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ENVELOPE

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HEADER

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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKLI/DIA WASHINGTON DC,
INFC [Redacted]

RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE,
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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

RUEALIA/CIA WASHDC

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 [Redacted]

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

SERIAL: (U) [Redacted]

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) BURUNDI (BY); CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF (CG);
RWANDA (RW), TANZANIA (TZ), ZIMBABWE .

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: [Redacted] USEDCOM DCINC MEETING WITH BURUNDI
PRESIDENT BUYOYA (U).

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

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20020222.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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SUMMARY: (U) ON 22 FEB 02, THE USEUCOM DCINC MET WITH BURUNDI PRESIDENT MAJOR PIERRE ((BUYOYA)) AND DISCUSSED THE PEACE PROCESS, THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION, THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, AND THE HOPE OF FUTURE MILITARY EXCHANGE.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ ON 22 FEB 02, THE USEUCOM DCINC MET WITH BURUNDI PRESIDENT MAJOR PIERRE ((BUYOYA)) AT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IN BUJUMBURA. THE DCINC WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE US AMBASSADOR, DCM, DEFENSE ATTACHE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND ALDE-DE-CAMP. ALSO PRESENT WERE THE BURUNDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE MG CYRILLE ((NDAYIRUKIYE)), CHIEF OF MILITARY CABINET BG ((HICUSURUNDI)), DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR SEBASTIEN ((NTAHUGA)), AND THE PRESIDENT'S TRANSLATOR. THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE CALL WAS ARRANGED TO COINCIDE WITH A BRIEF REFUELING STOP IN BUJUMBURA FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN TANZANIA AND THE DRC. ALSO DURING THE BRIEF STOP IN BUJUMBURA, THE DCINC RECEIVED A BRIEFING AT THE AIRPORT ON SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE ((SANDF)) OPERATIONS BY ACTING COMMANDER COL. L.R. SMITH.

THE SETTING

(b)(3):10 USC 424

2. ~~(C)~~ BUYOYA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE DCINC'S VISIT AND THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD RETURN IN THE FUTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DCINC'S DEMONSTRATED INTEREST PARTICULARLY IN BURUNDI. ~~(C)~~ BURUNDI WAS INITIALLY CONSIDERED AS A FUEL STOP PRIMARILY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DCINC TO INTERFACE WITH THE SANDF. WHEN BUYOYA LEARNED OF THE POTENTIAL STOPOVER, HE MADE CLEAR THAT IF THE DCINC WERE TO STOP IN BURUNDI, HE MUST MEET WITH THE BURUNDIANS, AND SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE CALL.)

3. ~~(C)~~ THE DCINC EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO COME BASED ON THE US AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION. HE WAS TRAVELING WITHIN THE GREAT LAKES REGION IN AN ATTEMPT TO LOOK AT THE ISSUES FROM EACH COUNTRY'S PERSPECTIVE. HE HAD VISITED NAIROBI, UGANDA, RWANDA, TANZANIA, AND WAS HEADED FOR KINSHASA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING. HE WANTED TO DETERMINE HOW THE US MILITARY CAN ASSIST THE US AMBASSADOR TO BURUNDI. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO LEARN FROM BUYOYA'S INSIGHTS ON THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL SITUATION.

BUYOYA'S BURUNDI BACKGROUND BRIEF

4. ~~(C)~~ BUYOYA RESPONDED THAT HE NOW HAD A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOAL OF THE DCINC'S MISSION. HE THEN PROVIDED AN EXHAUSTIVE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT IN BURUNDI SINCE 1993 WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT ((NDADAYE)) WAS ASSASSINATED. HE STATED THAT HE WANTED TO SHOW BURUNDI IN THE BIG PICTURE (OF THE REGIONAL CONFLICT) AND THAT THE LAST YEARS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY PEACE EFFORTS STARTED IN 1995 WITH THE ARUSHA TALKS FIRST UNDER TANZANIAN PRESIDENT ((NYERERE)) AND LATER NELSON ((MANDELA)). IN AUGUST 2000 A PEACE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AND THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT BEGAN OPERATING IN NOVEMBER 2001. THIRTEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND THREE ARMED MOVEMENTS ARE ALL REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TWO REBEL FACTIONS STILL TO LCIN. ACCORDING TO THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT THERE WILL BE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THREE YEARS, PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN 24 MONTHS, AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 18 MONTHS. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM TO SOLVE IN THAT THE TWO REBEL GROUPS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE PEACE PROCESS. THE CNDD/FDD, WHO ARE CONDUCTING VIOLENT ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH, BEGAN IN THE CONGO IN 1994-5 AND WERE SUPPORTED BY MOBUTU. AS OF 1997, THEY FOUGHT AGAINST MOBUTU AND HELPED BRING KABILA TO POWER. AFTER KABILA CAME TO POWER, THEY

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MIGRATED TO TANZANIA. IN 1998 THEY RETURNED TO CONGO. MILITARY EQUIPMENT STILL COMES FROM THE DROC AND ZIMBABWE. THE FDD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REBEL GROUP WITH ABOUT 8-10,000 MEMBERS AND ITS HEADQUARTERS IS IN LUMUMBASHI. THE SECOND REBEL GROUP IS THE FNL AND HAS ABOUT 2-3,000 MEMBERS. THEY RECEIVE ARMS FROM EASTERN CONGO AND OPERATE IN THE HILLS SURROUNDING BUJUMBURA. THEY ARE ALLIED WITH THE MAI-MAI, INTERAHAMWE, AND EX-FAR.

5. ~~(S)~~ ACCORDING TO BUYOYA, THE CHALLENGE IS TO BRING THE REBEL GROUPS INTO THE PROCESS IN ORDER TO CREATE SOME STABILITY. HE ASKED FOR HELP TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY APPLYING PRESSURE TO THE REBEL GROUPS AND THE STATES THAT HARBOR THEM. THERE WAS SOME MOVEMENT TOWARD NEGOTIATION ON THE PART OF THE FDD (FIELD COMMENT: ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING SOME OF THE FDD MEMBERS WERE IN PRETORIA LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR POTENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS), HOWEVER, THE FNL REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE. BUYOYA WAS CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUE OF HOW TO BRING ALL THE REBEL GROUPS ON BOARD.

6. ~~(S)~~ THE SECOND MAJOR PROBLEM IN BURUNDI IS THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION. HOWEVER BURUNDI HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND IS STILL HOPEFUL FOR A POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES LIES IN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CONGO, WHICH IN ITSELF IS LIKE AN ENTIRE CONTINENT. DUE TO THE RAMPANT LAWLESSNESS IN THE CONGO, ANYONE CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WISH THERE. BUYOYA EXPLAINED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD HELP BY APPLYING PRESSURE ON THOSE GROUPS WHO UNDERMINE THE PEACE PROCESS AND BY TALKING TO COUNTRIES THAT HELP THE REBELS. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT CONGO PROVIDES ARMS, THE ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ARMS, AND TANZANIA PROVIDES SAFEHAVEN ON ITS TERRITORY.

FUTURE MILITARY COOPERATION

7. ~~(S)~~ THE DCINC EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT WITH THE CONTINUATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS, SOME FORMS OF MILITARY COOPERATION MAY BE RENEWED IN THE FUTURE, SUCH AS THE TRAINING OF BURUNDIAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE US. THIS TYPE OF EXCHANGE MAY BE USEFUL IN A PLAN OF RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM IN THE SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE FIELDS, WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT PROVISIONS IN THE PEACE AGREEMENTS. THE DCINC ALSO REITERATED THE US DESIRE TO IDENTIFY ALLIES IN THE EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT TERRORISM.

INTERSTATE GREAT LAKES COOPERATION

8. ~~(S)~~ WHEN THE DCINC ASKED BUYOYA IF HE WAS SATISFIED WITH RWANDAN COOPERATION, HE RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SECURITY COOPERATION IS VERY GOOD AS BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE THE SAME THREAT. IN RESPONSE TO THE DCINC QUERY REGARDING TANZANIAN COOPERATION, BUYOYA STATED THAT THE PRESENCE OF 500,000 BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF TENSION AND THERE IS NO SOLUTION YET. THE TENSION HAS ESCALATED FURTHER OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. BUYOYA ENCOURAGED THE REPATRIATION OF ALL LEGITIMATE (WITH EMPHASIS ON THE WORD LEGITIMATE) REFUGEES. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS BECAUSE INITIALLY TANZANIA DENIED ANY PART IN ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO REMAIN AND IN HARBORING MEMBERS OF THE REBEL GROUPS. NOW THEY ADMIT TO HAVING A ROLE TO PLAY AND TANZANIAN PRESIDENT ((MKAPA)) HAS PROMISED TO BECOME PERSONNALLY INVOLVED IN BRINGING THE REBELS IN. BUYOYA'S HOPE IS TO CONCLUDE A CEASE-FIRE AND BRING BACK ALL REFUGEES. THE DCINC RELAYED THAT TANZANIA HAD PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT TO THE PEACE PROCESS DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. AS FOR THE DROC, BUYOYA FELT THAT JOSEPH KABILA WAS SINCERE IN HIS INITIAL DESIRE TO UNBLOCK THE SITUATION. HOWEVER, ONE YEAR LATER, BUYOYA SEES THAT KABILA'S ACTIONS DO NOT MATCH HIS EARLY RHETORIC. REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF BURUNDIAN TROOPS ON CONGOLESE SOIL, BUYOYA STATED THAT ONCE THE THREAT TO BURUNDI FROM EASTERN CONGO DISAPPEARS, THEN HE WILL PULL HIS TROOPS BACK. THE DCINC ASKED IF THE ACTIONS IN EASTERN CONGO WERE THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT OR

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WARLORDS. IN RESPONSE, BUYOYA POINTED OUT THAT KABILA HAS NO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER EASTERN CONGO AND DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO IMPOSE ANY POLICIES THERE. BUYOYA MENTIONED THAT KABILA ARRIVED WITH ASSISTANCE AND WAS PROTECTED BY THE ZIMBABWEAN ARMY.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

COMMENTS: 1. (C) [REDACTED] THE OFFICE CALL WAS LONGER THAN THE ANTICIPATED BY ALMOST 30 MINUTES. BUYOYA WAS VERY CORDIAL AND FILLED APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST HALF HOUR WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CRISIS IN BURUNDI SINCE 1993. HE WELCOMED QUESTIONS FROM THE DCINC AND WAS FORTHCOMING IN HIS RESPONSES.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

2. (U) DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS IIR TO [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC 424

ADMIN

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