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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 049-6A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: FALTERING TRUCE. (U)

DOI: 18 FEB 93 (AS OF 1755 EST)

TEXT: 1. (C) THE UN MAY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE 1,500 PEACEKEEPERS TO PATROL A NEUTRAL AREA BETWEEN THE FRONT LINES OF THE ARMY AND REBEL FORCES.

2. (C) ALTHOUGH THE REBEL **RWANDA** PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ANNOUNCED UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRES SINCE FIGHTING RESUMED ON 8 FEBRUARY, NEITHER SIDE HAS COMPLIED. THE CONFLICT HAS SUBSIDED IN SOME AREAS, BUT SIZABLE FIREFIGHTS ARE OCCURRING ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, EACH SIDE HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION DURING THE PAST 2 DAYS, AND FRONT-LINE POSITIONS HAVE CHANGED LITTLE.

3. (C) IN ADDITION TO THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE RENEWED FIGHTING, ALMOST 1 MILLION PEOPLE, ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES. IF THE FIGHTING DOES NOT END SOON, THESE PEOPLE WILL BE UNABLE TO RETURN HOME, AND RECENTLY PLANTED SPRING CROPS WILL BE LOST. RELIEF OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT THE COST OF FEEDING AND HOUSING THE DISPLACED UNTIL THE NEXT HARVEST IN DECEMBER COULD BE AS HIGH AS \$60 MILLION.

4. (C) COMMENT: GOVERNMENT AND REBEL LEADERS SAY THEY WANT TO END THE FIGHTING BUT SEEM UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE TERMS OR LOCATION FOR A

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CEASE-FIRE. THE RPF WANTS A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE AND A NEUTRAL FORCE POSITIONED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES; THE GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT THE REBELS RETURN TO THE POSITIONS THEY HELD UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PREVIOUS CEASE-FIRE. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS WILLING TO HOLD ITS FORCES IN PLACE AS LONG AS A NEUTRAL FORCE OCCUPIES THE POSITIONS CURRENTLY HELD BY THE REBELS WHILE THE LATTER WITHDRAWS TO THEIR OLD CEASE-FIRE LINE.

5. ~~(C/NF)~~ THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU), WHICH PROVIDED THE 50-MAN OBSERVER GROUP CURRENTLY IN PLACE, IS NOT CAPABLE OF DEPLOYING SUCH A LARGE FORCE IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT MAY TURN TO THE UN FOR HELP. IF THAT HAPPENS, THE NEED FOR A PEACEKEEPING FORCE ON THE GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SUGGESTS THAT THE US GOVERNMENT COULD BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TRANSPORTATION OR TROOPS TO YET ANOTHER HUMANITARIAN CAUSE. ALTHOUGH THE BELGIANS AND THE FRENCH MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH **RWANDA**, NEITHER COULD SEND SUCH A FORCE. THE BELGIANS ALREADY SUPPORT A SIZABLE FORCE IN SOMALIA, AND THEY MUST MAINTAIN THE CAPABILITY TO DEPLOY OTHER FORCES TO ZAIRE RAPIDLY IN ORDER TO PROTECT OR EVACUATE BELGIAN CITIZENS. THE RPF WOULD NOT AGREE TO A FRENCH FORCE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE FRENCH SOLDIERS CURRENTLY IN THE COUNTRY ARE SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT.

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