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102156Z DEC 90

**FROM**

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

**TO**

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

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

SERIAL: DODID 344-10A

**BODY**

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT CONTINUES. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 10 DEC 90 (AS OF 1631 EST)

TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) FIGHTING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND REBELS CONTINUES ALONG MULTIPLE FRONTS, AND NO MILITARY RESOLUTION IS IN SIGHT.

2. (~~C/NF~~) IN EARLY NOVEMBER, THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) SWITCHED TACTICS FROM THE CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS USED DURING THE 1 OCTOBER INVASION OF **RWANDA** TO CONDUCT A LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCES. AS A RESULT, THE LOSSES ARE CONTINUING TO ACCUMULATE ON BOTH SIDES.

3. (~~C/NF~~) ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS IN KAMPALA, THE RPF IS CONDUCTING OPERATIONS ALONG FOUR FRONTS: IN AND NEAR THE AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK IN THE NORTHEAST, NEAR NYAGATARE AND GATUNA IN THE NORTH, AND NEAR LAKE BULERA IN THE NORTHWEST. US OFFICIALS IN KIGALI STATE THAT RECENT ENGAGEMENTS IN THE NORTH HAVE INCLUDED AN ATTACK BY THE RPF ON A COMMERCIAL CENTER 3 KM EAST OF GATUNA. IN THE ATTACK, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCES REPULSED ON 7 DECEMBER, THE RPF WAS DRIVEN INTO UGANDA. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, TWO OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TROOPS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING AT THE COMMERCIAL CENTER. IN TWO SEPARATE BATTLES NEAR LAKE RWAMPANGA ON THE 6TH, A TOTAL OF 11 REBEL SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING 1 OFFICER.

4. (~~C/NF~~) COMMENT: THE RPF, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF ITS UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE CAMPAIGN, APPEARS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO LAUNCH MORE THAN SMALL-SCALE ATTACKS, AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO POSE A

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SERIOUS NEAR-TERM THREAT TO THE KIGALI REGIME. THIS SITUATION MAY LEAD PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TO BELIEVE THAT EARLY NEGOTIATION AND CONCESSIONS BY HIM ARE NOT NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GOVERNMENT'S MILITARY FORCES CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCCESS DURING THEIR ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE RPF. NONETHELESS, A MILITARY VICTORY BY THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPROBABLE IN THE NEAR TERM, AND ITS FORCES ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO INFLICT PERSONNEL LOSSES ON THE RPF. MEANWHILE, THE REBELS WILL TRY TO WEAKEN THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE IN THE HOPE OF GAINING CONCESSIONS DURING ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

~~ADMIN~~

PREP:

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