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ACTION SS-00

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O 081612Z APR 94  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8184  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE  
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
SECDEF WASHDC

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DEPT FOR RWANDA WORKING GROUP

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, RW, BE, FR, BY, CASC  
SUBJECT: MEETING AT BELGIAN EMBASSY ON SITUATION  
- IN RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE CANADIAN HIGH

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW  
AUTHORITY: EDWARD W. HOLMES

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COMMISSION A MEETING WAS CONVENED AT THE BELGIAN EMBASSY THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN RWANDA AND TO SHARE INFORMATION FILTERING INTO NAIROBI. IN ADDITION TO THE BELGIAN EMBASSY MILITARY ADVISOR, THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY TWO OFFICERS FROM THE CANADIAN EMBASSY AND THIS EMBASSY'S ACTING DCM AND CHIEF OF KUSLO (KENYA-U.S. LIAISON OFFICE).

3. THE BELGIAN MILITARY ADVISOR OPENED THE MEETING BY GOING OVER INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO HIM, MOST OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED TO ADDRESSEES. HE DID MENTION SOMETHING WE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE, NAMELY, THAT THE TEN BELGIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WERE EXECUTED MAY HAVE MET THEIR FATE DUE TO INFLAMMATORY, ANTI-BELGIAN BROADCASTS BY A ROGUE RADIO STATION, INCLUDING A RUMOR THAT THE PLANE CARRYING THE TWO PRESIDENTS WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE BELGIANS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE BELGIAN MILITARY ADVISOR, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO PLAN FOR THE EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS, WITH THE HELP OF THE UN.  
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THE U.S. HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT. THREE BATTALIONS OF A PARACOMMANDO BRIGADE, WITH SUPPORT UNITS, ARE ON STANDBY IN BELGIUM. THE FOURTH BATTALION OF THE BRIGADE IS ALREADY IN KIGALI.

5. THE CANADIAN OFFICERS REPORTED THAT JUST BEFORE COMING TO THE MEETING THEY HAD MADE CONTACT WITH THE RPF IN KAMPALA. THE PERSON THEY SPOKE TO IS THE RPF'S SPOKESMAN IN KAMPALA, MR. LUTAYISINE. THE PURPOSE OF CONTACTING THE RPF WAS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO FACTOR THIS INTO THE EVACUATION PLANNING. LUTAYISINE TOLD THE CANADIANS THAT THE RPF HAS NOW DEPLOYED BACK FROM THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS TO LESS EXPOSED POSITIONS. THEY ARE NOT, HOWEVER, LEAVING THE CITY. WHEN ASKED IF THEY WERE PLANNING TO MOVE SOUTH, LUTAYISINE POINTED OUT THAT THE RPF WAS FIGHTING A BATTLE AND IF THEY HAVE TO PROTECT THEIR REAR THEY WILL DO SO. THEY

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WILL SEE HOW THE BATTLE GOES. IF NECESSARY THEY WILL BRING PEOPLE DOWN (PRESUMABLY FROM THE NORTH) TO PROTECT THEIR BATTALION.

6. THE CANADIAN EMBOFFS TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON LUTAYISINE THE CONCERNS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IF THE RPF SHOULD DECIDE TO BRING IN ARTILLERY TO SUPPORT THEIR TROOPS. LUTAYISINE SEEMED TO BE SENSITIVE TO THEIR CONCERNS AND STATED THAT THE RPF WOULD "TRY TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES." WE ASKED THE CANADIAN EMBOFFS IF THEY FELT THE RPF WOULD LET AN EVACUATION CONVOY PASS THROUGH THE AREAS THEY CONTROL. THEY REPLIED THAT THE RPF HAS BECOME PR  
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 SENSITIVE AND WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE SAFE CONDUCT.

7. THE CANADIANS SUGGESTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE RPF ALSO ATTEMPT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONVEY CONCERNS REGARDING ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING AND SAFE CONDUCT IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO EVACUATE OVERLAND. IF

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WASHINGTON CONCURS, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY KAMPALA BE THE POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE RPF.

8. OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES ALSO MENTIONED THAT EARLIER TODAY A SMALL AIRCRAFT CHARTERED BY SOME NAIROBI-BASED JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING BBC CORRESPONDENT MARK BOYLE) TRIED TO FLY INTO KIGALI, BUT COULD NOT LAND AND WENT ON TO LAND AT AN UNKNOWN LOCATION IN UGANDA.

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9. IN ADDITION TO TODAY'S MEETING, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FAX FROM THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCING A BRIEFING OF HEADS OF MISSION ON THE RWANDA/BURUNDI SITUATION ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9, AT 10 A.M. AT THE BELGIAN CHANCERY. AMBASSADOR, ACTING DCM AND KUSLO CHIEF WILL ATTEND.

10. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BRAZEAL

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