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RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION AF-01

|      |        |         |       |         |         |         |         |
|------|--------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | CIAE-00 | C-01  | OASY-00 | DODE-00 | EUR-01  | HA-09   |
|      | H-01   | INR-00  | IO-19 | L-03    | ADS-00  | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
|      | OIC-02 | OMB-01  | PA-01 | PM-02   | PRS-01  | P-01    | RPCS-01 |
|      | SNP-00 | SP-00   | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00    | USIE-00 | RPE-01  |

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-----A5DC7B 111508Z /38

O 111603Z MAR 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3303  
 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE //ECJ5-P/ETCC// PRIORITY  
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 01034

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PINS, PGOV, MOPS, PREL, RW  
 SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON GOMN  
 - AND CIVIL DEFENSE

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 REFS: (A) KIGALI 01022, (B) KIGALI 01021,  
 - (C) KIGALI 00819

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF DEFENSE EXPRESSED  
 SKEPTICISM AND DISTRUST OF GOMN AND HINTED AT OAU  
 COMPLICITY WITH THE RPF IN SETTING UP THE GOVERNMENT  
 OF RWANDA (GOR) FOR THE FEBRUARY 8 ATTACK. THE  
 MINISTER OF DEFENSE ALSO REITERATED THAT ONLY A  
 LIMITED NUMBER OF WEAPONS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO

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COMMUNES THROUGH THE COMMUNAL POLICE, BUT FEARS  
BANDITRY WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AS MORE GUNS AND  
GRENADES BECOME AVAILABLE DUE TO DESERTIONS AFTER  
MAJOR SKIRMISHES. END SUMMARY.

3. AMBASSADOR HOSTED DINNER MARCH 10 FOR DEFENSE  
MINISTER GASANA AND AF/RA LT. COLONEL MARLEY,  
ADMINOFF PARTICIPATED.

DISTRUST OF GOMN  
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4. DURING CONVERSATION MINISTER OF DEFENSE EXPRESSED  
HIS DISTRUST OF THE GOMN AND STATED THAT HIS MILITARY  
LEADERS WOULD NOT TRUST THE WORD OF THE GOMN WITH  
REGARD TO THE POSITIONS OF THE RPF AS THEY ARE  
ESTABLISHED IN THE LATEST CEASEFIRE ACCORD. THE  
MINISTER STATED THAT HE AND HIS MILITARY ADVISORS ARE  
CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS COMPLICITY ON THE PART OF  
THE OAU AND ESPECIALLY THE RPF MEMBERS OF THE GOMN  
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WHICH HAD UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO ALL GOR POSITIONS.  
HE FEELS THAT THE RPF MEMBERS OF THE GOMN USED THIS  
INFORMATION TO HELP PLAN THE ATTACK WHILE PRETENDING  
TO TALK PEACE IN ARUSHA.

CIVIL DEFENSE  
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5. BACKGROUND: FOLLOWING UP ON THE PRESIDENT'S  
SPEECH OF FEBRUARY 24, THE RWANDAN ARMY REPORTEDLY  
BEGAN DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO COMMUNAL LEVEL CIVIL  
DEFENSE UNITS. THE PROCESS WAS GIVEN A BOOST WHEN  
THE TWELVE PARTIES, WHICH MET WITH THE CATHOLIC AND  
PROTESTANT BISHOPS, ENDORSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS ON MARCH 2. THE PRIME MINISTER  
RAISED HIS CONCERN WITH ME ON FEBRUARY 25, WORRYING  
THAT ARMS WERE BEING GIVEN TO MRND YOUTH AND CDR  
SUPPORTERS ONLY IN VARIOUS COMMUNES OF RUHENGERI AND  
WOULD BE USED FOR MORE ETHNIC, AND/OR POLITICAL  
KILLINGS. ON THIS ISSUE HE AND MDR PRESIDENT  
TWAGIRAMUNGU ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

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PL PRESIDENT MUGENZI ASSERTED MARCH 10 THAT 10,000 WEAPONS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED| OTHER CONCERNS WERE REPORTED REF C. WE CHECKED THE REPORTS WITH LT. COLONEL RUTAYISIRE, THE HEAD OF EXTERNAL SECURITY IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. COLONEL RUTAYISIRE CONFIRMED THAT AS OF MARCH 2, THE ARMY HAD DISTRIBUTED 300 WEAPONS, APPARENTLY THE BASIC G-3  
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RIFLE AND 18,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. HE SAID HE HAS A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THE PERSONS TO WHOM THE WEAPONS WERE GIVEN BY NAME AND LOCALITY WITH THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE WEAPONS. HE CONCEDED THAT MOST OF THE WEAPONS HAD PROBABLY BEEN GIVEN TO MRND AND CDR SUPPORTERS, SINCE THEY ARE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN THE AFFECTED AREAS. MOST OF THE WEAPONS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN BYUMBA PREFECTURE IN THE MUTARA REGION, ALTHOUGH ONE COMMUNE IN RUHENGARI ALSO RECEIVED THESE NEW TOYS.

6. IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING CONCERNS, AMBASSADOR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 KIGALI 01034

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, MOPS, PREL, RW  
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON GOMN

RAISED THE ISSUE WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER. THE  
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MINISTER ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT ONLY APPROXIMATELY  
300 WEAPONS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE BYUMBA  
PREFECTURE. THE PURPOSE WAS TO PROTECT AGAINST RPF  
INFILTRATORS AND AGAINST DESERTERS WHO PILLAGE AND  
KILL CIVILIANS AS THEY PROCEED FROM THE BATTLE  
FRONT. HE STATED THAT THE WEAPONS WERE ISSUED TO THE  
COMMUNAL POLICE WHO SET UP PATROLS DURING THE NIGHT.  
HE STATED THAT THIS PROGRAM HAD BEEN INITIATED IN  
1991, WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING A CABINET  
SESSION IN 1992, AND THAT IT HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL  
AS A DETERRRENT IN THE AREAS WHERE WEAPONS HAVE BEEN  
ISSUED. THE MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT THE LARGEST  
NUMBER OF WEAPONS ISSUED IN ANY ONE COMMUNE IN THE  
BYUMBA PREFECTURE WAS SEVENTY (70).

7. WHILE THE MINISTER WAS VERY CONFIDENT THAT THE  
WEAPONS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY INSURED, HE WAS VERY CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE INCREASE IN BANDITRY ESPECIALLY AFTER MAJOR  
SKIRMISHES BETWEEN THE GOR AND THE RPF. HE NOTED  
THAT DURING THESE TIMES, DESERTIONS ARE UP AND THERE  
ARE MORE GUNS AND GRENADES ON THE STREETS. HE STATED

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THAT WHILE HIS EFFORTS TO BUY CONTRABAND WEAPONS FROM THE MARKET HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO DATE, THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MANY WEAPONS AND GRENADES ARE ACTUALLY IN CIRCULATION. HIS EFFORTS TO RECOVER ARMS THROUGH A BUY-BACK PROGRAM REVEALED THAT THE GOING PRICE FOR AN AK-47 IS ABOUT USD 70.

COMMENT

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8. GASANA IS PROBABLY THE MOST MODERATE AMONG THE PRESIDENT'S GROUP IN THE GOVERNMENT. HIS SUSPICIONS OF THE GOMN MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FLEXIBILITY SHOWN US BY THE PRESIDENT IS MORE RELEVANT TO THE POTENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RPF, THE OAU AND THE UN ON WHETHER AND HOW TO AUGMENT A FORCE FOR THE BUFFER ZONE.

9. SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE GASANA IS GIVING US A STRAIGHT STORY ON CIVIL DEFENSE, BUT CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS ALSO DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO CIVILIANS, NOT THE 10,000 THAT MUGENZI CLAIMS, BUT POSSIBLY SOME HUNDREDS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES IN TIMES OF RENEWED TENSIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. FLATEN

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