMMENT:

[REDACTED]

GIVEN

THAT KAGAME AND GOR CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL BIZIMUNGU (WITH WHOM BUSHNELL SPOKE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MAY 1), HAVE BOTH AGREED THAT A VISIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM FROM UNHCR IS VITAL TO STOP THE MACCACRES AND TO REVEAL THE TRUTH, THIS VISIT SEEMS TO BE THE MOST SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE MEANS AVAILABLE TO DETER CONTINUING VIOLENCE

AGAINST INNOCENT FEOFLE. END COMMENT

BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED TALBOTT

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