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262118Z MAR 93

FROM

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

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

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SERIAL: DODID 085-5A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: TALKS PROGRESSING WELL. (U)

DOI: 26 MAR 93 (AS OF 1605 EST)

TEXT: 1. (C) GOVERNMENT AND REBEL NEGOTIATORS MAY BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE A PEACE AGREEMENT BY THE END OF APRIL.

2. (C) BOTH SIDES ARE AGAIN OBSERVING A CEASE-FIRE, IN EFFECT SINCE 9 MARCH. GOVERNMENT AND TROOPS OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) FORCES FOUGHT FOR ALMOST A MONTH AFTER REBELS BROKE AN EARLIER TRUCE AND RESUMED HOSTILITIES BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT NEGOTIATIONS HAD STALLED. THE RENEWED FIGHTING SEEMS TO HAVE MOTIVATED GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS, AND SEVERAL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED SINCE PEACE TALKS RESUMED ON THE 16TH IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA. ONLY MINOR BREACHES OF THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE SEEM TO HAVE OCCURRED; THE LAST SIGNIFICANT VIOLATION WAS ON THE 17TH.

3. (C) THE RPF HAS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN TO ITS PREVIOUS CEASE-FIRE POSITIONS AND A 50-MEMBER FORCE FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) IS TRYING TO MONITOR THE BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THE REBELS AND RWANDAN ARMY FORWARD UNITS. THE OAU IS SEEKING UN AND BILATERAL SUPPORT FOR A 500-MEMBER FORCE. ADDITIONAL OBSERVERS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THE NEUTRALITY OF THE BUFFER ZONE, PERMITTING THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED CIVILIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

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4. (S) ~~(C)~~ THUS FAR, NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON THE ORGANIZATION AND MISSIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND GENDARMES. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO AN ARMY OF 13,000 TROOPS, ORGANIZED INTO 4 BRIGADES WITH 3 BATTALIONS EACH; EACH BATTALION WILL HAVE 3 COMPANIES. PLANS CALL FOR 6,000 GENDARMES IN ADDITION TO 2,000 TO 3,000 COMMUNAL POLICE OFFICERS. HOWEVER, THE PROPORTION OF RPF AND ARMY PERSONNEL IN THE NEW SECURITY FORCES, AND WHETHER THE DEFENSE OR INTERIOR MINISTRIES WILL CONTROL THEM REMAIN CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. A GENERAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING ENCAMPMENT, DISARMING, AND DEMOBILIZING THE TWO FORCES HAS ALSO BEEN REACHED.

5. (S) ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROGRESSING WELL, POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCKS COULD UPSET THE PROCESS. SINCE THE CURRENT OAU FORCE IS INCAPABLE OF MONITORING THE BUFFER ZONE, AND SINCE THE DEPLOYMENT OF A LARGER FORCE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE MISSION IS ONLY IN THE PLANNING STAGES, THE TWO SIDES WILL HAVE TO POLICE THEMSELVES FOR SOME TIME. THUS, MUTUAL DISTRUST IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS THAT COULD ESCALATE. IN ADDITION, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT'S TERM ENDS IN MID-APRIL. IF A PEACE ACCORD HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED BY THEN, THE REBELS COULD BE FACED WITH NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH A NEW ADMINISTRATION WHOSE LEGITIMACY AND CAPACITY TO HONOR AGREEMENTS WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE. MOREOVER, THEY COULD AGAIN RESORT TO FORCE OF ARMS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE SHOULD THEY CONCLUDE THAT CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FUTILE.

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