

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	OIGO-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/055W

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O 061552Z JUL 94  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8117  
INFO ALLEU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C AND EUR/NE

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PREF, BE, FR, RW  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER CRITICIZES FRENCH ON  
RWANDA ACTION

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REFS: BRUSSELS 7380 AND PREVIOUS

1. CLASSIFICATIONS -- AS INDICATED.
2. (U) BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER LEO DELCROIX, WHO HAD BEEN A PROPONENT WITHIN THE GOB OF SENDING A MEDICAL TEAM TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH FORCES IN THEIR HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN RWANDA, TOLD THE PRESS JULY 6 THAT THE MATTER HAD BECOME "TOO POLITICAL AND DELICATE" AND THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO SEND A TEAM.

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3. (U) ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON RWANDA DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE BELGIAN DEFENSE WHITE PAPER, DELCROIX SAID THAT FRENCH SOLDIERS HAVE BECOME "INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY". HE UNDERLINED THE "VERY NEUTRAL" POSITION OF BELGIUM VIS-A-VIS RWANDA. THE GOB, DELCROIX SAID, FEARED GETTING INVOLVED IN AN "AMBIGUOUS SITUATION," ESPECIALLY SINCE THE FRENCH SKIRMISH WITH THE RPF ON JULY 3. THE GOB, HE ADDED, WOULD WAIT TO SEE HOW EVENTS EVOLVE IN RWANDA BEFORE RECONSIDERING WHETHER TO SEND A MEDICAL TEAM.

4. (LOU) COMMENT. GOB MINISTERS, NOTABLY DELCROIX, HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITHOUT FULL GOB CLEARANCE. THE TONE, IF NOT THE CONTENT, OF DELCROIX'S REMARKS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT/NOT ENDORSED BEFOREHAND EITHER BY PM DEHAENE OR THE FULL CABINET. FONMIN WILLY CLAES, WHO HAS OPPOSED SENDING BELGIAN TROOPS TO ASSIST THE FRENCH FROM THE BEGINNING, HAS BEEN RESTRAINED IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT "OPERATION TURQUOISE." END COMMENT.

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