

(13)

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ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
ADS-00 NSAE-00 /002W
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P 031342Z FEB 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5649
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 00488

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, RW, CG
SUBJECT: IS HABYARIMANA A FREQUENT FLYER?

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 5.

3. A VARIETY OF EMBASSY SOURCES CLAIM THAT PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA HAS RECENTLY BEEN TRAVELING ALMOST WEEKLY TO ZAIRE, PROBABLY GBADOLITE, TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. THE FIRST CLAIM CAME DECEMBER 28-29, JUST PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 30/31 TARGET DATES FOR INSTALLATION OF THE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT AND TRANSITION NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AT THE TIME, THE CLAIM SEEMED BOGUS BECAUSE KEY POLITICAL PLAYERS REPORTED MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING THE ALLEGED TIME-

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FRAME. THERE WAS SUFFICIENT VAGUENESS ABOUT TIMING, HOWEVER, THAT A QUICK TRIP COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

4. THE HYPOTHESIS OF PERSONS ADVANCING THIS "FREQUENT FLYER" THEORY IS THAT MOBUTU'S COUNSEL IS HELPING REINFORCE HABYARIMANA'S RESISTENCE TO CHANGE. SOME GO EVEN FARTHER, SUGGESTING THAT HABYARIMANA MAY FAVOR A ZAIRIAN SOLUTION TO RWANDA'S POLITICAL IMPASSE.

5. ACTION REQUEST. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT (OR KINSHASA) MIGHT HAVE OR BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ABOUT THESE PERSISTENT RUMORS.
RAWSON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
EDWARD W. HOLMES