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DTG

121814Z MAR 92

FROM

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

TO

TO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

(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 72-2A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: ETHNIC VIOLENCE. (U)

DOI: 12 MAR 92 (AS OF 1310 EST)

TEXT: 1. (⊖) SINCE ETHNIC VIOLENCE BEGAN BETWEEN **RWANDA** HUTUS AND TUTSIS LAST WEEK, AROUND 7,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED AND OVER 40 KILLED SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, KIGALI. THIS OUTBREAK COINCIDES WITH REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FORCES WERE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT.

2. (⊖) **RWANDA'S** PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED NATIONAL RADIO RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER. THE DAY BEFORE THE KILLINGS STARTED. RADIO KIGALI ACCUSED A TUTSI OPPOSITION PARTY OF PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE HUTU MINISTERS AS WELL AS HUTU LEADERS FROM ANOTHER OPPOSITION PARTY. BOTH PARTIES ACCUSED PRESIDENT MAJOR GENERAL HABYARIMANA'S GOVERNMENT OF SETTING UP THIS AFFAIR TO ESTABLISH A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CONTROL OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS.

3. (⊖) **RWANDA'S** POPULATION IS 90 PERCENT HUTU AND 9 PERCENT TUTSI. THE PARISH IN WHICH MOST TUTSIS TOOK REFUGEE HAD OVER 40 BODIES IN ITS MORGUE, AND REPORTS INDICATED MANY BODIES WERE DUMPED IN WELLS. DIPLOMATS WHO VISITED THE PARISH REPORTED PASSIVITY OF BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

4. (⊖) COMMENT: **RWANDA** HAS BEEN FIGHTING A WAR SINCE OCTOBER 1990 AGAINST THE MILITARY ARM OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF), WHICH IS A TUTSI INSURGENCY GROUP BASED IN UGANDA. UGANDA DENIES SUPPORTING THE RPF. ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND THE WAR WITH THE RPF ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE. THE PRESIDENT MAY USE THESE ISSUES TO RETAIN POWER HE OBTAINED IN A 1973 COUP. UGANDA'S SUPPORT TO THE RPF THREATENS TO DESTABILIZE THE REGION BY FUELING HUTU-TUTSI TENSIONS

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AND STRAINING RUANDA-BURUNDI RELATIONS. BURUNDI'S ETHNIC PROBLEM IS SIMILAR.

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ADMIN

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