ROAD REPORT (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATON REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900313.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUMMARY: ( ) MAIN NORTH-SOUTH ROAD FROM KIGALI TO Ruhengeri AND BEYOND REMAINS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING HEAVY AND HIGH SPEED TRAFFIC.

TEXT: ( ) 1. ROAD TRAVEL FROM THE RWANDAN CAPITAL OF KIGALI PAST THE CITY OF RUHENGERI VIA CAR TOOK JUST OVER TWO HOURS TO COVER THE APPROX 120 KILOMETER DISTANCE. THE ROAD WAS AN ALL WEATHER, HARD SURFACE ROAD IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. BUILT BY THE CHINESE ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO, THE ROAD WAS WELL MAINTAINED AND HAD ONLY TWO MINOR POTHOLES OVER THE ENTIRE DISTANCE.

2. ( ) ALL BRIDGES ALONG THE ROUTE, WITH THE EXCEPTI ON OF THE BRIDGE CROSSING THE MPENGE RIVER AT KIGOMBE VIC WERE CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING HEAVY, SEMI-TRAILER TRUCK-TYPE TRAFFIC. THIS BRIDGE HAD BEEN WASHED AWAY BY RECENT SEASONAL RAINS AND REPAIRS WERE NOT YET COMPLETE.
3. AT THE EDGE OF RUHENGERI (GOING IN A NW DIRECTION) THE ROAD WAS WASHED OUT. THE BRIDGE IN USE IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING 2 1/2 TON TRAFFIC AS RO WAITED FOR SUCH TRAFFIC TO CROSS. NORTH OFF MAIN ROAD RIGHT AFTER MIL CANTONMENT AREA AT THE END OF RUHENGERI (NO ACTIVITY NOTED), THE ROAD GAVE WAY TO A ROCKY DIRT ROAD MORE SUITABLE FOR FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES.

COMMENTS: IMPRESSED WITH THE WORKMANSHIP OF THE HIGHWAY BUILT IN SUCH A HILLY COUNTRY. ONE OF THE PASSENGERS HAD BEEN IN KINSHASA FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS AND ALL THROUGHOUT THE EXCURSION EXALTED IN AMAZEMENT ABOUT HOW MUCH BETTER THE ROADS WERE IN RWANDA THAN IN ZAIRE. WOULD HAVE TO AGREE STRONGLY AS THE ROADS IN ZAIRE DETERIORATE EVEN WORSE DAILY.