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ENVELOPE

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

HEADER

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SECTION 1 OF 2

PASS: (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SERIAL: MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIGEST {MID} 041-3A

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

BODY

SUBJ: (U) SOUTH AFRICA AND REGIONAL CONFLICT
DOI: 03 MAR 00 {AS OF 1600 EST}
TEXT: 1. (U) BECAUSE DIA'S FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS USE A STANDARDIZED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION MARKING SYSTEM THAT IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH TODAY'S MESSAGE-HANDLING SYSTEM, THIS MESSAGE SHOWS THE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION ABOVE IN A DIFFERENT FORM THAN THAT USED THROUGHOUT THE BODY OF THE MESSAGE. IN TERMS OF THE

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STANDARDIZED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MARKING SYSTEM, THE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION FOR THIS MESSAGE IS ~~SECRET//NOFORN//NF~~

2. ~~(S)~~ SOUTH AFRICA, HOPING TO LEAD THE CONTINENT TOWARD AN "AFRICAN RENAISSANCE" OF PEACE, STABILITY, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS FULL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POTENTIAL, INTENDS TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO RESOLVE REGIONAL CRISES. PRESIDENT MBEKI, HIS FOREIGN POLICY TEAM, AND HIS PREDECESSOR NELSON MANDELA APPEAR READY TO ASSUME THIS CHALLENGE; THEY HAVE ALREADY PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO AFRICA.

3. ~~(S)~~ DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: SOUTH AFRICA HAS ADVOCATED A DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION TO THE FIGHTING IN CONGO SINCE HOSTILITIES BEGAN IN AUGUST 1998. PRETORIA'S REFUSAL TO JOIN THE REGIONAL MILITARY INTERVENTION SUPPORTING PRESIDENT KABILA WORSENERED RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) PARTNERS AND KABILA BACKERS ANGOLA AND ZIMBABWE. PRESIDENT MBEKI, CONTINUING THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT MANDELA, HAS TRIED TO CONVINCED ALL PARTIES INVOLVED THAT ONLY NEGOTIATIONS WILL ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF

THE CONFLICT. SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE:

- ACHIEVING A CEASE-FIRE.
- REACHING A STANDSTILL OF ALL FORCES.
- OPENING A POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN KABILA AND THE REBELS.
- MAINTAINING THE INVIOALABILITY OF CONGO'S BORDERS.
- HOLDING TALKS THAT ADDRESS NEIGHBORING STATES' SECURITY CONCERNS.

PRETORIA HAS INSISTED THAT THE REBELS, AND NOT JUST THEIR PATRONS RWANDA AND UGANDA, PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN ANY SETTLEMENT.

4. ~~(S)~~ PRETORIA PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN GARNERING REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONGO CEASE-FIRE. LAST DECEMBER, MANDELA USED HIS INFLUENCE TO ARRANGE A PIVOTAL MEETING BETWEEN KABILA-ALLY PRESIDENT MUGABE AND PRIMARY REBEL-SUPPORTER RWANDAN VICE PRESIDENT KAGAME. DESPITE EARLY ACCUSATIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD SIDED WITH THE REBELS, KABILA EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED PRETORIA'S ROLE AS A KEY MEDIATOR. SOUTH AFRICA ALSO HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE LEADERSHIP DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GOMA AND KIGALI FACTIONS OF THE CONGOLESE RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY REBEL GROUP, A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF A CEASE-FIRE AND PEACE AGREEMENT. OBSERVERS HAVE WIDELY CREDITED PRETORIA'S EFFORTS FOR BRINGING THE VARIOUS FACTIONS

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TOGETHER TO SIGN THE AUGUST CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

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8. ~~(S)~~ BURUNDI. EVEN BEFORE FORMER PRESIDENT MANDELA REPLACED DECEASED FORMER TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NEYERE AS FACILITATOR OF THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS, SOUTH AFRICA MAINTAINED THAT THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS WAS BURUNDI'S BEST HOPE FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. SHORTLY AFTER MANDELA ACCEPTED THE ROLE, HE TRAVELED TO ARUSHA, TANZANIA, TO MEET WITH ALL 18 FACTIONS INVOLVED IN BURUNDI'S ETHNIC CONFLICT. MANDELA ALSO INVITED THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT MBEKI, TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDIATION EFFORTS. MANDELA'S POSITION, ECHOED BY PRETORIA, IS THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL FACTIONS IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PEACE ACCORD. NEYERE'S REFUSAL TO ADMIT A HUTU FACTION LEADER TO JOIN THE TALKS HAD BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN THE FAILURE OF PREVIOUS MEDIATION EFFORTS. EVEN THOUGH SUCH A MOVE MAY IMPROVE MANDELA'S STANDING WITH SOME OF THE HUTU

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THE LAST 2 PAGES ARE WITHHELD IN FULL IAW EXEMPTION B3 AND PORTIONS WERE DEEMED NON RESPONSIVE. THOSE PAGES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

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FACTIONS, IT WILL DO LITTLE TO CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF TUTSI PARTICIPANTS THAT THE MEDIATION TEAM HAS A PRO-HUTU BIAS.

9. ~~(S)~~ MBEKI AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS WORRY THAT ESCALATING VIOLENCE CASTS DOUBT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PEACE PROCESS. DESPITE THESE CONCERNS, MANDELA'S SELECTION AS FACILITATOR HAS REINVIGORATED THE PROCESS AND WILL ENSURE PRETORIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN MEDIATION EFFORTS.

Non Responsive

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