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FROM

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

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TO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

(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 346-9A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: NEW REBEL OFFENSIVE. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 12 DEC 90 (AS OF 1525 EST)

TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) REBEL FORCES APPEAR TO BE MOUNTING A NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALONG THE UGANDAN BORDER.

2. (~~C/NF~~) FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 30 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. (~~C/NF~~) COMMENT: THE PARA-COMMANDO BATTALION EARNED PRAISE IN 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.

ADMIN

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