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April 8, 1994

I-94/16531

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/COVER BRIEF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY .

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense for SO/LIC
Prepared by: LtCol Harvin:RSA/AFR:x78824

SUBJECT: Rwanda: Current Situation; Next Steps (U)

PURPOSE: INFORMATION--Apprise you of present state of crisis in Kigali and discuss potential next steps.

DISCUSSION: (S) Current Situation: There is a glimmer of hope that this crisis is waning. The RPF (Tutsi) rebel force commander met this morning with the Government general who is now in control of the military (Hutu) and with the UN PKO Commander (Canadian). Although there is still some gunfire between the RPF forces (300-600) and the 500-man Presidential Guard (Hutu-extremists who probably shot down the President's plane), these discussions are trying to install a cease-fire, return the forces to their respective camps, and return the city to civilian governmental control. The Government general has promised to provide military escort for AmEmbassy personnel who are planning to depart tomorrow (1300 local, 0700 DST) by road convoy to Bujumbura, Burundi (awaiting State approval of this plan). State (without DoD input) has drafted a paper for approval that says the U.S. would support the Belgian informal (so far) request for airlift support. State's plan is to send that paper to the NSC for final O.K. No indication that they will ask for a DoD chop. The French may ask for airlift also. The French, the Belgians, and the UN are all discussing evacuation of citizens/PKO forces, but no decisions have been made yet. EUCOM planners are meeting with Belgian and French military.

(S) Next Steps: DoD-continue planning. USG-encourage efforts to restore cease-fire, make decision on overland departure.

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