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RELEASED IN PART

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ACTION AF-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00 CTME-00  
C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 EB-01 EUR-01  
FBO-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16  
LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06  
OIC-02 OMB-01 OPR-01 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01  
SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00  
T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 RPE-01 /058W  
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PP  
B1  
1.5(d)

O 221154Z FEB 94  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5785  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
( ) Release	( ) Declassify
(X) Excise	( ) Declassify in Part
( ) Deny	( ) Class. Ret/Renew
Exemptions <u>B1</u>	
ARP Action Cert <u>DRP</u>	Date <u>4-18-94</u>

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STATE FOR AF/C AND DSS/OP/AF  
BUJUMBURA FOR RSO  
YAOUNDE FOR DATT

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, PHUM, PGOV, RW  
SUBJECT: MINISTER/POLITICIAN ASSASSINATED

1. (C) SUMMARY. UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN SHOT AND KILLED OPPOSITION POLITICIAN AND MINISTER FELICIEN GATABAZI OUTSIDE HIS KIGALI HOME EVENING OF 2/21. THE INCIDENT COINCIDED WITH YET ANOTHER BREAKDOWN OF TALKS OVER FORMATION OF TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS, TARGETED FOR 2/22, AND FOLLOWS TWO DAYS OF SOMETIMES VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN KIGALI. NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION, BUT FINGERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY POINT AT BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE AND THE RPF. ANGRY PSD YOUTH COULD CAUSE INSECURITY TO ESCALATE BOTH IN KIGALI AND BUTARE, GATABAZI'S HOME. EMBASSY WARDEN NET WAS ACTIVATED FOR OFFICIAL

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AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS DURING HOLIDAY WEEKEND TO KEEP AMCITS APPRISED OF THE SITUATION. THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MET MORNING 2/22 AND WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND INFORM THE COMMUNITY. ALL REGISTERED AMERICANS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR AND SAFE. END SUMMARY.

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GATABAZI ASSASSINATED

2. (U) FELICIEN GATABAZI, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENERGY AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY (PSD), WAS ASSASSINATED BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN OUTSIDE HIS HOME AT ABOUT 10PM MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 21. ONE OF HIS GENDARME

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BODY GUARDS WAS ALSO KILLED AND ANOTHER IS SERIOUSLY INJURED. FOLLOWING THE BURST OF AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE THAT KILLED THE MINISTER, A SERIES OF GRENADES EXPLODED IN THE VALLIES BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL HILLS WHERE AMERICANS LIVE IN KIGALI.

3. (U) GATABAZI, THE HIGHEST RANKING POLITICAL LEADER TO BE ASSASSINATED SINCE MULTI-PARTY POLITICS BEGAN NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO, HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE PSD AND IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS, MOST RECENTLY IN HELPING TO BROKER PARTY DIFFERENCES AND REESTABLISH THE UNITY OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. HIS KILLING FOLLOWS BY NINE MONTHS THE UNRESOLVED ASSASSINATION OF EMMANUEL GAPYISI, AN LEADING POLITICIAN IN MDR, THE PARTY OF PM-DESIGNATE TWAGIRAMUNGU. AN INVESTIGATION IN UNDER WAY INTO THE KILLING, FOR WHICH NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

4. (U) THE ASSASSINATION OCCURRED AS GATABAZI WAS RETURNING HOME FROM A MEETING AT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE AND HIS SUPPORTERS SOUGHT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED INSTALLATION OF TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS AS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 22 (SEE SEPTTEL).

TWO DAYS OF DISTURBANCES

5. (U) THE ASSASSINATION CAPPED TWO DAYS OF DISTURBANCES IN KIGALI THAT LEFT AT LEAST EIGHT PEOPLE DEAD. ON SUNDAY 2/20, DISTURBANCES AIMED AT PREVENTING PARTICIPATION IN A POLITICAL RALLY CALLED

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6. (U) ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, 2/21, THE CDR DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PROTEST BEING DENIED THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE YET-TO-BE-FORMED TRANSITION ASSEMBLY. THEY CLAIM THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS PREVENTED THE CDR ACCESS TO THE CODE OF ETHICS WHICH PARTIES MUST SIGN BEFORE THEY CAN PARTICIPATE. THE DEMONSTRATION, WHICH BEGAN ABOUT 4 PM, WAS CONTAINED BY THE GENDARMES AND UNAMIR OBSERVERS. GENDARMES DISBURSED THE DEMONSTRATORS, NUMBERING ABOUT TWENTY, WITH TEARGAS ABOUT 11 PM, ALLOWING MINISTRY PERSONNEL, HELD VIRTUAL HOSTAGES IN THEIR OFFICES DURING THE DEMONSTRATION, TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

#### MOTIVES MUDDLED

7. (U) RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL (RFI) BROADCAST MORNING 2/22 INTERVIEWS WITH PSD PRESIDENT NZAMARAMBAHO AND A MEMBER OF GATABAZI'S FAMILY. NZAMARAMBAHO BLAMED PERSONS WHO WANT TO DERAIL THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS AND PREVENT THE TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS FROM BEING INSTALLED FOR GATABAZI'S DEATH. THE FAMILY MEMBER, POSSIBLY A HIGH-LEVEL GENDARME, SAID ONLY THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY.

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8. (U) HUTU EXTREMIST RADIO RTLM IS EXPLAINING THE GATABAZI ASSASSINATION AS THE WORK OF PM-DESIGNATE TWAGIRAMUNGU, WHO, AS AN ACOLYTE OF THE RPF, IS CARRYING OUT THE RPF POLICY OF ELIMINATING HUTU LEADERS. THEY CITE THE ASSASSINATION LAST MAY OF MDR LEADER GAPIYISI AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS STRATEGY FOR WHICH RTLM BLAMES TWAGIRAMUNGU.

GATABAZI BIO DATA

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9. (U) GATABAZI, AN ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL POLITICAL LEADER, BEGAN HIS GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS IN 1976, IN THE FIRST CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. HE HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL 1982 WHEN HE WAS CONVICTED FOR DIVERTING FUNDS FROM REFUGEE ACTIVITIES AND SPENT ABOUT 8 MONTHS IN JAIL. WHEN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE IN APRIL 1992, GATABAZI WAS NAMED AGAIN TO HEAD THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, A MINISTRY ATTRIBUTED TO THE PSD. GATABAZI IS WIDELY-BELIEVED TO HAVE ENRICHED HIMSELF DURING HIS MINISTERIAL TENURE, BOTH RECENTLY AND EARLIER. TRACTS AND SIGNED STATEMENTS HAVE CIRCULATED RECENTLY TO THIS EFFECT.

10. ~~(C)~~ WHEN HE RESUMED CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY, GATABAZI CAME INTO DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE PRESIDENT OVER A PLAN TO REORGANIZE THE MINISTRY.

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THE REORGANIZATION PLAN, WHICH NEEDED PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE, HAS NEVER BEEN APPROVED.

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#### PSD PLAYS KEY ROLE

11. (C) THE PSD IS THE ONE PARTY OPPOSED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HAS SURVIVED WITHOUT LEADERSHIP DIVISIONS DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. RUMORS THAT SOME OF THE PARTY'S DESIGNATED ASSEMBLY DELEGATES HAD GONE OVER TO THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE IN THE CURRENT TUG-OF-WAR WERE COUNTERED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH ALL ELEVEN REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PSD AND DENIED LOYALTY TO EITHER THE MRND OR THE

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	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01
	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	RPE-01	/058W	

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O 221154Z FEB 94  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5787  
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RPF. GATABAZI AND THE PSD HAVE PLAYED KEY ROLES IN  
RECENT EFFORTS TO BROKER SOLUTIONS TO THE POLITICAL  
PARTY DIFFERENCES BLOCKING FORMATION OF TRANSITION  
INSTITUTIONS. THEY HAVE REMAINED SOLIDLY IN THE CAMP  
OF THE PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE AND THE RPF.

COMMENT

12. ~~(c)~~ THE MOTIVES FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF  
GATABAZI ARE FAR FROM CLEAR. ~~HUTU EXTREMISTS WILL~~

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UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO USE THE TRAGEDY TO STIR ANTI-TUTSI AND ANTI-RPF EMOTIONS, POSSIBLY TO PROVOKE AN RPF RESPONSE AND LAY THE BLAME ON THEM FOR PROLONGING THE POLITICAL IMPASSE. THE OPPOSITION WILL NO DOUBT BLAME THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORTERS, EITHER THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, WHO GENERALLY HAVE ACCESS TO WEAPONS, OR THE PARTY YOUTH, THE INTERAHAMWE. WHETHER AN INVESTIGATION WILL TURN UP ANY SOLID EVIDENCE IS QUESTIONABLE.

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13. ~~(C)~~ THE EMBASSY IS MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE AT THIS TIME THAT IT WILL GET OUT OF HAND. UNAMIR HAS PLAYED A POSITIVE AND HELPFUL ROLE IN CONTAINING AND PREVENTING ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE WITH RAPID RESPONSES AND A CONTINUOUS PRESENCE AT TROUBLE SPOTS DURING THE PAST  
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THREE DAYS. WE CAN, HOWEVER, ANTICIPATE CLASHES BETWEEN THE PSD PARTY YOUTH AND YOUTH OF THE MRND/CDR PARTIES BOTH IN KIGALI AND BUTARE, THE HOME OF GATABAZI WHERE THE FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 2/24. MEANWHILE, KENYA AIRWAYS HAS CANCELLED ITS FLIGHT TO KIGALI AFTERNOON OF 2/22, STRANDING SOME AMERICAN VISITORS IN KIGALI AND SOME OFFICIAL AMERICAN SPOUSES IN NAIROBI.

14. ~~(G)~~ THE EMBASSY KEPT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL, INFORMED ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION 2/20-21 VIA THE WARDEN NETS. THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MET MORNING OF 2/22 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION AND WILL CONSULT AFTERNOON OF 2/22 TO DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER ADVICE TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY. ALL AMERICANS ARE CURRENTLY SAFE AND ACCOUNTED FOR.

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