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O R 292334Z JUN 94  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 174146

PARIS FOR PERLOW AND DATT; NAIROBI ALSO FOR DART

E.O. 12356: N/A

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TAGS: CASC MOPS PREL PHUM RW FR  
SUBJECT: NUNS IN PERIL IN KIRUHURA, RWANDA  
REF: (A) 94 STATE 167948, (B) 94 KINSHASA 3604, (C) 94 STATE 155544

1. DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE SUCCESSFUL  
EVACUATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. MARY NUNS AND THEIR  
PUPILS WHO HAD BEEN TRAPPED AT THE COLLEGE DE KIBUYE.  
STORY RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE IN  
U.S. SR. NANCY CHARLESWORTH, HEAD OF THE SISTERS OF ST.  
MARY NEW YORK OFFICE, TOLD AF/C THAT THE FRENCH SOLDIERS  
WHO EVACUATED THE NUNS HAD BEEN "EXTRAORDINARILY

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EFFICIENT AND SUPPORTIVE." A/S MOOSE EXPRESSED USG THANKS TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR JUNE 28. EMBASSY PARIS IS REQUESTED TO ALSO CONVEY OUR THANKS TO GOF FOR THE RESCUE OF THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED ONE AMCIT NUN.

2. DEPARTMENT AND SISTERS OF ST. MARY ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE REMAINING 32 NUNS OF THIS ORDER WHO ARE AT THE CATHOLIC MISSION IN KIRUHURA, NEAR BUTARE. REF. C HAD REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 15 NUNS AT KIRUHURA. SR. NANCY CHARLESWORTH CONFIRMED TO AF/C THAT THERE ARE 32 NUNS NOW AT KIRUHURA, INCLUDING 9 WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM NEARBY RUYENZI TO KIRUHURA ON JUNE 27. ONE NUN IS AN AMCIT, SISTER CHARLES MARIA (AKA JEAN SERRAFINO), TWO ARE BELGIANS, AND THE REST ARE RWANDAN.

3. AS THE RPF MOVES SOUTHWARD THERE IS INCREASING DANGER THAT THE NUNS IN KIRUHURA MAY BE CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE BETWEEN RPF AND GOR TROOPS. EMBASSY PARIS IS REQUESTED TO ENSURE THAT FRENCH MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE DANGER THIS GROUP FACES, AND TO REQUEST THAT FRENCH  
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TROOPS MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT TO EVACUATE THE GROUP. DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT GOF DOES NOT WANT FRENCH TROOPS TO COME INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH RPF, AND HOPES THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE, POSSIBLY WITH UNAMIR, TO BRING THE NUNS TO SAFETY WITHOUT PUTTING FRENCH TROOPS IN UNDUE DANGER.

4. FOR BUJUMBURA. SR. NANCY CHARLESWORTH TOLD AF/C THAT AMCIT SR. JUDITH CARROLL WILL TRAVEL FROM GOMA TO BUJUMBURA JUNE 30 AND WILL CONTACT EMBASSY BUJUMBURA UPON ARRIVAL. DEPARTMENT WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN ANY DETAILS OF THE KIBUYE GROUPS EXPERIENCES WHICH SISTER JUDITH CARROLL CAN PROVIDE.

5. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

CHRISTOPHER

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