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FROM

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

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

SERIAL: DODID 66-20A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY DEADLOCK. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 7 MAR 91 (AS OF 1832 EST)

- TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) A DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY IMPASSE PERSISTS IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REBELS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN **RWANDA**, DESPITE THE POSITIVE SIGNS THAT APPEARED IN LATE FEBRUARY.
2. (~~C/NF~~) ON 20 FEBRUARY PARTICIPANTS IN THE DAR ES SALAM CONFERENCE AGREED TO HELP THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATE A FORMAL CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS TO BE SIGNED WITHIN 2 WEEKS. HOWEVER, IN THE 14 DAYS SINCE THE CONFERENCE. FIGHTING HAS CONTINUED IN NORTHERN **RWANDA**, AND NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING A CEASE-FIRE AND DIRECT RPF-RWANDAN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS.
3. (~~C/NF~~) MOST OF THE CLASHES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE HAVE BEEN SMALL SKIRMISHES INVOLVING RPF AND RWANDAN ARMED FORCES (FAR) PATROLS. THE RPF, HOWEVER, HAS ALSO STAGED A FEW BATTALION-SIZE ASSAULTS ON FAR POSITIONS. ON THE 22D THE FAR REPULSED AN ATTACK BY 300 TO 400 RPF TROOPS ON ITS OUTPOST SOUTH OF VOLCANO PARK. NONETHELESS, ON 27 FEBRUARY AND 4 MARCH, RPF FORCES, ESTIMATED TO BE 500 STRONG, ATTACKED AND OVERRAN FAR POSTS AT NYAGAHINGA AND RWEMPESHA. BOTH OF THESE RPF THRUSTS WERE CONTAINED, BUT THE FAR MET STIFF RESISTANCE WHEN IT LAUNCHED A COUNTERATTACK AGAINST RPF POSITIONS IN NYAGAHINGA.
4. (~~C/NF~~) KIGALI'S DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE TO THESE EVENTS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY. ONE MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY SAID ON THE 4TH THAT THE CONTINUED FIGHTING PRECLUDES DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF. IN CONTRAST, ANOTHER MINISTER

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OF THE PRESIDENCY ASKED US OFFICIALS TO PERSUADE UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI TO HELP BEGIN A DIALOGUE BETWEEN KIGALI AND THE RPF.

5. ~~(CONF)~~ THE RPF HAS CLAIMED THAT IT WAS WILLING TO ABIDE BY A PREVIOUS CEASE-FIRE BUT THAT THE FAR VIOLATED IT IMMEDIATELY' PREVENTING IT FROM EVER BEGINNING. IN ADDITION, AN RPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE HAS SAID THAT THE RPF ACCEPTS ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) SECRETARY GENERAL AS MEDIATORS AND THAT IT IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN DIRECT TALKS AT "ANYTIME IN ANYPLACE."

6. ~~(CONF)~~ COMMENT: THE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE CEASE-FIRE IS MOST LIKELY THE RESULT OF A LACK OF RESOLVE BY THE RPF LEADERSHIP AND KIGALI RATHER THAN A BLATANT ATTEMPT BY EITHER SIDE TO TORPEDO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. NONETHELESS, THE DEADLOCK AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND ON THE BATTLEFIELD IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR THE SHORT TERM, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE OAU HAS, THUS FAR, FAILED TO ACCEPT A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM. AT PRESENT, NEITHER SIDE APPEARS TO FEEL THAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FORCING IT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, AND EACH SIDE IS TRYING TO GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BE IN A STRONG POSITION WHEN TALKS BEGIN.

ADMIN

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