

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01888 01 OF 02 241553Z
ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-01	/038W		

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O 241550Z JUN 94
 FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5433
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
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PAGE 02 BRAZZA 01888 01 OF 02 241553Z
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 AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN ECJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRAZZAVILLE 001888

PARIS FOR PERLOW

UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MARR, RW, FR, CF
SUBJECT: CONGO SUPPORTS FRENCH RWANDA INITIATIVE,
UNAMIR II

REF: A) STATE 16877 B) BRAZZAVILLE 1846 (NOTAL)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE CONGOLESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 23 SUPPORTING FRANCE'S "HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE" IN RWANDA, AND WELCOMING THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE OPERATION.
3. THE GOTC ALSO PRONOUNCED ITSELF READY TO "PARTICIPATE IN" (I.E., PROVIDE TROOPS FOR) UNAMIR II ON THE BASIS OF BOTH UNSC RESOLUTION 925 AND THE OUA'S RWANDA RESOLUTION. PRESIDENT LISSOUBA EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO ENGAGE IN SUB-REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRAZZA 01888 01 OF 02 241553Z
QUESTION OF RWANDA, ALSO EXHORTING ALL FORCES
FAVORABLE TO PEACE TO PROCEED QUICKLY WITH
IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

4. BACKGROUND. DURING AN EARLY-JUNE STOPOVER IN ADDIS, LISSOUBA ANNOUNCED THE CONGO'S READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS TO THE UNAMIR II FORCE. THE PRESIDENT ADVANCED THE FIGURE OF 300 MEN ON THAT OCCASION. SINCE THEN VARIOUS FIGURES HAVE CIRCULATED, BUT CURRENT CONGOLESE THINKING, AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, APPEARS TO HAVE SOLIDIFIED AROUND A ONE-COMPANY TOTAL: 120-130 MEN. CONGO HAS HAD A CONTINGENT OF 25 MEN IN KIGALI WITH THE UNAMIR I FORCE SINCE PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. THESE TROOPS, ALONG WITH OTHERS FROM FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, HAVE RECENTLY BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM KIGALI FOLLOWING THREATS FROM THE RPF. END BACKGROUND.

5. THE GOTC'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNILATERAL FRENCH INTERVENTION WAS AMBIVALENT AT THE OUTSET, BUT APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME MORE POSITIVE SINCE THE OPERATION WAS ENDORSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FRENCH INITIATIVE, RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE LISTED THE

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CONGO AMONG SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILLING TO JOIN FRANCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, RFI ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONGO HAD WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS. (NOTE: FRENCH AMBASSADOR CESAIRE TOLD US THAT CONGO WAS NOT FORMALLY APPROACHED ON THE QUESTION IN BRAZZAVILLE, AND THAT NO OFFER OF CONGOLESE SUPPORT HAD BEEN MADE OR WITHDRAWN. THE FRENCH HERE ARE MYSTIFIED AT THE

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PAGE 04 BRAZZA 01888 01 OF 02 241553Z
SOURCE OF THE RFI REPORTS. END NOTE.) AT ONE POINT WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONGO WOULD SUPPORT UNAMIR II, BUT NOT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. NOW THAT THE UNSC HAS GIVEN A GREEN LIGHT TO THE FRENCH, AND OPERATION TURQUOISE IS BEING VIEWED AS A PRECURSOR TO UNAMIR II, THE CONGOLESE APPARENTLY HAVE DROPPED THEIR RETICENCE AND ARE PREPARED TO JOIN THE FRENCH.

6. DATT HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED LOGISTICAL NEEDS WITH THE CONGOLESE MILITARY (REF B). BRIEFLY, WE WERE TOLD A CONGOLESE CONTINGENT WOULD REQUIRE:

- PERSONAL COMBAT EQUIPMENT;
- VEHICLES (MAINLY JEEPS);
- COMMUNICATIONS GEAR;
- TRANSPORTATION (NOT EXPLICITLY REQUESTED BUT PRESUMED NECESSARY)

7. THE AMBASSADOR IS SCHEDULED TO SEE PRESIDENT LISSOUBA ON SATURDAY, 25 JUNE TO REINFORCE THE MESSAGE

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PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01888 02 OF 02 241553Z
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OF SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH. AS CONGO HAS ALREADY
INDICATED IT IS ON BOARD, WE WILL USE THE OCCASION FOR
COORDINATION AMONG POTENTIAL SUPPORTING ACTORS FOR
OPERATION TURQUOISE. RAMSAY

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