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FROM

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

TO

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RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

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

CONTROLS

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

SERIAL: DODID 92-10A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: REBEL ATTACKS. (U)

DOI: 1 APR 92 (AS OF 1545 EST)

TEXT: 1. (S) RECENT SHELLING FROM UGANDA INDICATES THE RPF'S CONTINUED RESOLVE TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT.

2. (S) UGANDAN-SUPPORTED RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) REBELS SHELLED A DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP AT RWEBARE SEVERAL TIMES FROM 24 TO 28 MARCH, KILLING ABOUT 20 PEOPLE AND FORCING 7,000 PERSONS TO FLEE SOUTH. THESE ATTACKS IN THE NORTHEASTERN SECTOR NEAR THE UGANDAN BORDER REFLECT A RECENT CHANGE IN TACTICS BY THE RPF, WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD MOSTLY ATTACKED MILITARY TARGETS. A U S OFFICIAL VISITING RWEBARE ON THE 28TH VERIFIED THAT THE RPF USED 120MM MDRTARS AND BM-21 KATYUSHA 122MM ROCKETS TO SHELL THE CAMP.

3. (S) THE RWEBARE ATTACK IS THE SECOND SINCE DECEMBER, WHEN THE RPF INFILTRATED THE TOWN, KILLED 17 PEOPLE, BURNED HUTS AND LIVESTOCK, AND STOLE FOOD. THIS PATTERN OF ATTACKING CIVILIAN TARGETS HAS CONTINUED SINCE THEN. THE MOST NOTABLE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN THE NORTHWEST, WHERE TWO NUNS, ONE FRENCH, WERE KILLED IN EARLY MARCH.

4. (S) COMMENT: SOME OF THE RPF'S 3,000 SOLDIERS HAVE ESTABLISHED A FOOTHOLD IN THE NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF **RWANDA**. IN RECENT MONTHS, THE RPF MOUNTED OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHWESTERN REGION OF BUTARO, BUT IT WAS UNABLE TO HOLD THE TERRITORY AGAINST THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES' COUNTERATTACKS. RPF CIVILIAN ATTACKS APPEARED DESIGNED TO CREATE POPULAR UNREST IN THE BORDER AREAS, THEREBY PUTTING PRESSURE ON KIGALI TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS. THE RPF HAS DEMANDED POWERSHARING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY, BUT IT HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OFFICIAL OFFERS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

5. (S) WITHOUT ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL PRESSURE TO STOP, UGANDA

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WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AID AND SANCTUARY TO THE RPF.
SUCH SUPPORT IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO CONTINUED RPF INTRANSIGENCE, WHICH
WILL THREATEN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN
RWANDA.

ADMIN

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