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TAGS: MOPS PREL PHUM RW US

SUBJECT: DAS BUSHNELL TELLS COL. BAGASORA TO STOP THE KILLINGS

1. SUMMARY. AF DAS BUSHNELL TELEPHONED RWANDAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CABINET DIRECTOR COL. BAGASORA ON APRIL 28 TO URGE AN END TO THE KILLINGS. BAGASORA RESPONDED THAT THE RPF OFFENSIVE IS TRIGGERING THE MASSACRES AND THAT A CEASE-FIRE IS NEEDED FIRST. DAS BUSHNELL CONFRONTED HIM WITH EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF RWANDAN ARMY COMPLICITY IN

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THE KILLINGS, AND SAID THE WORLD DID NOT BELIEVE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT/RWANDAN MILITARY'S PARTY LINE. THIS SOBERED HIM UP, AND HE PROMISED TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO SEE IF A COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE, AND TO CALL BACK THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH AN ANSWER. END SUMMARY

2. BAGASORA TOLD DAS BUSHNELL THAT THE FIGHTING BETWEEN GOR AND RPF FORCES WAS CONTINUING, BUT WAS LESS INTENSE. HE CLAIMED THAT NO MORE MASSACRES WERE OCCURRING IN KIGALI AND THAT MOST AREAS WERE CALM, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BUTARE AND GITARAMA. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD TRAVELED TO BUTARE THE PREVIOUS DAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CALM THE POPULATION. BAGASORA SAID BUYUMBA AND OTHER TOWNS TAKEN BY THE RPF WERE "EMPTY".

3. CONSISTENT WITH THE LINE TAKEN BY OTHERS IN THE GOR AND RWANDAN ARMY, BAGASORA SAID THE RPF'S OFFENSIVE IS TRIGGERING THE MASSACRES AND THAT A CEASE-FIRE WAS NEEDED BEFORE THE KILLINGS WOULD STOP. HE CHARACTERIZED THE
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KILLINGS AS A SPONTANEOUS REACTION BY THE POPULATION TO THE RPF OFFENSIVE. BAGASORA OBVIOUSLY OBJECTED TO THE RPF'S CHALLENGE TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY AND SAID HE OPPOSED THE RPF'S DEMAND THAT THE GOR DELEGATION TO PEACE TALKS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY.

4. DAS BUSHNELL TOLD BAGASORA THAT THE WORLD DOES NOT BUY THE GOR'S STORY ON THE KILLINGS AND THAT CREDIBLE EYEWITNESSES AND RESPECTED ORGANIZATIONS REPORTED RWANDAN MILITARY COMPLICITY IN THE KILLINGS. SHE SAID THAT, IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, THE RWANDAN MILITARY ENGAGED IN CRIMINALS ACTS, AIDING AND ABETTING CIVILIAN MASSACRES. SHE REMINDED BAGASORA OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THEY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORDS, BUT THAT THIS APPARENTLY WAS NOT TRUE SINCE THEY WEREN'T EVEN WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE OF MILITARY REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THE PEACE TALKS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, DAS BUSHNELL TOLD BAGASORA THAT IT WOULD BEHOVE THE GOR MILITARY TO SHOW SOME RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP AND A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE LOOKING TO HIM PERSONNALLY TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

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5. DAS BUSHNELL'S REMARKS SEEMED TO TAKE BAGASORA BY SURPRISE AND SOBERED HIM. HE PROMISED TO TALK TO GOR ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF BIZIMUNGU TO SEE IF THEY COULD COME UP WITH A COMPROMISE. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL DAS BUSHNELL BACK TOMORROW. HE ALSO ASKED THAT WE TALK TO THE RPF. DAS BUSHNELL SIMPLY REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE WORKING WITH GENERAL DALLAIRE ON GETTING A CEASE-FIRE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLACE AND TALKS RESUMED.

6. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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