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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-02	PMB-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/041W					

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P 131400Z JUL 94  
 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7739  
 INFO FRANCOPHONE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
 AMEMBASSY BONN  
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
 AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
 AMEMBASSY ROME  
 USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 12356: N/A

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PAGE 02            PARIS 19196 131352Z  
 TAGS: PREL, MOPS, RW, UN, FR  
 SUBJECT: GOF CONFIRMS TROOPS WILL STAY SLIGHTLY LONGER  
 - IN RWANDA

REF: PARIS 18797

1. SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER LEOTARD IN A LONG  
 TELEVISED INTERVIEW, AND FOREIGN MINISTER JUPPE IN A  
 SHORT RADIO INTERVIEW JULY 12 CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE  
 WOULD WITHDRAW 300 TROOPS FROM RWANDA BY JULY 31. MOST  
 FRENCH FORCES PRESUMABLY WILL BE OUT BY AUGUST 21, BUT

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LEOTARD HAD DECLINED EARLIER IN THE DAY TO CONFIRM ALL WOULD DEPART BY THEN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN EXTENSIVE LIVE INTERVIEW THE EVENING OF JULY 12 ON ONE OF FRANCE'S TWO GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED TELEVISION NETWORKS, GOF DEFENSE MINISTER LEOTARD SPOKE IN DETAIL ABOUT RWANDA. HE STATED THAT THE RECENT "LE MONDE" ESTIMATE OF ONE MILLION RWANDANS KILLED IN RECENT WEEKS WAS CREDIBLE, AND ADMITTED THAT MANY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES PROBABLY WERE IN THE FRENCH PROTECTED ZONE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS NOT UP TO FRANCE TO PUNISH THEM. THE GOF WOULD COOPERATE FULLY, HOWEVER, WITH THE UN AND OTHER "RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES."

3. AS HE HAD DONE EARLIER IN THE DAY AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, LEOTARD CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE WOULD BEGIN ITS PULLOUT OF OPERATION TURQUOISE TROOPS BY JULY 31, WHEN THE FIRST 300 WOULD LEAVE. FOREIGN MINISTER JUPPE CONFIRMED THIS IN A BRIEF RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(RFI) INTERVIEW, ADDING THAT HE ANTICIPATED 1,000 UNAMIR SOLDIERS WOULD BE IN PLACE BY THEN. LEOTARD ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOF MANDATE FROM THE UN EXPIRED AUGUST 21. HE IMPLIED THE BULK OF FRENCH FORCES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN BY THEN, BUT DECLINED TO AFFIRM THE PULLOUT WOULD BE COMPLETE. THE SAME HAD BEEN THE CASE EARLIER IN THE DAY WHEN LEOTARD TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT FRANCE WOULD TURN OVER OPERATIONS TO THE UN ON AUGUST 21; HE WOULD NOT SAY THAT ALL FRENCH TROOPS WOULD BE OUT BY THEN. HIS CONCLUSION WAS "WE CANNOT LEAVE IN A PRECIPITOUS WAY THAT WOULD ACCENTUATE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RWANDAN PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT: OPERATION TURQUOISE MAY ASSUME THE COLOR OF UN BLUE, BUT PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE IN MODIFIED FORM LONGER THAN FRANCE ENVISAGED ORIGINALLY. THE BALLADUR GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORT FROM PARLIAMENT, THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA FOR ITS HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN RWANDA. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE UNDER ANY KIND OF PRESSURE RESEMBLING THAT FACED BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR OUR COMPARABLE EFFORT IN SOMALIA.

BOHLEN

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