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	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, RW, BE, BU
SUBJECT: A HUTU VIEW OF THE RWANDA CRISIS: A/S MEETS
RWANDAN AMBASSADOR

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE MET APRIL 15 WITH ALOYS UWIMANA, RWANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. UWIMANA NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN WELL-INFORMED ON THE

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U.S. VIEWS OF THE CRISIS, BLAMED THE BELGIANS FOR THE DEATH OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS, EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE WEST HAD NOT DONE MORE TO HALT THE BLOODLETTING IN KIGALI, AND CALLED FOR A CEASEFIRE AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. AF/C DIRECTOR RENDR AND ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (NOTETAKER) ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING. END SUMMARY

"WHAT HAPPENED, HAPPENED..."

3. A/S MOOSE EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES OVER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT, AND OUTLINED FOR UWIMANA THE

U.S. RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS. MOOSE EXPLAINED THAT OUR FIRST PRIORITY HAD BEEN TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN RWANDA; THAT TASK ACCOMPLISHED, THE UNITED STATES HAD TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY TO THE COUNTRY.

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4. UWIMANA RESPONDED PHLEGMATICALLY THAT "WHAT HAPPENED, HAPPENED," AND THAT IT WAS NOW CRUCIAL THAT THE RPF AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT MEET TO DISCUSS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT NO AMERICANS HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE VIOLENCE, AND ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE ANTI-BELGIAN SENTIMENT AMONG THE RWANDAN PEOPLE THAT WAS "NOT BORN WITH THIS INCIDENT." UWIMANA CLAIMED THAT THE BELGIANS HAD REFUSED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO THE GOR IN 1990 WHEN THE RPF HAD BEGUN ITS INSURGENCY, AND THAT THIS HAD ENGENDERED MUCH ILL WILL AMONG THE POPULACE. THE RWANDAN AMBASSADOR NEXT PERPETUATED THE FICTION THAT THE BELGIANS HAD SHOT DOWN THE PLANE CARRYING THE TWO PRESIDENTS; HE SAID THAT THE BELGIANS HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR AIRPORT SECURITY, AND THEIR CULPABILITY IN THE DEATH OF HABIYARIMANA HAD INCREASED ANTI-BELGIAN SENTIMENT IN RWANDA.

5. UWIMANA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASTONISHED BY THE "PROFOUND SILENCE" OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON RWANDA. THE U.S., FRANCE AND BELGIUM HAD MOVED QUICKLY TO EVACUATE ITS NATIONALS FROM RWANDA, BUT HAD DONE NOTHING TO HALT THE FIGHTING. HE ALSO BLAMED THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA FOR BIASED (I.E., PRO-RPF) COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS IN KIGALI, AND CLAIMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH

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EXAGGERATION. AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE MEETING HE PROVIDED THE RATHER UNIQUE EXPLANATION THAT THE DRUNKEN, MACHETE-WIELDING GANGS DESCRIBED BY MOST MAJOR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS WERE IN FACT THE EMBODIMENT OF A REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE WHO HAD TAKEN UP ARMS TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC FROM AN RPF WHICH HAD BROKEN OUT OF ITS BARRACKS AND BEGUN A MASSACRE OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

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6. UWIMANA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF REINFORCING UNAMIR, SAID THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE, AND THAT THE RPF MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE. HE URGED THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WEIGH IN WITH THE UGANDANS TO ENSURE THEY STAYED OUT OF THE CONFLICT AND REINED IN THE RPF. HE HOPED THAT THE UNSC WOULD BE SEIZED WITH THE RWANDAN CRISIS, AND THAT THE UN COULD BRING THE TWO PARTIES BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE UNDER THE ARUSHA FRAMEWORK (POWER-SHARING AND A COALITION GOVERNMENT).

STOP THE VIOLENCE

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7. IN HIS REPLY, A/S MOOSE REITERATED THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IN RWANDA. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD ALREADY SENT MESSAGES TO ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE ARUSHA PROCESS, AND THAT WE SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF GENERAL DALLAIRE, THE UNAMIR COMMANDER, TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE AND ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE. MOOSE MENTIONED OUR RECENT PRESS STATEMENT ON RWANDA WHICH HAD CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO STOP THE VIOLENCE, RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE, AND REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. ON UNAMIR, MOOSE STATED TAT WE SUPPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCE FOR THE TIME BEING. CLEARLY, THE BELGIANS WISHED TO WITHDRAW ITS CONTINGENT, AND THE REMAINING UNAMIR TROOPS WOULD NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO CONTINUE THE MANDATE. THE DECISION ON UNAMIR'S FUTURE LAY, FOR THE MOMENT, WITH GENERAL DALLAIRE AND THE UNSYG.

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8. MOOSE THEN DESCRIBED THREE KEY CONCERNS FOR U.S. POLICY IN RWANDA: RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION OF THE SOME 6,000 RWANDANS UNDER UNAMIR PROTECTION AT THE KIGALI STADIUM AND THE UNAMIR HEADQUARTERS; CONTINUED UN ENGAGEMENT IN FINDING A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS; EXPANSION OF HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ALL DEPENDED ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN KIGALI, BUT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. IN THIS REGARD, WE COULD NOT ASK OUR GHANAIAN COLLEAGUES IN UNAMIR TO PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY. THAT SAID, THE .S. HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO ENGAGE THE UN, THE OAU AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS IN ORDER TO COMBINE EFFORTS TO RE-ESTABLISH STABILITY IN RWANDA.

9. COMMENT: UWIMANA, WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FOR 7 YEARS, HAD DIFFICULTY BALANCING HIS HUTU HARDLINE WITH THE NEED TO APPEAR CONCILIATORY. INTRODUCING THE CANARD ABOUT BELGIAN INVOLVEMENT IN HABYARIMANA'S DEATH WAS PARTICULARLY EGREGIOUS. ON ARUSHA, UWIMANA TALKED THE TALK, BUT HIS PARTISAN DESCRIPTION OF THE KIGALI BLOODBATH BODES ILL FOR PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HUTUS AND TUTSIS.

10. BUJUMBURA, MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER

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