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AF PRESS GUIDANCE
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RWANDA/BURUNDI

RC **E/32**
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Guidance

Q. What can you tell us about yesterday's crash near Kigali of a plane carrying the Rwandan and Burundi Presidents?

A: -- LAST NIGHT, RWANDAN PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYARIMANA'S PRIVATE PLANE CRASHED ON APPROACH TO KIGALI AIRPORT, KILLING THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT AND BURUNDI PRESIDENT CYPRIEN NTARYAMIRA. THE TWO LEADERS WERE RETURNING FROM A ONE-DAY REGIONAL SUMMIT ON BURUNDI HELD EARLIER IN THE DAY IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA. PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO RETURN IN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S PLANE AND SPEND THE NIGHT IN KIGALI. THE WHITE HOUSE IS ISSUING A STATEMENT EXPRESSING U.S. CONDOLENCES.

-- WE DO NOT KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE PLANE WAS FIRED ON PRIOR TO THE CRASH, BUT THESE REPORTS HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

Q. Do we know of any other casualties?

A: -- WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHO ELSE WAS TRAVELING ON THE PLANE AND WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER CASUALTIES. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY SURVIVORS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW
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Q. What can you tell us about the two Presidents?

A: -- HABYARIMANA, AGE 57, CAME TO POWER IN RWANDA IN A MILITARY COUP IN 1973. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, HE WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE BROAD-BASED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REBEL RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT, IS TO LEAD THE COUNTRY TO MULTIPARTY ELECTIONS AT THE END OF A 22-MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD. THE TRANSITION PRIME MINISTER, CABINET, AND ASSEMBLY HAVE NOT YET BEEN SWORN IN.

-- -- NTARYAMIRA, 39, WAS CHOSEN BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT NDADAYE. HE WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT IN FEBRUARY. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN THE NDADAYE ADMINISTRATION.

Q. Who succeeds the two leaders?

A: -- UNDER THE BURUNDI CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTS AS INTERIM PRESIDENT UNTIL THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SELECTS A SUCCESSOR. THE SUCCESSION IS NOT CLEAR IN RWANDA. THE ARUSHA ACCORD PROVIDES THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSITION NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY ON AN INTERIM BASIS. HOWEVER, THE ASSEMBLY HAS NOT YET BEEN INSTALLED.

Q. Has there been any violence in either country as a result of the deaths?

A: -- BOTH OUR EMBASSIES IN KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA REPORT THAT THE CITIES ARE RELATIVELY CALM, ALTHOUGH AN INCREASE IN SPORADIC GUNFIRE AND GRENADE EXPLOSIONS WAS NOTED IN KIGALI. BOTH POSTS HAVE INSTRUCTED THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO STAY AT HOME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ALL AMERICANS ARE BELIEVED SAFE.

Q. How much aid do we provide to these countries?

A: -- THE U.S. IS PROVIDING APPROXIMATELY \$18 MILLION IN EMERGENCY RELIEF TO BURUNDI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED. U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IS BUDGETED AT \$8 MILLION FOR FY-94. WE SUPPORT FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE, PRIVATIZATION AND ENTERPRISE CREATION, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE DEMOCRATIC REFORM PROCESS. WE SUSPENDED AID FOLLOWING THE COUP ATTEMPT BUT LIFTED THE AID SUSPENSION ON DECEMBER 10, 1993.

-- OUR FY-94 BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS \$14.6 MILLION. OUR AID FOCUSES ON BUDGET REFORM, DEMOCRATIZATION, PROMOTION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, FAMILY PLANNING, AND AIDS PREVENTION. IN ADDITION, IN FY-93, WE PROVIDED OVER \$35 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO PERSONS DISPLACED BY THE WAR. SOME 350,000 REMAIN DISPLACED, AND WE ESTIMATE THAT HUMANITARIAN AID WILL BE AT LEAST \$10 MILLION IN FY-94.

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