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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166974

YAOUNDE FOR DAT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL MOPS PHUM RW
SUBJECT: AF/C DISCUSSES FRENCH PROPOSAL WITH RPF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 22 JUN 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2011 201005065

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER AND RWANDA DESKOFF AISTON MET WITH RPF REPS GERARD GAHIMA AND CHARLES MURIGANDE ON JUNE 17 TO DISCUSS THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERVENTION FORCE IN RWANDA TO PROTECT CIVILIANS PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF EXPANDED UNAMIR. THE RPF VOICED A LONG LIST OF OBJECTIONS CENTERED ON THEIR DEEP SUSPICION OVER FRENCH MOTIVES. AF/C SOUGHT TO ASSURE THE RPF THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD A PURELY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE, WAS MULTILATERAL IN NATURE, OF A SHORT DURATION, AND WOULD BE UNDER UN AUSPICES. END SUMMARY

3. GAHIMA SAID THAT GIVEN THEIR HISTORY IN RWANDA, THE



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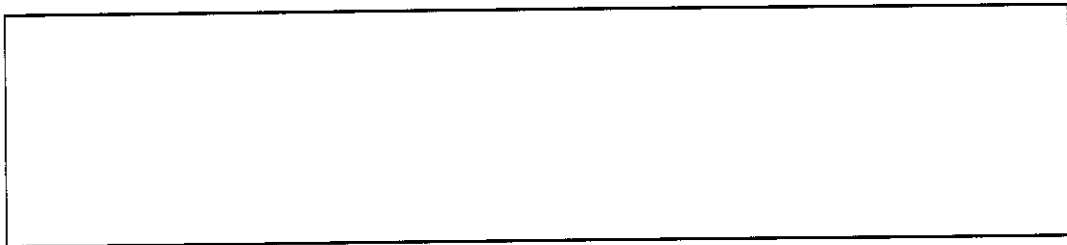
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-- THE RPF THINKS THE FRENCH ARE GOING IN TO PROTECT THE KILLERS, NOT TO PREVENT ATROCITIES. GOR FORCES COMMITTED ATROCITIES THROUGHOUT THE THREE-YEAR WAR AND FRENCH FORCES LOOKED ON AND NEVER INTERVENED TO SAVE ANYONE.

-- THE ARUSHA ACCORDS REQUIRE THE DEPARTURE OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, WHICH, FROM THE RPF'S PERSPECTIVE, MEANT THE FRENCH. IF THE FRENCH RETURN, THIS WOULD PLACE INTO QUESTION THE ARUSHA ACCORDS.



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-- WITH THE UN HAVING APPROVED EXPANDED UNAMIR, NO

COUNTRY SHOULD TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD GO FORWARD WITH DEPLOYMENT OF EXPANDED UNAMIR AND, IF THERE'S A PROBLEM, THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD EXAMINE APPROPRIATE STEPS.

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4. RENDER EXPLAINED THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL-AFRICAN FORCE TO CARRY OUT THE EXPANDED
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UNAMIR MANDATE TO PROTECT THREATENED POPULATIONS. IT IS MERELY A STOP GAP MEASURE UNTIL EXPANDED UNAMIR FORCES ARRIVE. THE FORCE WOULD NOT INTERVENE BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING FACTIONS OR SUPPORT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, AS THE RPF FEARED. RENDER ADDED THAT THE FRENCH WANTED THE FORCE TO HAVE THE SANCTION OF THE UN.

5. RENDER SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WANTS TO SEE THE KILLINGS STOP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE HAS NOT ACHIEVED THAT OBJECTIVE, AND UNAMIR IS NOT ON THE GROUND YET. WE SUPPORT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE BECAUSE IT CAN PROVIDE IMMEDIATE PROTECTION TO CIVILIAN POPULATIONS UNTIL UNAMIR ARRIVES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE WORKING TO SPEED UP DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR.

6. GAHIMA AND MURIGANDE RAISED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CONCERNS AFTER HEARING THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. GAHIMA FIRST ASKED WHETHER THE INTERVENTION WILL SLOW DOWN EFFORTS TO DEPLOY UNAMIR. RENDER SAID IT COULD WELL HAVE THE REVERSE EFFECT OF SPURRING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACCELERATE THEIR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. GAHIMA THOUGHT THAT IF THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTE TROOPS DIRECTLY TO UNAMIR, THE RPF MIGHT BE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE OPERATION. GAHIMA SAID UNILATERAL FRENCH INTERVENTION CLEARLY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AND THE ADDITION OF SOME TROOPS FROM FORMER FRENCH COLONIES "WOULDN'T COUNT", SINCE THE RPF CONSIDERED THEM TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON FRANCE.

7. GAHIMA ALSO EXPRESSED THE CONCERN THAT FRENCH INTERVENTION COULD RADICALIZE AND CREATE A "RESTIVE"
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SITUATION IN BURUNDI. RENDER URGED THE RPF TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN BURUNDI TO HELP MAKE SURE THINGS STAY CALM.

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8. GAHIMA SAID FRENCH INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE PEACE AGREEMENT AND THEY WILL HAVE TO RE-EVALUATE IT IN THAT LIGHT. RENDER NOTED POINTEDLY THAT THE RPF HAD ALREADY SAID THEY CONSIDERED ARUSHA STILL VALID, BUT NOW THEY ARE SUGGESTING THEY MIGHT NOT RESPECT IT. SHE WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER THE RPF ONLY APPLIED ARUSHA INTERMITTENTLY.

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10. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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