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PAGE 01 NAIROB 06551 121419Z
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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 06551

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINR, RW
SUBJECT: COLONEL BLAMES RIGHT WING MILITARY FOR
- KIGALI'S NIGHTMARE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DCM LEADER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 06551 121419Z
4/10, A WELL-PLACED RWANDAN ARMY COLONEL CREDITED A
SECRET MILITARY/CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION WITH ORDERING THE
KIGALI ATROCITIES. HE PLEADED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN THE KILLINGS, INTERVENE TO END THE
FIGHTING, AND HELP MILITARY/CIVILIAN MODERATES
REESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH THE RPF. END SUMMARY.

3. COLONEL RUSATIRA, DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY TRAINING
ACADEMY IN KIGALI SINCE MID-1992 AND SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES BEFORE
THAT, ARGUED TO DCM IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 7/10 THAT
THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD HAD ACTED ON THE ORDERS OF A
SECRET MILITARY/CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION IN COMMITTING THE
KIGALI ATROCITIES. HE SAID THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, WITH
THE HELP OF COMMUNAL POLICE, WAS ACTING ON ORDERS OF
AMASASU, A SECRET ORGANIZATION THAT OCCASIONALLY ISSUES
PRO-HABYARIMANA COMMUNIQUES ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

ISSUES. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH WAS THE PROVOCATION NEEDED TO PUT A LONG-STANDING PLAN INTO EFFECT.

5. RUSATIRA SAID SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS MET THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AFTERNOON OF 4/9 AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY. SEVERAL TOLD THE MINISTER HE MUST DENOUNCE THE ATROCITIES AND DISMANTLE THE GROUP COMMITTING THEM. HE SAID OFFICERS TOLD THE MINISTER THEY KNEW THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD HAD RECEIVED ORDERS TO KILL SOUTHERN HUTUS, OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS AND TUTSIS. RUSATIRA NAMED HIMSELF, COL. GATSINZI (NEWLY NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY), AND COL. RWABALINDA (LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE UN FORCES) AMONG OTHERS DEMANDING THAT THE MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAIROB 06551 121419Z
TAKE STEPS TO END THE MASSACRES.

6. RUSATIRA PLEADED WITH DCM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN THE ATROCITIES WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN INVESTIGATION. HE LAMENTED THAT THE KILLING SURPASSED ALL IMAGINATION, WITH WHOLE FAMILIES BEING DECIMATED. HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF TUTSI MINISTER AND PEACE NEGOTIATOR LANDOALD NDASINGWA WHO, HE SAID, HAD BEEN KILLED ALONG WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

7. THE COLONEL URGED THAT THE US ENCOURAGE FRENCH OR BELGIAN INTERVENTION TO STOP THE ESCALATION OF FIGHTING AND TO PROTECT RWANDANS. HE ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO LARGE FORCE ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA AS IN SOMALIA AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

8. FINALLY, HE URGED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WORK WITH "PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL" TO REESTABLISH THE DIALOGUE WITH THE RPF AND RENEW THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS. "WE DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO IT BY OURSELVES," HE SAID. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST UNDERSTAND, HE SAID, THAT THESE HORRIBLE ACTS ARE NOT THE WILL OF THE ENTIRE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN RWANDA.

9. COMMENT. IN RUSATIRA'S VOICE WAS A DESPARATE PLEA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MODERATES WHO WANT TO REESTABLISH ORDER AND SANITY IN RWANDA. ACCORDING TO A GENDARME CONTACT MET BY CHANCE OUTSIDE EMBASSY NAIROBI LATER 4/10, RUSATIRA WAS REPORTEDLY ONE OF SEVERAL SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NAIROB 06551 121419Z
WORKING HARD SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE KILLINGS TO
REESTABLISH ARMY DISCIPLINE. THE GENDARME, ACTIVE IN
PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, SAID HE
WAS IN DANGER FROM THE MILITARY AND WAS EVACUATING HIS
FAMILY TO THE SOUTH.

10. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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