

SECRET

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131705Z DEC 90

FROM

FM SSO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

CONTROLS

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SECTION 01 OF 03

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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH INTSUM--MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA 685-90/13 DEC 90

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(U) THE ITEM CONTAINED IN THIS INTSUM HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY

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RWANDA: NEW REBEL OFFENSIVE. (C)

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RWANDA: NEW REBEL OFFENSIVE. (⊖)

AS OF 1925Z 12 DEC 9U

1. (⊖) REBEL FORCES APPEAR TO BE MOUNTING A NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALONG THE UGANDAN BORDER.
2. (⊖) FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 3U OCTOBER, RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) REBELS CONTROL RWANDAN TERRITORY. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 12 DECEMBER, 250 TO 300 RPF TROOPS ATTACKED GOVERNMENT FORCES (FAR) AND CAPTURED THE TOWN OF KANINGA, 3 KM NORTHEAST OF GATUNA. THE FAR HAS SENT A COMPANY FROM ITS PARA-COMMANDO BATTALION, ONE OF **RWANDA'S** BEST UNITS, TO HELP CONDUCT A COUNTERATTACK WITH THE UNIT THAT HAD PULLED BACK WHEN ATTACKED BY THE TWO RPF COMPANIES.
3. (⊖) COMMENT: THE PARA-COMMANDO BATTALION EARNED PRAISE 1N OCTOBER FOR NEVER RETREATING BEFORE RPF TROOPS DURING EARLIER FIGHTING, AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO RETAKE THE TOWN UNLESS THE RPF BRINGS IN REINFORCEMENTS. CONDUCTING A CONVENTIONAL ATTACK AGAINST A GOVERNMENT-HELD POSITION WOULD ON THE SURFACE APPEAR TO VIOLATE THE RPF'S POLICY OF HIT-AND-RUN TACTICS. HOWEVER, THE RPF MAY BE TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS CAPABILITY, THEREBY SENDING A SIGNAL TO KIGALI THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO NEGOTIATE. REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE NEXT BATTLE FOR KANINGA, THE RPF IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SERIOUSLY THREATEN THE KIGALI GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR TERM. (~~DECL OADR~~)

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