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ACTION PRM-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	ANHR-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	PM-00	SR-00	PMB-00
	DRL-09	G-00	/043W				

-----BE91DD 241429Z /49

O 241404Z APR 95
 FM USMISSION GENEVA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1763
 INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 USCINCEUR VIHINGEN GE//ECJ2/ECJ3/POLAD// PRIORITY
 USINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/ECJ5// PRIORITY
 JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
 JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 003232

STATE FOR G, PM, IO, AF, DRL, PM/ISP
 PASS AID FOR A/AID, BHR, BR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, AFR, PPC
 ALSO ASS NSC

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL: 4/22/99
 TAGS: PEF PHUM EAID PINS RW BY
 SUBJECT: ICRC AND UNHCR UPDATES: KIBEHO CAMP CASUALTIES,
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LARGE GROUPS ON THE MOVE, BURUNDI FORCIBLY RETURNS
RWANDANS

REF: (A) KIGALI 1259, (B) KIGALI 1258

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. AS OF SUNDAY EVENING 4/23, ICRC AND UNHCR OFFICIALS IN GENEVA REPORTED THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE KIBEHO CAMP IN RWANDA WERE KILLED. MANY DIED IN A HUMAN STAMPEDE; MANY OTHERS WERE KILLED BY INDISCRIMINATE GUNFIRE AND GRENADES DIRECTED AT THEM. THE UNHCR AND ICRC STILL DID NOT HAVE FULL ACCESS TO THE CAMPS TO PROVIDE RELIEF AND EVACUATE THE WOUNDED. THEY WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE (AS MANY AS 100,000) WHO WERE ON THE MOVE SEEKING PROTECTION AND REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI HAS CLOSED ITS BORDER. ICRC ASKED THAT GOVERNMENTS INTERCEDE WITH RWANDAN AUTHORITIES TO GIVE HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES ACCESS TO ASSIST THE WOUNDED AND PROVIDE FOOD AND WATER TO THOSE STILL TRAPPED IN THE CAMPS. END SUMMARY.

ICRC HAS ONLY LIMITED ACCESS TO IDP CAMP

3. ON SUNDAY APRIL 23, THE ICRC'S ACTING DESK OFFICER FOR RWANDA AND BURUNDI, CHRISTOPHER WIESER, GAVE MISOFF AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE GIKONGORO AREA, ESPECIALLY IN THE KIBEHO CAMP FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED
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WHERE THOUSANDS REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED. WIESER SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-- EARLY IN THE WEEK, THE RPA SURROUNDED KIBEHO CAMP WHICH CONTAINED OVER 100,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS. BY FRIDAY, THE CAMP WAS CORDONED OFF, THE CAMP WAS CALM, BUT TENSIONS WERE RISING.

-- ON SATURDAY, SEVERAL PEOPLE TRIED TO BREAK OUT OF

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THE CORDON BUT THEY WERE REPELLED BY THE RPA WITH GUNFIRE; THE ENSUING CROWD MOVEMENTS CAUSED PANIC AND THOUSANDS WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH. THE RPA ALSO PANICKED, FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AND THREW GRENADES INTO THE CROWDS, WHICH ALSO RESULTED IN HUNDREDS OF CASUALTIES. MANY WERE SHOT IN THE BACK. THE ICRC COULD NOT CONFIRM REPORTS OF 8,000 DEATHS REPORTED EARLIER BY SOME SOURCES, BUT THEY BELIEVED DEATHS WERE IN THE THOUSANDS ON THE BASIS OF LIMITED (TWO-HOUR) ACCESS GIVEN TO ICRC AT 16:00 ON SATURDAY.

-- ON SUNDAY, ICRC GAINED ACCESS TO THE CAMP AND WAS ABLE TO EVACUATE 37 WOUNDED; ADDITIONAL VEHICLES WERE STANDING BY TO EVACUATE MORE IF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PERMITTED IT. ACCESS TO THE CAMP WAS HIGHLY RESTRICTED FOR EVACUATING THE WOUNDED, LET ALONE DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND WATER.

-- MOVEMENT IN THE AREA WAS HIGHLY RESTRICTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SECURITY CONDITIONS. WHILE ICRC HAD OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHORITIES IN KIGALI TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD AND WATER TO THE DISPLACED IN KIBEHO,
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AS THE TRUCKS CARRYING SUPPLIES GOT CLOSER TO THE CAMP SECURITY FORCES AT ROADBLOCKS WOULD NOT ALLOW THE TRUCKS TO PROCEED.

-- ICRC CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE KAMANA AND MUNINI CAMPS. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE STADIUM IN BUTARE WAS FILLING WITH INTERNALLY DISPLACED FLEEING KIBEHO. BY ICRC ESTIMATES THERE WERE SOME 100,000 PEOPLE ON THE MOVE AND THEIR WHEREABOUTS WAS UNKNOWN.

-- ICRC HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE BURUNDI BORDER WAS CLOSED AND THAT RWANDANS ATTEMPTING TO FLEE THE IDP CAMPS WERE FORCIBLY TURNED AWAY.

-- THE ICRC HAS WRITTEN TO VICE-PRESIDENT KAGAME ASKING FOR ACCESS TO THE CAMPS AND URGING HIS GOVERNMENT TO REFRAIN FROM INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTINGS. AS THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED ON SUNDAY MORNING, THE ICRC WAS INFORMED

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THAT KAGAME WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE REGION.

UNHCR'S AFRICA BUREAU DIRECTOR REPORT

4. ALSO ON APRIL 23, UNHCR'S AFRICA BUREAU DIRECTOR,

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KAMEL MORJANE, CALLED REFCOUNS TO EXPRESS UNHCR'S
CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE GIKONGORO AREA.
MORJANE BELIEVED THAT SATURDAY KILLINGS IN KIBEHO WERE
NOT PLANNED, BUT THE RESULT OF A PANIC REACTION BY THE
INTERNALLY DISPLACED, WHO TRAMPLED THOUSANDS TO DEATH,
AND PANIC BY THE RPA, WHO FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY INTO
THE CROWDS TO CONTROL THEIR MOVEMENTS. UNHCR OFFERED TO
PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THE WOUNDED,
BUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND HAD PREVENTED THE
DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE TO THE CAMP.

5. ACCORDING TO MORJANE, UNHCR WAS ALSO EXTREMELY
CONCERNED BY THE APPARENT CLOSURE OF THE BURUNDI
BORDER. HE REPORTED THAT BURUNDI AUTHORITIES FORCIBLY
RETURNED (REFOULED) 30 RWANDAN REFUGEES TO RWANDAN
AUTHORITIES AND WAS PLANNING TO RETURN ANOTHER 70 IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. IN HIS VIEW, THIS VIOLATION OF BURUNDI'S
ASYLUM OBLIGATIONS REFLECTED COOPERATION/COORDINATION
BETWEEN THE RPA AND THE BURUNDI ARMY.

INTERNAL UNHCR SITUATION REPORT

6. EARLY ON MONDAY, MISSION OBTAINED A COPY OF AN APRIL
23 INTERNAL UNHCR (STRICTLY PROTECT) SITUATION REPORT,
WHICH IS REPRODUCED BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT.

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THE SITUATION IN THE LARGEST IDP CAMP, KIBEHO, MOVED
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FROM ONE DISASTER TO ANOTHER OVER THE COURSE OF THE
DAY. THERE WERE SEEMINGLY REGULAR ROUNDS OF FIRE WHICH
RESULTED IN A HIGH NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED. (SUNDAY
0800H: LATEST UNAMIR/UNREO ESTIMATE IS MORE THAN 8,000
DEAD IN THE LAST 24 HOURS UNCIIVPOL ESTIMATE WAS 5,000
PERSONS AS OF LAST NIGHT.)

THE CAUSES OF DEATH APPEAR TO BE THE RESULT OF A
DREADFUL COMBINATION OF INCOMPETENT CROWD CONTROL AND
ACTIVE MILITIA MEN SNIPING AT RPA SOLDIERS. IN THE
FIRST INSTANCE, NERVOUS SOLDIERS SHOT PEOPLE WHO WERE
TRYING TO ESCAPE A DOWNPOUR OF RAIN. IN THE SECOND,
SMALL-ARMS FIRE FROM A HOUSE IN THE AREA WAS ANSWERED
WITH HEAVY MORTAR FIRE FROM THE RPA. PEOPLE WERE KILLED
NOT ONLY BY DIRECT GUNFIRE BUT ALSO IN STAMPEDES WHICH
OCCURRED AS THE IDP'S TRIED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE
CONFLICT IN SUCH A CONFINED SPACE. SUB-OFFICE (SO)
BUTARE FIELD OFFICER REPORTED THAT SHE HAD TO WALK BY
"PILES AND PILES OF DEAD BODIES" BY THE END OF THE DAY.

SO BUTARE ESTIMATES THAT KIBEHO CAMP WILL BE EMPTY BY
THE END OF THE DAY SUNDAY 23 APRIL. CURRENTLY, 7,000
PERSONS ARE BEING HOUSED AT TH HCR WAY-STATION AT
BUTARE: 12,000 PERSONS ARE STAYING IN THE BUTARE
STADIUM. THE MAIN TASK FOR UNHCR IS TO PROVIDE WATER
AND BISCUITS TO THESE PERSONS, AND TO TRANSPORT ONWARDS
PEOPLE WHO ARE WALKING TOWARDS BUTARE AND THENCE TO
THEIR HOME COMMUNES.

THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO CARE FOR APPROXIMATELY 2,000
UNACCOMPANIED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN CURRENTLY INSIDE

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THE ZAMBATT HQS. THE RSU OFFICER IS TRAVELING TO BUTARE
SUNDAY MORNING TO IDENTIFY PLACES TO PUT THEM, SINCE
MOST OF THE EXISTING FACILITIES IN THE REGION ARE
ALREADY FULL.

IT BEARS MENTION THAT MOST OF THE PERSONS WALKING ALONG
THE ROAD, AS WELL AS MANY IN WAY-STATIONS AND THE
STADIUM, HAVE NOT EATEN ANY FOOD FOR FIVE DAYS. WFP HAS
RELEASED 200 MT OF BISCUITS WHICH ARE BEING TRANSPORTED
BY HCR/IOM TRUCKS TO BUTARE SUNDAY MORNING.

NDAGO CAMP WAS ALSO CLOSED ON SATURDAY. THE REMAINING
CAMP POPULATION OF 10,000 WERE ESCORTED SATURDAY BY RPA
ON FOOT TO THE COMMUNE OF NYAKIZU. THE NEARBY KAMANA
AND MUNINI CAMPS, APPROXIMATELY 20,000 AND 25,000 PEOPLE
RESPECTIVELY, APPEAR NOW TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. THERE
HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OF VIOLENCE AT THESE SITES;
OBSERVATIONS IN THESE THREE LOCATIONS REVEAL THAT THE
MAJORITY OF THE CAMP POPULATION IS COMPOSED OF WOMEN,
CHILDREN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE. IN SOME CASES, THERE IS A
SENSE OF RELIEF AMONG THEM THAT THINGS ARE COMING TO AN
END AND THEY ARE GOING HOME. ANOTHER URGENT TASK FOR

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UNHCR IS TO FIND WHERE MANY OF THE MISSING PERSON HAVE
GONE; HELICOPTER TRIP OVER BURUNDI BORDER SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

STILL NO DEFINITIVE REPORT FROM NGOZI SIDE REGARDING
REFOULEMENT OF 30 PERSONS YESTERDAY EVENING TO NYAMATA,
RWANDA. TELECON WITH HCR/BUJUMBURA LAST NIGHT REVEALED
THAT THESE WERE PERSONS WHO FLED TO BURUNDI IN FEBRUARY

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1995; PART OF A GROUP TOTALLING 100 PERSONS THAT OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED TO REFOULE YESTERDAY. HCR/BUJUMBURA WAS FAIRLY SURE THAT THE REMAINING 70 PERSONS WILL BE REFOULED TODAY.

THESE PERSONS ARE NOT PART OF THE OUTFLOW FROM KIBEHO CAMP IN THE LAST DAYS. HCR/BUJUMBURA ALSO SAYS THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE ANNOUNCED ORALLY--BUT NOT IN WRITING--THAT THE BURUNDI BORDER IS CLOSED TO RWANDA. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT AS AVAILABLE.

END TEXT. SPIEGEL

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