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PAGE 01 STATE 114677 011733Z
ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
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APPROVED BY: AF:PBUSHNELL

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
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PAGE 02 STATE 114677 011733Z
TAGS: PREL, ET, TZ, UG, BY, CG, EG, FR, BE, SZ
SUBJECT: GOR CHIEF OF STATE BIZIMUNGO TO RESPECT
CEASE-FIRE AND STOP MASSACRES IF RPF DOES SAME

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN AN EARLY MORNING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DAS
BUSHNELL ON MAY 1, GOR GENERAL BIZIMUNGO RELUCTANTLY
REITERATED HIS EARLIER CLAIM THAT THE GOR WOULD STOP THE
MASSACRE OF CIVILIANS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF A CEASE-FIRE IF
THE RPF WOULD AGREE TO DO THE SAME. ACCORDING THE

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BIZIMUNGO, FIGHTING WAS GOING ON IN KIGALI, THE MASSACRES BEHIND GOR LINES WERE "80 PERCENT" OVER BUT INNOCENT CIVILIANS WERE BEING KILLED IN RPF-CONTROLLED TERRITORY. THE COS CONFIRMED THAT A GOR TEAM IN TANZANIA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PEACE DISCUSSIONS ON MAY 2. BIZIMUNGO SAID AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS SHOULD COME TO RWANDA IMMEDIATELY TO SEE THE SITUATION FOR THEMSELVES AND DENIED THAT THE GOR WAS PREVENTING ANYONE FROM CROSSING THE BORDER INTO BURUNDI OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HIS PROTEST THAT THE GOR WAS ARMING CIVILIANS WAS AS WEAK AS HIS AGREEMENT TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO STOP THE RADIO

BROADCASTS INCITING HUTUS TO VIOLENCE .

3. BUSHNELL INITIATED THE CALL TO BIZIMUNGO TO CALL UPON THE GOR AND BIZIMUNGO HIMSELF TO AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE, STOP BROADCASTING HATE MESSAGES OVER THE RADIO, CEASE ARMING CIVILIANS, STOP THE ON-GOING MASSACRES, AND ENSURE THAT ALL BORDERS UNDER GOR CONTROL WERE OPEN FOR SAFE PASSAGE OF REFUGEES. WOULD BIZIMUNGO CONFIRM TO HER HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 114677 011733Z
PRIOR ASSERTION THAT THE GOR MILITARY COULD BRING ORDER ACK TO THE COUNTRY WITHIN 48 HOURS OF A DECLARED CEASE-FIRE, SHE ASKED. BIZIMUNGO FIRST SAID YES, THEN BEGAN TO EQUIVOCATE. HE WAS A MAN OF PEACE, HE SAID, BUT HE WAS ONLY ONE MAN AND IT WAS UP TO THE LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SUCH DECISIONS. ASKED WHICH LEADERS AND WHERE THEY COULD BE CONTACTED, BIZIMUNGO REPLIED THE PRESIDENT WAS IN CHARGE BUT HE WAS IN GITERAMA WHERE TELEPHONES WERE NOT WORKING. WHEN BUSHNELL ASKED IF THAT WAS HIS OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE USG'S CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE, BIZIMUNGO SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE GOVERNMENT AND GO SEE UNAMIR COMMANDER DELLAIRE, WITH WHOM HE HAD AN IMPENDING APPOINTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

3. THE COS CONFIRMED TO BUSHNELL THAT A GOR TEAM WAS IN TANZANIA TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT AT THE PEACE TALKS TO BE RECONVENED ON MAY 2. HOWEVER, BIZIMUNGO CONTINUED, BUSHNELL NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND HOW MISUNDERSTOOD THE GOR WAS AT THE TIME BECAUSE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD FALLEN PREY TO RPF PROPAGANDA. FROM THE BEGINNING, HE SAID, THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WAS RPF BEHAVIOR, WHICH CONTINUES IN THE FORM OF MASSACRES AND CIVIL WAR. AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS NEEDED TO COME TO RWANDA IMMEDIATELY TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH FOR THEMSELVES.

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USHNELL AGREED THAT THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA THAT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS. BIZIMUNGO SEIZED BUSHNELL'S QUERY ON THE STATUS OF BORDERS UNDER HIS CONTROL AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE "LIES" THE RPF IS PERPETRATING. ALL BORDERS IN GOR HANDS, INCLUDING THE ONE WITH BURUNDI, WERE OPEN. IT WAS ONLY THE TANZANIAN BORDER WHICH THE RPF CONTROLLED THAT WAS SEALED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 114677 011733Z

4. ON THE QUESTION OF RADIO BROADCASTS, BIZIMUNGO CLAIMED THERE WAS NOTHING THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO SINCE RWANDA RESPECTED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. BUSHNELL POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION IN WHICH RWANDA FOUND ITSELF WARRANTED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO URGE RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR, BIZIMUNGO SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO, BUT, FRANKLY, HE HAD OTHER PRESSING ISSUES TO DEAL WITH, SUCH AS THE FIGHTING THAT WAS GOING ON IN KIGALI.

5. BIZIMUNGO WEAKLY DENIED THAT THE GOR WAS ARMING CIVILIANS SAYING HUTUS WERE ONLY USING WHAT MEANS THEY HAD AVAILABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST RPF ATTACKS HE REPEATED THAT HE COULD NOT FIGHT A WAR AND TEND TO LAW AND ORDER SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS CAUSED BUSHNELL TO STRESS AGAIN THE URGENCY OF A CEASEFIRE. BIZIMUNGO SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO GENERAL DELLAIRE'S OFFICE WHEN SHE HAD CALLED AND PROMISED TO TALK BOTH TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND TO DELLAIRE ABOUT USG CONCERNS. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO BUSHNELL FURTHER IF SHE CALLED LATER IN THE DAY.

6. COMMENT. THE CONVERSATION WITH BIZIMUNGO, VIRTUALLY THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE ONE SHE HAD WITH RPF GENERAL KAGAME ON APRIL 30 (REPORTED SEPTTEL), WAS A DISCOURAGING ONE. BIZIMUNGO CLUNG TO AN EVEN HARDER LINE THAN THE ONE HE HAD VOICED IN A CONVERSATION WITH BUSHNELL EARLIER IN THE WEEK. HE SEEMED NEITHER PANICKED BY THE FIGHTING IN THE CITY NOR IN DOUBT THAT THE GOR WAS ANYTHING BUT A VICTIM OF EVIL BEHAVIOR. HE SEEMED GENUINELY PUZZLED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD DOUBT THE GOR POSITION

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 05 STATE 114677 011733Z

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AND ANGRY BY WHAT HE PERCEIVED TO BE A GENERAL TILT TOWARD
THE RPF VERSION OF TRUTH. END COMMENT.

7. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZED CONSIDERED. TALBOTT

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