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ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 EUR-01
HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16 LAB-01 L-01
ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-01
PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00
USIE-00 RPE-01 /039W

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R 041634Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5868
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDAO YAOUNDE CM
USDAO PARIS
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE //ECJ4-SAA//
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 00933

STATE FOR AF/C AND AF/RA

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

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TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINR, MOPS, RW
SUBJECT: RPF QUESTION PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL WILL

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR RAWSON ENCOURAGES CONTINUED DIALOGUE. THE RPF QUESTIONS THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL WILL AND ACCUSES HIM OF BROKERING A LAST MINUTE AGREEMENT ON FEBRUARY 27 THROUGH VIOLENCE. THE RPF WILL CONTINUE NEGOTIATING ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ALL PARTIES MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A MEETING ON MARCH 2 AT MULINDI WITH MINISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JAN 2005 200404138

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DESIGNATE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, MINISTER DESIGNATE OF YOUTH, THE DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RPF AND THE RPF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, AMBASSADOR RAWSON ENCOURAGED THE RPF TO CONTINUE ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT POLITICAL IMPASSE. AMBASSADOR RAWSON ALSO STRESSED THAT A RETURN TO ARMED CONFLICT WOULD NOT BREAK THE DEADLOCK; FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WERE NEEDED.

3. THE DAY PRIOR TO THE VISIT THE RPF ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT IT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN A GOVERNMENT BASED ON AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES ON FEBRUARY 25 AND 27. ACCORDING TO THE RPF, THESE AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED IN A CLIMATE OF TERROR ORCHESTRATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PEOPLE. THE RPF ALSO SAID IN THE COMMUNIQUE THAT THE ONLY LIST OF DEPUTIES THEY WOULD ACCEPT AS VALID WERE THE ONES APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ON JANUARY 4.

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4. DURING THE MEETING ON MARCH 2, THE MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR YOUTH AND THE MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS WONDERED IF CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WAS FRUITLESS. THEY HAD BEEN DIALOGUING SINCE JANUARY 1. OBVIOUSLY, THE PRESIDENT DID NOT HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. ANYTIME A COMPROMISE WAS AT HAND, HE USED TERROR OR VIOLENCE OR POLITICAL MANIPULATIONS TO PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE LATEST REIGN OF TERROR IN KIGALI WAS, IN THEIR OPINION, AN EFFORT ON HIS PART TO FORCE AN AGREEMENT TO SECURE A BLOCKING MINORITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THUS ENSURE A CONTINUATION OF HIS RULE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR COUNTERED THAT IF THE RPF WAS TRULY INTERESTED IN STOPPING THE VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION BY EXTREMISTS GROUPS IN KIGALI WHO DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE TRANSITION GO FORWARD, THEN THE RPF SHOULD WORK TO SET UP THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT AND HELP TO ESTABLISH A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH THESE EVILS. THE MINISTER DESIGNATE OF YOUTH RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE READY TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT CLEARLY THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT.

6. THE MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR YOUTH CONTINUED, SAYING

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THAT IF THE PRESIDENT HAD TRULY WANTED TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE, HE WOULD HAVE INVITED THE RPF TO THE MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY 25 AND 27. INSTEAD, THE PRESIDENT INTENDED ONLY TO ADVISE THE RPF WHEN TO SHOW UP FOR THE CEREMONY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE SAID, THE ALLEGED AGREEMENT REACHED WAS NEVER SIGNED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS SUCH AS THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE OR THE

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MINISTER OF LABOR.

7. THE MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR YOUTH THEN ASKED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT THE THREAT OF THE BURUNDIZATION OF RWANDA (MEANING THE USE OF INTRA-ETHNIC MASSACRES TO ACHIEVE HIS POLITICAL OBJECTIVES) VIOLATED THE ARUSHA ACCORDS AND WOULD ACHIEVE NOTHING.

8. SINCE THE RPF DID NOT SEE ANY MOVEMENT FORWARD, THEY HAD REITERATED THEIR BASIC POSITION AS IT HAD BEEN

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ARTICULATED ON JANUARY 5. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT AN INTRA-PARTY COMPROMISE, THEY SAID THEY WOULD, BUT NOT ONE COERCED BY THE PRESIDENT. WHEN QUERIED IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE OF FEBRUARY 28 AS A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS, THE RPF DEPUTY VICE-PRESIDENT RESPONDED FIRMLY, "NO". THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, CONTINUE DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FEBRUARY 18 ALL PARTIES' MEETING. MEANWHILE, THEY WANTED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE AMBUSH OF THE UNAMIR/RPF CONVOY ON FEBRUARY 22.

9. COMMENT. RPF PRESENTATION WAS FIRM, EMOTIONAL, AND FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON HABYARIMANA AS THE CAUSE OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN RWANDAN POLITICS. THE RPF OFFICERS CRITICIZED DIPLOMATS UNWILLINGNESS TO ADMIT WHO BORE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT IMPASSE. THEIR PRESENTATION WAS ALSO AIMED AT GAINING OUR SUPPORT FOR THEIR DECISION TO WALK AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. WHILE, AT AMBASSADOR'S URGING, THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE AND SEEK COMPROMISE, THE

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RPF CLEARLY WAS NOT IN A NEGOTIATING MOOD. RAWSON

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