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**DTG**

032143Z OCT 90

**FROM**

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

(b)(3):10 USC 424

**TO**

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 276-15A

**BODY**

SUBJ: BELGIUM: SUPPORT TO **RWANDA**. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 3 OCT 90 (AS OF 1700 EDT)

TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) BRUSSELS' SUPPORT TO **RWANDA**, A FORMER BELGIAN COLONY, CONSISTS OF A SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS, AND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS MAY ALSO BE INCLUDED.

2. (~~C/NF~~) DURING A 3 OCTOBER VISIT WITH BELGIAN KING BAUDOUIN, RWANDAN PRESIDENT MAJ GEN HABYARIMANA REPORTEDLY REQUESTED ARMS, AMMUNITION, TROOPS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER REBEL ATTACKS. A BELGIAN CABINET COMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED THE DISPATCH OF TWO C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH AMMUNITION, AND POSSIBLY SMALL ARMS, TO **RWANDA**. ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED ON THE 3D, AND THE OTHER IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART ON THE 4TH. THE CABINET WILL MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL DEPLOYMENT OF BELGIAN TROOPS TO SECURE THE AIRFIELD AT KIGALI. TWENTY BELGIAN MILITARY ADVISERS ARE CURRENTLY IN **RWANDA**.

3. (~~C/NF~~) COMMENT: BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT REBELS WILL CAPTURE KIGALI AIRFIELD, WHICH SERVES AS THE ONLY FEASIBLE ENTRY POINT FOR BELGIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THEY FEAR THAT THE RECAPTURE OF THIS AIRFIELD WOULD REQUIRE AN AIRBORNE ASSAULT, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN BELGIAN CASUALTIES THAT COULD BE AVOIDED IF TROOPS WERE TO DEPLOY NOW. BRUSSELS FURTHER BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENCE OF ARMED BELGIAN TROOPS COULD DETER A REBEL ATTACK ON KIGALI.

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4. (~~CONF~~) THE DEMAND FOR C-130S IN **RWANDA** WILL SEVERELY STRAIN BELGIUM'S TRANSPORT CAPABILITIES, WHICH ARE ALREADY STRETCHED THIN BY COMMITMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. LAST AUGUST DEFENSE PLANNERS NOTED THEIR CONCERN THAT INCREASING REQUIREMENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF WILL STRAIN FLEET AVAILABILITY, WHICH AVERAGED 5.6 OF 12 AIRCRAFT IN 1988 AND 1989. THE TWO AIRCRAFT BEING USED FOR HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS IN JORDAN WILL MOST LIKELY BE REASSIGNED TO THE **RWANDA** OPERATION. BELGIAN C-130S ARE COMMITTED TO TWO FLIGHTS A MONTH TO SUPPORT DEPLOYED MINEHUNTER/SWEEPERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, AND FOUR AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN PROMISED TO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION TO SUPPORT THE EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN THE GULF CRISIS.

**ADMIN**

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