CONFIDENTIAL

\*\*\*\*\*DCDS BRIEFING 07 APR\*\*\*\*

RRTEFER: CAPT RAT NATH

DRAFT

(CAN) RWANDA/BRUNDI: AIR CRASH

- 1. (0) AW 2100 LOCAL, A HYGTERD PALOON BEDOUTIVE JUT GARREING PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA OF RWANDA AND BRUNDIAN PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA FROM A MEETING ON GOVERNMENTAL REFORM IN TANZANIA CRASHED AND BURNED ON ITS FINAL APPROACH TO KIGALI AIRPORT. THERE WERE NO CURVIVORS. WHILE SPECULATION DY VARIOUS RWANDAM GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA OFFICIALS HINTS AT GUNFIRE OR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ACTIVITY AS BEING RESPONSTBLE FOR THE CRASH, SUCH REPORTS ARE COMPLETELY UNCONFIRMED.
- 2. (C) ALTHOUGH RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA HAD BEEN RESPRESENTING HIS GOVERNMENT IN TRYING TO INTRODUCE POLITICAL REFORM, HE WAS PERSONALLY AGAINST PLANS TO DRING TUTSIS INTO THE WIDER FOLITICAL PROCESS. SOME OF THE PRESIDENT'S DELIEFS WERE LESS THAN ALTRUISTIC AND IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HABYARIMANA'S FEAR OF LOSING POWER THROUGH A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY WAS AT THE ROOT OF HIS PERSONAL OPPOSITION. IN A WIDER CONTEXT, THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL REFORMS CONTINUES TO BE A DIVISIVE ISSUE AMONGST THE MEMBERS OF THE HUTU GOVERNMENT, WITH MANY SHARPLY OPPOSED TO THE TRANSITIONAL PLAN BEING DISCUSSED. BEING A MEMBER OF THE HUTU TRIBE WHILE NEGOTIATING FOR POLITICAL REFORM MADE THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT UNPOPULAR AMONG RADICAL HUTU AND TUTSI ELEMENTS.

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(2) 1277

O.Rnar TO 070530(4)



CANADIAN UN STAFF IN KIGALI REPORT THAT DURING THE EARLY ZULU
HOURS OF 07 APR, PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS WENT ON A RAMPAGE THROUGHOUT
THE CAPITAL, ROUNDING UP AND KILLING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND
THEIR FAMILIES. THESE VICTIMS ARE PRESUMABLY TUTSIS. IT APPEARS.
HOWEVER, THAT THIS ACTION HAS NOT BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE COVERNMENT
AS REPORTS INDICATE THAT OTHER GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE DEPLOYING TO
CONTAIN THE ROGUE GUARDS. WHILE REPORTS OF A SIMILAR
NATURE HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED CONCERNING BRUNDI, THE POSSIBILITY
OF A (4TH) MILITARY COUP IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION.
WHILE THE DIRECT THREAT TO UN PERSONNEL AND FOREIGNERS IS
ASSESSED AS LOW, THE RISK TO BYSTANDERS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF
AREAS OF CONFLICT IS SUBSTANTIAL.



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