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PTQ4062

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00
	NISC-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/033W

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O 221004Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0539
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 001258

BRUSSELS FOR AS MOOSE PARTY

CORRECTED TEXT PAR 2 AND 4
E.O. 12356: DECL 5/22/95
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PHUM, RW
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF FIRE AT KIBEHO CAMP;

CASUALTY TOLL IN THE HUNDREDS

1. C --ENTIRE TEXT
2. THE ONGOING SECURITY SITUATION AT KIBEHO INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) CAMP IN SOUTHWESTERN RWANDA TOOK
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A TURN FOR THE WORSE APRIL 21 WITH WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED BREAKOUTS BY ARMED ELEMENTS USING FELLOW IDP'S AS SHIELDS. THIS WAS A FURTHER TRAGIC BREAKDOWN IN RPA'S EFFORTS TO EMPTY THE CAMP WHICH BEGAN ON TUESDAY APRIL 16 WHEN RPA SURROUNDED KIBEHO CAMP AND THE RUSH OF INMATES TOWARD UNAMIR'S ZAMBIA BATTALION CRUSHED SEVERAL TO DEATH. ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, ROCK THROWING INCIDENTS DREW DIRECT FIRE FROM RPA WITH SEVERAL DOZEN CASUALTIES. A WESTERN OBSERVER IN THE CAMP APRIL 21 REPORTED CONDITIONS AS PITIABLE, IDPS AS VERY FRIGHTENED, AND RUMORS CIRCULATING ABOUT A DESPERATION BREAKOUT. A SEPARATE DATT REPORT ADDRESSES THE EVENTS OF THE DAY IN SOME DETAIL

3. AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT BREAKOUT ATTEMPTS APRIL 21 RESULTED IN EXTENDED EXCHANGES OF FIRE WITHIN THE CAMP BETWEEN IDP ELEMENTS WHICH UNAMIR'S AUSTRALIA MEDICAL UNIT (AUSMED) ON THE SCENE REPORTED AS BEING ARMED WITH MACHETES, GRENADES, AND AK-47S. AUSMED REPORTING PRAISED RPA AS BEING "CONTROLLED AND DISCIPLINED" IN THE FACE OF BREAKOUT ATTEMPTS. REPORTS OF THE CASUALTY TOLL FROM OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE AT VARYING TIMES RANGE FROM 30 TO POSSIBLY ONE THOUSAND DEAD. THE MORE SERIOUS OF THE TWO BREAKOUT ATTEMPTS OCCURRED JUST AS DUSK WAS FALLING, MAKING CASUALTY COUNTS IMPRACTICAL BEFORE SUNUP. AUSMED REPORTS THAT IN THIS SECOND ATTEMPT, AS MANY AS FIVE THOUSAND IDPS RUSHED THE RPA POSITION, AND THAT THE RPA RESPONDED WITH MACHINE GUN AND MORTAR FIRE.

4. NOT MUCH MORE THAN THIS IS KNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME. AS REPORTS OF CONTINUED FIGHTING REACHED KIGALI AFTERNOON

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APRIL 22, AMBASSADOR CALLED PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELLOR MURIGANDE AND PRESSED FOR IMMEDIATE HIGHEST LEVEL ACTION TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AND SAVE LIVES. WE URGE CAUTION IN ATTRIBUTING CAUSE OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VIOLENCE UNTIL MORE FACTS ARE KNOWN. THOUGH WE CANNOT ESTIMATE FIGURES, WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT THERE ARE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. AUSMED BELIEVES THERE MAY BE HUNDREDS DEAD AND THOUSANDS WOUNDED.

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5. WE HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY THAT UNAMIR MAY REQUEST MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S., PARTICULARLY SURGEONS EXPERIENCED IN DEALING WITH GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT/NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUSMED IS WAITING UNTIL DAYLIGHT TO DETERMINE IF SURGICAL RESOURCES ARE ADEQUATE FOR NEEDS ON THE GROUND.

6. UNAMIR HAS CALLED AN EXTRAORDINARY BRIEFING FOR SUNDAY APRIL 22, WITH AN EXPECTED VISIT TO THE CAMP BY HIGH-LEVEL UNAMIR OFFICERS. USAID OFFICER SCHWARZENDRUBER IS SCHEDULE TO GO TO THE SITE WITH UNREO, AND DATT AND EMBASSY OFFICER WILL ATTEMPT TO HITCH A RIDE ON UNAMIR HELICOPTERS. RAWSON

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