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252326Z JAN 91

FROM

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

TO

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 25-8A

BODY

SUBJ: **RWANDA**: RUHENGERI RETAKEN. (~~C/NF~~)

DOI: 25 JAN 91 (AS OF 1700 EST)

TEXT: 1. (~~C/NF~~) GOVERNMENT TROOPS RECAPTURED RUHENGERI ON 23 JANUARY, BUT A SIZABLE REBEL FORCE STILL REMAINS IN THE AREA.

2. (~~C/NF~~) RWANDAN PARACOMMANDO FORCES IN KIGALI HAD BEEN ALERTED ON THE 22D OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTACK, AND THEY RESPONDED QUICKLY TO THE REBEL TAKEOVER OF RUHENGERI. ON REACHING THE TOWN, GOVERNMENT FORCES CONDUCTED A LINEAR SWEEP FROM EAST TO WEST AND ESTABLISHED CONTROL OVER THE DOWNTOWN AREA. MOST OF THE REBELS APPARENTLY RETREATED TO THE WEST, WHERE THEY ESTABLISHED POSITIONS ON KEY TERRAIN HIGH ABOVE THE TOWN. FROM THOSE POSITIONS, THE REBELS CONTINUED TO HARASS RWANDAN FORCES, AND THEY ALSO DEPLOYED A 200-MAN UNIT SOUTHWEST TOWARD THE TOWN OF GISENYI. FIGHTING CONTINUED THROUGH THE NIGHT AND INTO THE EARLY MORNING OF THE 25TH.

3. (~~C/NF~~) RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) FORCES IN THE GISENYI- RUHENGERI AREA ARE ESTIMATED TO BE 1,200 STRONG. GOVERNMENT FORCES, HAVING BEEN REINFORCED BY THE PARACOMMANDO BATTALION AND THE RUHENGERI-MUKAMIRA BATTALION, NOW TOTAL OVER 2,000 MEN.

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(b)(1);1.4 (c)

5. ~~(C/NF)~~ COMMENT: APART FROM RENEWING THE THREAT TO THE RWANDAN REGIME, THE ATTACK ON RUHENGERI AGAIN RAISES THE ISSUE OF UGANDAN SUPPORT TO THE RPF. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS STATE THAT UGANDAN NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY VEHICLES WERE USED TO TRANSPORT RPF TROOPS ACROSS THE BORDER INTO **RWANDA**. WHETHER OR NOT THESE REPORTS PROVE TRUE, THE SIZE ALONE OF THIS ATTACK WILL CERTAINLY RAISE SUSPICIONS ABOUT UGANDAN COMPLICITY THAT WILL FURTHER WIDEN THE GULF BETWEEN KAMPALA AND KIGALI.

ADMIN

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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