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FROM

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

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

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

CONTROLS

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

SERIAL: DODID 43-10A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: ETHNIC VIOLENCE. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 12 FEB 91 (AS OF 1630 EST)

TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) RECENT REBEL ATTACKS IN NORTHERN **RWANDA** HAVE PROMPTED ETHNIC VIOLENCE THAT COULD INVOLVE BURUNDI.

2. (~~C/NF~~) DURING THE PAST 3 WEEKS, AT LEAST 12 AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 100 RWANDANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN RENEWED ETHNIC VIOLENCE BETWEEN HUTUS AND TUTSIS. THE INCIDENTS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY HUTU PEASANTS ASSAULTING THEIR TUTSI NEIGHBORS IN RETRIBUTION FOR RECENT ATTACKS BY THE TUTSI-DOMINATED RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FORCE (RPF). MOST OF THE KILLINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE NORTHERN PREFECTURES OF GISENYI AND THE RUHENGERI PREFECTURES, BUT TENSION HAS REPORTEDLY HEIGHTENED FARTHER SOUTH IN THE GITARAMA PREFECTURE.

3. (~~C/NF~~) THE VIOLENCE HAS ALSO AFFECTED TUTSIS FROM BURUNDI LIVING IN THE AREA. TWO FAMILIES OF BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES IN GISENYI WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED IN THEIR HOMES BY RWANDAN TROOPS ON 5 FEBRUARY. THESE INCIDENTS SPURRED THE REMAINDER OF THE OFFICIAL BURUNDIAN COMMUNITY IN GISENYI TO MOVE ACROSS THE BORDER TO GOMA, ZAIRE. BECAUSE OF CONCERN ABOUT AN ETHNIC BACKLASH IN BURUNDI, BUJUMBURA HAS PLAYED DOWN THE INCIDENT AND HAS KEPT INFORMATION OUT OF THE BURUNDI PRESS.

4. (~~C/NF~~) IN RESPONSE TO THESE INCIDENTS, THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT DISPATCHED THE MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS IN A MILITARY HELICOPTER TO VARIOUS SITES IN GISENYI. CITIZENS OF MUNDENDE WERE APPARENTLY IMPRESSED AND CALMED BY HIS VISIT.

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5. ~~(CONF)~~ COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO SECURING BWANDAN TERRITORY FOR OPERATIONAL AND BARGAINING PURPOSES, ONE OF THE RPF'S MAIN TACTICAL GOALS HAS BEEN THE DESTABILIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. INTERNAL ETHNIC VIOLENCE IS A FIRST STEP TOWARD POSSIBLE DESTABILIZATION, AND ITS RECENT RENEWAL INDICATES THAT THE RPF'S STRATEGY IS WORKING. THE REPORTED ATTACKS AGAINST BURUNDIANS IN **RWANDA** FURTHER COMPLICATE THE CHALLENGE FACING PRESIDENT HABRIYARMANA. THEY ALSO HAVE BROADER SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION.

6. ~~(CONF)~~ ONE OF THE PRIMARY DANGERS OF THE RPF INSURGENCY IS THAT IT WILL DRAW **RWANDA**'S NEIGHBORS DIRECTLY INTO THE CONFLICT. UGANDA, INTENTIONALLY OR NOT, IS ALREADY INVOLVED WITH THE RPF, AND THE RESURGENCE OF ETHNIC VIOLENCE COULD EASILY EMBROIL BURUNDI AS WELL. THIS POSSIBILITY WILL INCREASE EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON HABRIYARMANA TO FIND AN ENDURING SOLUTION TO THE RPF PROBLEM, WHICH MAY IN TURN CONFLICT WITH THE POSITION OF HUTU HARDLINERS IN THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN RETRIBUTION.

ADMIN

PREP: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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