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PAGE 01 STATE 167498 230000Z
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
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PARIS FOR PERLOW AND FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: N/A

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PAGE 02 STATE 167498 230000Z
TAGS: CASC MOPS PREL RW FR
SUBJECT: AMCIT NUNS IN RWANDA
REF: (A) 94 STATE 155544

1. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY PARIS ENSURES THAT FRENCH MILITARY PLANNERS WORKING ON RWANDA ARE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF TWO GROUPS OF CATHOLIC NUNS CURRENTLY TRAPPED IN KIBUYE AND KIRUHURA, RWANDA AS REPORTED IN REFTEL JUNE 10. BOTH GROUPS ARE FROM SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR ORDER, AND EACH GROUP HAS ONE AMCIT NUN IN THE GROUP. MAJORITY OF THE NUNS INVOLVED ARE BELGIAN AND

RWANDAN CITIZENS.

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2. THERE IS A GROUP OF 24 NUNS AT THE COLLEGE DE KIBUYE. ONE OF THE NUNS, SISTER JULIANNE FARRINGTON, IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. ANOTHER AMCIT NUN OF THE SAME ORDER, SISTER JUDITH CARROLL, IS IN GOMA, ZAIRE, TRYING TO ARRANGE EVACUATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE SISTERS IN KIBUYE. THE GROUP OF 15 NUNS AT KIRUHURA (NORTH OF BUTARE) IS IN THE CATHOLIC MISSION COMPOUND. AMCIT SISTER CHARLES MARIA (AKA JEAN SERRAFINO) IS WITH THIS GROUP.

3. SISTERS OF ST. MARY NEW YORK OFFICE REITERATES THAT AMCIT NUNS WILL NOT ACCEPT EVACUATION FROM RWANDA UNLESS THEIR FELLOW SISTERS ARE ALSO EVACUATED.

4. ICRC, UNHCR AND UNAMIR ARE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO GROUPS OF NUNS. FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED. EMBASSY PARIS IS ASKED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION THROUGH APPROPRIATE MILITARY AND POLITICAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 167498 230000Z
CHANNELS TO BE SURE THAT FRENCH TROOPS WHO ENTER RWANDA ARE AWARE OF THE LOCATION OF THE NUNS AND TAKE MAXIMUM PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.

5. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

CHRISTOPHER

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