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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4468

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI NIACT IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3// NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/SOCEUR, NIACT IMMEDIATE

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STATE FOR OPS CENTER AND RWANDA TASK FORCE; PLEASE PASS TO OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE

PASS ALSO TO USAID FOR AA/BHR, AA/AFR AND BHR/OFDA BUT NOT/NOT FOR NIACT

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UN, WFP, RW, BY, US, TZ

SUBJECT: OFFER OF U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) AIRCRAFT

FOR EVACUATION OF AMCITS FROM RWANDA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARMON E KIRBY DATE/CASE ID: 06 FEB 2008 200103014

UNCLASSIFIED

- REF: (A) MARSH/STATE OPS CENTER TELECON OF APRIL 7
 - (B) DOUD/GARMS TELECON OF APRIL 8
 - (C) GARMS/FISCHER TELECON OF APRIL 8
- 1. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES INFORMATION PASSED TO STATE OPERATIONS CENTER IN REF. TELCONS.
- 2. LATE LAST NIGHT (APRIL 7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFP, CATHERINE BERTINI (AMCIT), CALLED THE CHIEF OF MISSION OF THE U.S. MISSION TO U.N. AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (FODAG)/ROME, WILLIAM MARSH, AT HIS RESIDENCE TO ADVISE THAT SHE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY UN/NEW YORK TO MOBILIZE WFP AIRCRAFT FOR THE EVACUATION OF U.N. PERSONNEL FROM RWANDA. BERTINI ADDED THAT SHE COULD AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE WFP AIRCRAFT FOR THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IF THE U.S.G. REQUESTED THIS ASSISTANCE. CHIEF OF MISSION MARSH RELAYED THIS INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY TO THE STATE OPERATIONS CENTER.

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3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BERTINI AND
WFP LOGISTICS STAFF ON APRIL 8, DAVID GARMS (ATTACHE FOR
HUMANITARIAN AID, FODAG) ACQUIRED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION REGARDING WFP'S PLAN TO EVACUATE U.N.
PERSONNEL:

- A) BERTINI CALLED THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS IN ROME TO ASK FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS' ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING ALL INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL IN RWANDA, U.N. AS WELL AS OTHER FOREIGN PERSONNEL.
- B) GENERAL BELAIR, COMMANDER OF U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN RWANDA, IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH ALL CONCERNED FACTIONS IN AN EFFORT TO CEASE THE FIGHTING, TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER AND TO REOPEN THE KIGALI AIRPORT.
- 4. WFP'S EVACUATION PLAN:
- A) IF THE KIGALI AIRPORT REOPENS WFP WILL USE THE ILYUSHIN AIRCRAFT IN ENTEBBE TO EVACUATE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL. UP TO 200 PEOPLE CAN BE TRANSPORTED IN THE WFP ILYUSHIN.
 - B) IF THE KIGALI AIRPORT DOES NOT REOPEN SOON WFP CAN

USE THREE MIS HELICOPTERS TO MOVE PERSONNEL FROM KIGALI TO BUKOKO IN TANZANIA AND USE AN ANTONOV 32 TO MOVE EVACUEES ON TO ENTEBBE. TWENTY PEOPLE CAN BE TRANSPORTED IN ONE MIS HELICOPTER.

5. STATUS OF WFP EVACUATION PLAN AS OF APRIL 8 1535H ZULU TIME:

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A) THE ILYUSHIN IS READY TO FLY.

- B) THREE U.N. MIS HELICOPTERS ARE IN ROUTE FROM HARARE, ZIMBABWE TO BUKOKA, TANZANIA -- ABOUT A TEN HOUR FLIGHT. THE HELICOPTERS ARE CURRENTLY OVER ZAMBIAN AIR TRAVEL INTO TANZANIAN AIR SPACE HAS BEEN SPACE. REQUESTED BUT THE CLEARANCE HAS NOT YET BEEN GRANTED. THE TANZANIAN CLEARANCE IS RECEIVED SOON THE THREE HELICOPTERS WILL ARRIVE AT BUKOKA AT 0400H ZULU TIME ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9. SINCE BUKOKA HAS NO REFUELING FACILITIES, AN ANTONOV 32 WITH 6,000 LITERS OF FUEL IS BEING SENT FROM NAIROBI TO BUKOKA AND IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT BUKOKA AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE HELICOPTERS. PLAN OF ACTION IF THE AIRPORT IS NOT OPENED: MIB HELICOPTER FLYING TIME FROM BUKOKA TO KIGALI IS 50 MINUTES. UP TO TWENTY PEOPLE WOULD BE MOVED IN EACH HELICOPTER TO BUKOKA AND FROM BUKOKA THEY WOULD BE TRANSPORTED IN THE ANTONOV 32 TO ENTEBBE.
- 6. IF U.S.G. WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT WFP OFFER TO EVACUATE AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN RWANDA THEN PLEASE IMMEDIATELY

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CONTACT EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING

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MARSH

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