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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO LOG-00 CA-02 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 EUR-01 TEDE-00  
INR-00 IO-16 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OCS-06 OIC-02 PPT-01  
DRL-09 /038R

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O P 100526Z JUN 94  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, RW  
SUBJECT: AMCIT NUNS TRAPPED IN RWANDA  
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REF. 94 BUJUMBURA 1817 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY/ACTION REQUEST. TWO AMCIT CATHOLIC NUNS ARE TRAPPED AND IN DANGER IN KIBUYE AND KIRUHURA, RWANDA. THE TWO AMCIT SISTERS ARE WITH GROUPS OF THEIR FELLOW SISTERS WHO ARE MOSTLY RWANDAN AND BELGIAN CITIZENS. DEPARTMENT HAS CONTACTED UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK TO REQUEST UNAMIR ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING THE NUNS. USUN IS REQUESTED TO URGE UNDPKO TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT TO OBTAIN UNAMIR ASSISTANCE FOR THE NUNS. OTHER ACTION

ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO UN  
AND ICRC OFFICES IN THEIR CITIES AS APPROPRIATE. END  
SUMMARY/ACTION REQUEST.

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2. AF/C WAS CONTACTED LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 9 BY STAFFER  
LISA ALFRED OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AFRICA REGARDING TWO AMERICAN CITIZEN NUNS OF THE CATHOLIC  
SISTERS OF ST. MARY ORDER WHO ARE TRAPPED AND IN DANGER IN  
RWANDA. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE  
SISTERS OF ST. MARY OFFICE IN KENMORE, NY, AMCIT SISTER

MARIE JULIANNE FARRINGTON (AKA JOAN FARRINGTON), DOB  
1/4/30, US PPT. 062237077, IS CURRENTLY TRAPPED IN KIBUYE,  
RWANDA, WITH A GROUP OF 23 OTHER NUNS FROM THE SAME  
ORDER. SISTER MARIE JULIANNE IS THE ONLY AMCIT IN THE  
GROUP. ONE SISTER IS BRITISH, 5 ARE BELGIAN, AND THE  
OTHER 17 ARE RWANDANS. KIBUYE IS ON THE SHORE OF LAKE  
KIVU, ON THE RWANDA/ZAIRE BORDER, SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT  
THE SISTERS COULD BE EVACUATED BY BOAT TO ZAIRE.

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3. THE OTHER AMERICAN NUN, SISTER CHARLES MARIA (AKA JEAN  
SERRAFINO), IS FROM THE SAME SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR  
ORDER. SHE IS BELIEVED TO BE IN KIRUHURA IN THE DIOCESE  
OF BUTARE (IN SOUTHWESTERN RWANDA, CLOSE TO THE BURUNDI  
BORDER) WITH A GROUP OF 14 OTHER SISTERS, OF WHOM ONE IS  
BELGIAN, ONE ZAIROISE AND THE REST RWANDAN.

4. EMBASSY BUJUMBURA CONOFF HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION IN  
MAY ABOUT THE TWO AMERICAN SISTERS' EFFORTS TO HELP THEIR  
FELLOW NUNS IN RWANDA (REFTEL). EMBASSY BUJUMBURA OFFICERS  
REPEATEDLY WARNED MANY AMCIT RELIGIOUS WORKERS WHO PASSED  
THROUGH BUJUMBURA ABOUT THE DANGER OF ENTERING RWANDA, AND  
URGED ALL AMERICANS NOT TO ENTER RWANDA. THE ST. MARY'S  
OFFICE IN NEW YORK TOLD LISA ALFRED THAT THE TWO AMERICAN  
NUNS HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET THEIR GROUPS OF FELLOW SISTERS  
OUT OF RWANDA BY BRIBING THEIR WAY THROUGH VARIOUS  
MILITARY CHECKPOINTS ON THE ROADS. THEY ARE NOW RUNNING  
OUT OF MONEY AND FOOD AND ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE, AND HAVE  
TAKEN REFUGE IN KIBUYE AND KIRUHURA. THE FACT THAT BOTH  
GOVERNMENT FORCES AND REBELS HAVE RECENTLY KILLED PRIESTS  
AND BISHOPS IN RWANDA, INCLUDING THE ARCHBISHOP OF KIGALI,  
INDICATES THAT RWANDAN COMBATANTS ARE NOT SHOWING ANY  
MORE MERCY TO RELIGIOUS WORKERS THAN TO ORDINARY  
RWANDANS. THE TWO AMERICAN NUNS DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE

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RWANDA WITHOUT THE OTHER SISTERS FROM THEIR ORDER.  
EVACUATION OF GROUPS WHICH INCLUDE RWANDAN AND BELGIAN  
CITIZENS COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS.

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5. UPON RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AF/C PASSED ALL  
OF IT, INCLUDING FAX LETTER FROM ST. MARY'S OFFICE IN NEW  
YORK WHICH LISTS THE NAMES OF ALL THE NUNS, TO UNDPKO  
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OFFICE. AF/C DESK OFFICER SPOKE TO UNDPKO RWANDA DESK  
OFFICER IZEL RIVERO ABOUT 1900 HRS EST JUNE 9. MS. RIVERO  
SAID THAT UNAMIR WAS ALREADY AWARE OF SOME OF THE TRAPPED  
NUNS, BUT NOT ALL, AND THAT SHE WOULD CONTACT UNAMIR  
IMMEDIATELY TO REQUEST RENEWED EFFORTS TO ARRANGE THEIR  
EVACUATION. SHE CAUTIONED THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT AND  
DANGEROUS FOR UNAMIR FORCES TO MOVE OUT FROM KIGALI.

6. MS. RIVERO SAID THAT IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS  
ICRC HAS BEEN ABLE TO MOVE HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES BY BOAT  
FROM ZAIRE INTO WESTERN RWANDA. ICRC HAS ALSO BEEN ABLE  
TO MOVE CONVOYS OF SUPPLIES FROM BURUNDI INTO RWANDA BY  
ROAD WITHOUT INTERFERENCE IN THE PAST TWO DAYS. ICRC THUS  
HAS THE BEST POSSIBILITY OF BEING ABLE TO FIND AND ASSIST  
THE GROUPS OF TRAPPED NUNS AT KIBUYE AND KIRUHARA. MS.  
RIVERO HAS INSTRUCTED UNAMIR TO COORDINATE WITH ICRC TO  
TRY TO EVACUATE THE NUNS.

7. FOR USUN NEW YORK. PLEASE KEEP IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT  
TOUCH WITH UNDPKO OFFICE AND INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ANY  
INFORMATION OBTAINED ABOUT THE GROUPS OF NUNS.

8. FOR GENEVA. PLEASE CONTACT ICRC HEADQUARTERS  
IMMEDIATELY TO REQUEST THAT ALL ICRC PERSONNEL MAKE ALL  
POSSIBLE EFFORT TO EVACUATE THE NUNS AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE  
TO DO SO.

9. FOR KINSHASA. PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO ICRC  
AND UNHCR IN KINSHASA AND GOMA AND REQUEST THAT ALL  
POSSIBLE EFFORT BE MADE TO FIND AND ASSIST THE GROUP OF  
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NUNS TRAPPED IN KIBUYE.

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10. FOR BUJUMBURA. PLEASE INFORM ICRC AND UNHCR OFFICES OF ABOVE INFORMATION AND ASK THAT IT BE PASSED TO ICRC BORDER OPERATIONS OFFICE AND UNAMIR.

11. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
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