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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CCO-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DIM-01
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	HA-09
	H-01	IML-00	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/054W

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O 070105Z APR 94 ZFF4
 FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3261
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE
 USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
 ATO AFRICA IMMEDIATE

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0895

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DEPT FOR AF/C, DSS/OP, DS/OP/AF, USAID
YAOUNDE FOR DAO
EUCOM FOR J3

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW
AUTHORITY: EDWARD W. HOLMES

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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PREF, KDEM, BY
 SUBJECT: BURUNDI REACTION TO DOWNING OF AIRCRAFT CARRYING
 PRESIDENTS NTARYAMIRA AND HABYARIMANA

REF: AISTON/LANGE TELECON 4/6/94

1. AT ABOUT 2300, 6 APRIL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BURUNDIAN PARLIAMENT SYLVESTRE NTIBANTUNGANYA APPEARED ON TV, FLANKED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND U.N. SPECIAL REP OULD ABDALLAH. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE BURUNDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD JUST LEARNED OF "PROBLEMS" WITH THE AIRCRAFT CARRYING RWANDAN PRESIDENT JUVENAL HABYARIMANA AND BURUNDIAN PRESIDENT CYPRIEN NTARYAMIRA FROM ARUSHA TO KIGALI. A CRISIS COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION. HE EXHORTED THE POPULATION TO REMAIN CALM, AND SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD KEEP THE POPULATION INFORMED OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED AS IT LEARNED.

2. CHARGE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EUROPEAN COMS AND THE UNSGSR WHO HAD RECEIVED VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE DOWNING OF THE RWANDAN AIRCRAFT AND PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA'S PRESENCE ON BOARD. PIECING TOGETHER INFORMATION HERE, APPARENTLY
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 THE NEWS OF THE INCIDENT WAS LEARNED IN BUJUMBURA WHEN PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA'S AIR BURUNDI BEECHCRAFT RETURNED BETWEEN 2130 AND 2230 THIS EVENING. PAO RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE GRB AG MINISTER, WHO HAD BEEN AT THE AIRPORT TO WELCOME THE PRESIDENT BACK. ACCORDING TO UNSGSR ABDALLAH, NTARYAMIRA'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, WHO REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO BURUNDI ON THE BEECHCRAFT (HAVING MISSED THE CHIEF OF STATE'S FLIGHT) INFORMED THAT THE BURUNDI PRESIDENT HAD ASKED TO ACCOMPANY HABYARIMANA TO KIGALI. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BURUNDI, NTARYAMIRA HAD ASKED TO OVERNIGHT IN KIGALI, IN ORDER TO ATTEND THE APRIL 7 CEPGL MEETING OF SECURITY OFFICIALS IN GOMA.

3. FOLLOWING THIS EVENING'S ABOVE NEWSCAST, THE CITY OF BUJUMBURA APPEARS CALM, THOUGH THE NEWS OF SOME MISHAP WITH THE RWANDAN AIRCRAFT IN KIGALI AND THE PRESIDENT'S PRESENCE ON BOARD BEGAN TO CIRCULATE THROUGH THE CITY AROUND 2200. MOST OF BUJUMBURA WOULD HAVE BEEN AT HOME

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AND PROBABLY HEARD THE TV OR RADIO NEWS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPEAT NO REPORTS OF MILITARY MOVEMENT, EXCEPT THAT VISITING MISSIONARIES FROM GITEGA AT THE METHODIST GUEST HOUSE INFORMED THAT 4-6 MILITARY TROOP TRANSPORTS WERE OBSERVED HEADING SOUTH OUT OF TOWN ON THE ROAD TO RUMONGE. THE UNSGSR INFORMED ABOUT 0010 THAT HE WAS PARTICIPATING AS AN OBSERVER AT A MEETING OF THE CRISIS COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDES MILITARY LEADERS AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

4. EMBOFFS (CHARGE, RSO, AND PAO) USED THE WARDEN SYSTEM AT ABOUT 2330 APRIL 6 TO INFORM AMCITS OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT AND ADVISED ALL TO REMAIN IN THEIR RESIDENCES THROUGH TOMORROW, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. BASED ON
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DEVELOPMENTS AND INFORMATION, THIS ADVISORY WILL BE UPDATED. CHARGE HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH EUROPEAN COMS (BELGIAN, GERMAN, AND EU DELEGATE) AND OUR MISSIONS HAVE ADOPTED THE SAME MODE OF RESPONSE. EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. LANGE

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