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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
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FOR REFCOORD THOMAS-GREEN FROM RP/AAA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AMGT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. LINDA - WE'RE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO RWANDA, BURUNDI AND TANZANIA. WE HAD MEANT TO SEND YOU THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF ISSUES/CONCERNS/QUESTIONS PRIOR TO YOUR LEAVING AND APOLOGIZE FOR NOT DOING SO. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL PROVE USEFUL FOR THE REMAINDER OF YOUR TRIP AND WILL GIVE YOU ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS YOU PREPARE REPORTING CABLES.

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2. CONDITIONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS/SETTLEMENTS: OUR IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT CONDITIONS IN CAMPS IN RWANDA HAVE IMPROVED. WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT CONDITIONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND SETTLEMENTS IN BOTH RWANDA AND TANZANIA? WHAT ASSISTANCE IS NOW AVAILABLE (WATER, FOOD, HEALTH, SANITATION, ETC.) AND WHAT IS LACKING? ARE UNHCR PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES AND RETURNEES TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN? REGARDING MORBIDITY/MORTALITY, THE LAST DEATH RATES REPORTED WERE UNDER 1/10,000/DAY IN RWANDA. DOES THIS STILL HOLD TRUE? IF SO, WHAT FACTORS HAVE LED TO THIS MORE ACCEPTABLE RATE, I.E., IS IT A REFLECTION OF IMPROVED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (MEDICAL CARE, SANITATION,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JAN 2005 200401096

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WATER), LESS CROWDED CONDITIONS, OR SIMPLY THAT THE WEAKEST HAVE ALREADY DIED?

3. FOOD PIPELINE AND DISTRIBUTION: WFP REPORTED TO US THAT MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED AND THE FOOD PROGRAM IS RUNNING MORE SMOOTHLY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS FOOD REACHING THE CAMPS/SETTLEMENTS, AND IS IT BEING DISTRIBUTED, ON A REGULAR AND TIMELY BASIS? WHAT DOES THE CURRENT RATION CONSIST OF IN TERMS OF BOTH COMMODITIES AND KILOCALORIES? ARE REFUGEES ACTUALLY RECEIVING THE PLANNED/APPROVED RATION? IS THE QUALITY OF FOOD STILL A PROBLEM? (WE HEARD SEVERAL REPORTS OF ROTTEN MAIZE MEAL BEING DISTRIBUTED.) WHAT DOES WFP'S PIPELINE LOOK LIKE? IS WFP ADEQUATELY STAFFED TO DELIVER AND MONITOR FOOD PROGRAMS? WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPETENCE AND RELIABILITY OF LOCAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES DISTRIBUTING

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FOOD?

4. NEED FOR FOOD AID: [REDACTED] REPORTED TWO WEEKS AGO THAT WHILE THERE WAS A CLEAR NEED FOR FOOD AID AMONG REFUGEES, HE DID NOT FEEL THAT DISPLACED PERSONS IN BURUNDI HAD THE SAME LEVEL OF NEED. HE SAID THAT MANY DISPLACED STILL HAD ACCESS TO THEIR FARMS OR COULD FIND FOOD BY FORAGING IN THE HILLS. HE ARGUED AGAINST A LARGE-SCALE FEEDING PROGRAM IN BURUNDI. THIS CLEARLY RUNS CONTRARY TO WHAT THE USAID MISSION IN BUJUMBURA HAS BEEN REPORTING. YOUR INSIGHTS ON THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

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5. REPATRIATION: IN TRACKING REFUGEE NUMBERS, IT APPEARS TO US THAT REPATRIATION HAS SLOWED IN THE PAST MONTH. WHAT ARE THE LATEST OFFICIAL REFUGEE NUMBERS? WHAT ARE THE BEST GUESSES ABOUT THE REAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES? IS UNHCR/BURUNDI REGISTERING RETURNEES, AND IF SO, WHAT IS THE NUMBER BEING USED? IF REPATRIATION IS STILL CONTINUING, WHAT ARE THE REASONS GIVEN BY REFUGEES/RETURNEES FOR RETURN (I.E., PLANTING SEASON, INCREASED SECURITY, POOR CONDITIONS IN ASYLUM COUNTRIES, ETC.)? IF REPATRIATION HAS STALLED, WHAT ARE THE REASONS/EXPLANATIONS GIVEN?

6. NEW AND OLD REFUGEES: REPATRIATION OF THE OLD BURUNDI REFUGEES WAS UNDERWAY WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS ASSASSINATED AND THE LATEST ROUNDS OF VIOLENCE BEGAN.

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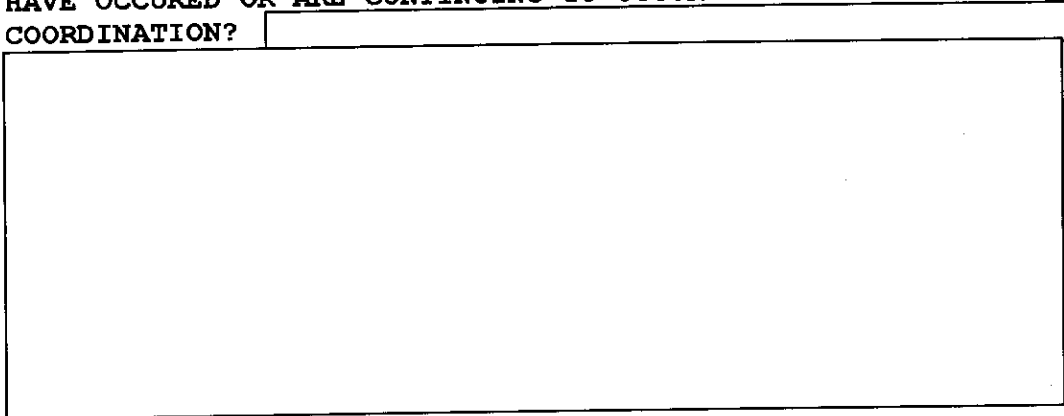
SOME BELIEVE THAT REPATRIATION OF THE OLD REFUGEES EVEN PRODUCED THE SPARK FOR THE LATEST UPHEAVAL (RETURNING HUTUS TO LAND PROMISED TO TUTSI MILITARY). WHAT IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE OF PLAY/THINKING ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE OLD REFUGEES' TO THE NEW, VIS A VIS REPATRIATION. SHOULD THE NEWEST REPATRIATE FIRST AS THEY PRESUMABLY HAVE A MORE MORE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE CLAIM TO THEIR LAND? OR IS IT MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE OLDER REFUGEES TO RETURN, AS THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING LONGER, MAY BE MORE FRUSTRATED, AND MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INFLUENCE OF RADICAL GROUPS?

7. RETURNEE INTEGRATION: WHAT IS UNHCR/BURUNDI DOING TO ASSIST RETURNEES FROM BOTH THE OLD AND NEW REFUGEE POPULATIONS (I.E., TYPES OF PROGRAMS, NUMBERS BEING ASSISTED, ETC.)? IS IT DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN RETURNEES AND DISPLACED AND IF SO, HOW? ARE RETURNEES SETTLING IN THEIR FORMER VILLAGES OR ON THEIR FORMER LAND? (NOTE. USAID/BURUNDI DIRECTOR MENTIONED IN HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON THAT A SORT OF ETHNIC SEPARATION WAS OCCURING, I.E., THAT PEOPLE WERE NOT RETURNING TO THEIR FORMER HOMES BUT INSTEAD WERE GROUPING ON ON ETHNIC BASIS IN RURAL AREAS. END NOTE). ARE THERE CONTINUING DISPUTES OVER LAND TENURE, AND HOW EXPLOSIVE OF AN ISSUE IS THIS LIKELY TO BE AS MORE REFUGEES RETURN?

8. RELIEF COORDINATION - BOTH IN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM AND IN BURUNDI, ARE UN ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS AND DONORS COORDINATING THEIR ACTIVITIES? WHAT ARE THE MECHANISMS SET UP TO ENSURE COORDINATION? ARE THERE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE OCCURED OR ARE CONTINUING TO OCCUR DUE TO LACK OF COORDINATION?



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9. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR OBSERVATIONS ON THE LEVEL OF ETHNIC TENSION AMONG

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TUTSI AND HUTU REFUGEES AND BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS IN BURUNDI. WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN, AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, TO FOSTER ETHNIC RECONCILIATION? WHAT IS THE RELIEF COMMUNITY DOING TO ENSURE THAT RELIEF PROGRAMS DO NOT EXACERBATE TENSION?

10. PALIPEHUTU: TO WHAT DEGREE ARE THE PALIPEHUTU ACTIVE IN REFUGEE CAMPS? IS THE DEGREE OF ACTIVITY THE SAME AMONG OLDER AND NEWER REFUGEES? WHAT STEPS ARE UNHCR AND THE GOR/GOT TAKING TO PROTECT REFUGEES FROM RECRUITMENT?

11. FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: WE HOPE YOU HAVE RECEIVED STATE 90078 SENT 4/6/94. THIS SUMMARIZES APPEALS AND PROPOSALS FOR BURUNDI REFUGEE ASSISTANCE THAT RP HAS RECEIVED FROM UNHCR, WFP, MSF/F, MSF/B AND IRC WHICH WE HOPE TO REVIEW NEXT WEEK. IT ALSO ASKS FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT (AS WELL AS POSTS') OF PROGRAMS AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FUNDING.

11. HAVE A SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE TRIP. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ALL ABOUT IT. MARGARET AND MARY.
CHRISTOPHER

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