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072050Z JUN 91

FROM

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO

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

CONTROLS

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PASS: (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

SERIAL: DODID 158-5A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: GOVERNMENT-REBEL CONFLICT. (U)

DOI: 7 JUN 91 (AS OF 1445 EDT)

TEXT: 1. (C) KIGALI MAY BE MAKING GAINS IN ITS POLITICAL ASSAULT ON THE RUANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF).

2. (C) THE RPF REMAINS STEADFAST ON ITS MAJOR DEMANDS FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING. IT INSISTS THAT THE RWANDAN ARMY RESPECT THE CEASE-FIRE DECLARED EARLIER THIS YEAR, THAT AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT REPLACE PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AS PART OF THE REFORM PROCESS, AND THAT ELECTIONS BE HELD. IN ADDITION, ALL REFUGEES MUST BE REPATRIATED AND RESETTLED SO THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN FREE ELECTIONS, A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ALL POLITICAL FORCES IN THE COUNTRY MUST BE FORMED TO DETERMINE REFORMS, AND THE RPF MUST BE INTEGRATED INTO THE ARMY. THE RPF ALLEGEDLY IS WILLING TO REVEAL ITS POSITIONS WITHIN RWANDAN TERRITORY IF GUARANTEES ARE MADE THAT THE INFORMATION IS NOT PROVIDED TO KIGALI.

3. (C) THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY ONE DEMAND: THAT THE RPF LAY DOWN ITS ARMS AND ABANDON THE WAR. HABYARIMANA DISAGREES WITH SOME RPF CLAIMS AND MAINTAINS THAT THE REBELS HOLD NO TERRITORY IN **RWANDA** BUT OPERATE FROM INSIDE UGANDA. HE HAS STATED THAT ANY REFUGEE WHO WISHES TO RETURN IS FREE TO DO SO WITH THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

4. (C) AT THE RECENT ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) SUMMIT, HABYARIMANA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE HIS CAUSE. HE CALLED FOR A "PAN-AFRICAN INTERPOSITIONAL FORCE," STATING THAT THE CURRENT OAU MILITARY OPERATIONS GROUP WAS INEFFECTIVE. BY PROJECTING HIMSELF AS A LEADER OFFERING THE OLIVE BRANCH TO THE REBELS, HE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING A PROMISE FROM THE OAU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL

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"MINISUMMIT." THE SUMMIT WOULD INCLUDE THE OAU'S NEW PRESIDENT, NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE BABANGIDA, AND LEADERS FROM ZAIRE, UGANDA, TANZANIA, BURUNDI, AND **RWANDA**.

5. ~~(S)~~ COMMENT: HABYARIMANA IS UNLIKELY TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS POSITION, AND THE RPF IS UNLIKELY TO NEGOTIATE SO LONG AS HE REMAINS PRESIDENT. NONETHELESS, CONSIDERING THAT KIGALI IS GAINING ATTENTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND THAT DESERTIONS FROM THE RPF ARE REPORTEDLY INCREASING, THE REBELS CAN ILL-AFFORD TO CONTINUE THEIR INTRANSIGENCE INDEFINITELY.

ADMIN

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