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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023857

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE RECENT EPISODE OF ETHNICALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AGAINST EMPLOYEES OF A USAID-FUNDED CARE PROJECT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS THAT IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF A PATTERN WHEREBY THE PRESIDENT IS TOLERATING IF NOT ENCOURAGING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE ONLY HE CAN SAVE THE COUNTRY. CERTAINLY THAT IS THE WAY IT IS INCREASINGLY PERCEIVED AMONG THOSE FOLLOWING RWANDAN AFFAIRS.
3. THERE ARE ALREADY STORIES CIRCULATING THAT THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING TRIP ABROAD, INCLUDING TO THE U.S. NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, WILL COINCIDE WITH FURTHER (AND THIS TIME UNCONTROLLABLE) VIOLENCE, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY A HARD-LINE MILITARY COUP, ENABLING HIM TO RETURN TO RESTORE ORDER AND A SEMBLANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, AND UNLESS YOU SEE MAJOR

PROBLEMS, YOU SHOULD REQUEST AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AND EXPRESS OUR CONCERN, DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT ASSAULT ON EMPLOYEES OF THE USAID-FUNDED CARE PROJECT IN BYUMBA. IT APPEARS TO HAVE ETHNICALLY MOTIVATED, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES DID NOTHING TO STOP IT.

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-- SUCH VIOLENCE, IF CONTINUED, COULD JEOPARDIZE OUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WORK IN RWANDA.

-- UNFORTUNATELY, THE EPISODE SEEMS ALL TOO TYPICAL OF OTHER VIOLENCE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF RWANDA.

-- REALIZING THE STRESS AND STRAIN GENERATED BY THE ARUSHA NEGOTIATIONS, WE NEVERTHELESS FEEL THAT IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS PRESIDENT TO CONTROL THE VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY THAT PART OF IT WHICH IS CARRIED OUT BY THE MRND YOUTH.

5. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF CONTINUED VIOLENCE DURING HIS ABSENCE ABROAD, DRAWING ON RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE COUP IF YOU FEEL IT WOULD HELP GET THE POINT ACROSS. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IN OUR FRANK VIEW, IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR HIM TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO A LATER DATE UNLESS HE IS CERTAIN THAT THE CURRENT ALREADY SERIOUS LEVEL OF POLITICAL TENSION WILL HAVE SUBSIDED. CHRISTOPHER

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