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SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) KENYA (KE); BELGIUM (BE); ZAIRE (CG).

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SUBJ: [REDACTED] /AMMUNITION FOR GREAT LAKES (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 961118.

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[REDACTED]
SOURCE: (U) WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, "THE EAST AFRICAN",
NAIROBI, KENYA 961118, IN ENGLISH. INDEPENDENT;
PRESTIGIOUS, CREDIBLE WEEKLY AIMED AS EAST AFRICAN
POLITICAL AND BUSINESS ELITES.

/-----TEAR LINE -----/

SUMMARY: (U) LOCAL NEWSPAPER CITES BELGIAN PAPERS STORY
THAT KENYA IS SUPPLYING AMMUNITION TO HUTU FIGHTERS IN
THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

TEXT: 1. (U) SOURCE NEWSPAPER STATES THAT "DE MORGEN",
A BELGIAN NEWSPAPER, REPORTED ON 961109 THAT THE BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT WAS EQUIPPING HUTU MILITIAMEN OPPOSED TO THE
TUTSI DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA WITH PRODUCTS FOR
THE ELDORET AMMUNITION FACTORY (IN KENYA), WHICH WAS
ESTABLISHED WITH THE HELP OF THE BELGIAN ARMS SUPPLIER FN
HERSTAL. THE MORE SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN
ARTICLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

"KENYA SUPPLYING ARMS TO HUTU MILITIAS, CLAIMS NEWSPAPER"
AS THE KENYA GOVERNMENT DENIED CHARGES BY THE UNITED
NATIONS OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO HUTU MILITIAS IN EASTERN
ZAIRE, FRESH REPORTS EMERGED IN A EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER
SUGGESTING A LINK BETWEEN MILITARY SUPPLES TO THE REGION

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AND THE BULLET FACTORY OWNED BY THE KENYA ARMY IN ELDORET.

CLAIMS OF A KENYAN LINK IN THE ARMS SALES FIRST EMERGED IN AN INTERNAL UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENT WHICH ALLEGED THAT KENYA, ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE AMONG COUNTRIES WHICH HELPED TO ARM HUTU EXTREMISTS FIGHTING BANYAMULENGE REBELS. THE UN REPORT IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE IMPLICATED BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, THE CZECH REPUBLIC BULGARIA AND UKRAINE.

THE REPORT WAS REFERRED TO EARLIER THIS MONTH BY REUTERS, "THE GUARDIAN" AND "THE TIMES" OF BRITAIN. IT WAS SAID TO HAVE RESULTED FROM AN INVESTIGATION BY A UN COMMISSION CHARGED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH EXAMINING VIOLATIONS OF THE UN ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED IN 1994 ON WARRING RWANDESE FACTIONS.

THE KENYA GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DENIED THE REPORTS AND TOOK ISSUE WITH ALLEGATION THAT HUTU REBELS BASED IN KENYA PRINTED COUNTERFEIT US DOLLARS TO FINANCE FIGHTING IN ZAIRE AND RWANDA. THE DENIAL WAS REPEATED WEEK LAST BY PRESIDENT MOI.

THE NOVEMBER 9 EDITION OF THE DAILY "DE MORGEN" CLAIMED THAT BRUSSELS WAS "ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ARMING HUTU MILITIAS IN EAST ZAIRE WITH ARMS FROM A MUNITIONS FACTORY BASED IN ELDORET."

THE NEWSPAPER, WHICH EARLY THIS YEAR REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF THE ELDORET PLANT, CLAIMED THAT THE PLANT HAS BEEN PRODUCING FIREARMS AND RIFLES SINCE AUGUST THIS YEAR. "THE FACTORY HAS AN INTENDED CAPACITY OF 18 MILLION CARTRIDGES PER YEAR, AND SINCE THE START, ALMOST FIVE MILLION BULLETS WOULD HAVE BEEN PRODUCED ALREADY," IT SAID. "ARMS TRANSPORTS ARE SAID TO BE DEPARTING NAIROBI ALMOST ON A WEEKLY BASIS AND ARE FINANCED (BY HUTUS) THROUGH THE SALE OF STOLEN RELIEF GOODS," DE MORGEN CLAIMED.

THE REPORT CONTINUED: "THE FIRST ELDORET BULLETS WERE PRODUCED IN FEBRUARY. AT THE TIME, THE FACTORY WAS STILL IN ITS TEST PHASE. SINCE AUGUST THE MACHINE PARK RUNS AT HALF THE INTENDED CAPACITY. CERTAINLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER, BUT POSSIBLY UNTIL NOW, FIVE FULL-TIME ENGINEERS OF FN HAVE BEEN AT WORK IN ELDORET IN ORDER TO GET THE PRODUCTION GOING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE."

THE BELGIAN NEWSPAPER CLAIMS THAT THE ETHNIC TUTSI REBELS, THE BANYAMULENGE, ARE BEING SUPPLIED THROUGH SIMILAR CHANNELS. IT REFERRED TO A MYSTERIOUS BOEING 707 WITH STICKERS HIDING ITS IDENTITY LANDING AT GOMA WHICH BY THEN, NOVEMBER 5, WAS IN REBEL HANDS. THE PAPER SUGGESTED IT WAS CARRYING WEAPONS FROM EUROPE.

SOON AFTER CHAIRING A REGIONAL SUMMIT ON THE EASTERN ZAIRE CRISIS IN NAIROBI, PRESIDENT MOI PHONED SOUTH AFRICA, PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA, URGING HIM TO SUSPEND

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ARMS SALES TO RWANDA. AT THE TIME, SOUTH AFRICA HAD REPORTEDLY DELIVERED A NUMBER OF ARMORED CARRIERS TO KIGALI IN A COMMERCIAL DEAL. DE MORGEN SAID THAT MANDELA, APPARENTLY SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE ARMS CONTRACT WITH KIGALI, REFERRED TO "OTHERS" WHO WERE SIMILARLY SUPPLYING HUTU MILITIAS AND FORMER RWANDAN SOLDIERS IN EAST ZAIRE.

THE SAME PAPER, EARLIER IN THE YEAR, HAD CARRIED REPORTS ON THE ELDORET FACTORY. ITS SAID THE LEADING BELGIAN WEAPONS SUPPLIER, FN HERSTAL, WAS BEHIND THE COMPLEX WITH A CAPACITY OF MANUFACTURING 20 MILLION BULLETS PER YEAR. DESPITE FEARS THAT THE FACTORY COULD ADD TO INSECURITY IN THE REGION, THE KENYA GOVERNMENT CONCEDED, AFTER A PERIOD OF STONEWALLING, THAT IT OWNED THE COMPLEX, AND IT WAS A LEGITIMATE UNDERTAKING.

PRESIDENT MOI IN HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MANDELA TWO DAYS BEFORE THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON NOVEMBER 5, TOLD THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER THAT IT "WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR PRETORIA TO SUSPEND FURTHER SALE OF ARMS TO RWANDA UNTIL RWANDESE TROOPS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM ZAIRIAN TERRITORY." SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY THE EAST AFRICAN TO GET COMMENT FROM THE KENYA ARMY LATE LAST WEEK PROVED FUTILE. ARMY SPOKESMAN COL I. ((IMATHIU)) WAS SAID TO BE UNAVAILABLE. THE REPORTS ARE UNLIKELY TO FURTHER KENYAS BID TO EMERGE AS THE REGION'S PEACEMAKER. PRESIDENT MOI LAST FRIDAY COMPLAINED IN ROME, WHERE HE WAS ATTENDING THE UN WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, THAT THE WORLD BODY IGNORED THE REGION'S LEADERS IN DEPLOYING AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO RESTORE ORDER IN ZAIRE. HE TOLD ROME LEADERS, "KENYA WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THROUGH THE MEDIA THAT THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IN THE REGION WITHOUT CONSULTING US."

HE SAID THE NAIROBI SUMMIT MADE RESOLUTIONS WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL ENDORSED AND HE EXPECTED THE UN TO CONSULT REGIONAL LEADERS BEFORE ANY INTERVENTION. THE UN LAST WEEK AGREED TO SEND A CANADIAN LED MULTINATIONAL FORCE WITH US PARTICIPATION TO EASTERN ZAIRE.

UNQUOTE

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