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ACTION IO-16

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	HA-09
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	/037W

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
UNSECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 00273

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, RW
SUBJECT: UNSC: ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH NEW MEMBERS

REF: KIGALI 0228

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I MET MORNING 1/18 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GASANA AND REVIEWED ISSUES WHICH MIGHT COME BEFORE THE UNSC. BECAUSE OF DCM'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL INSONERE ON THE SAME SUBJECT (REFTEL), FONMIN WAS WELL BRIEFED AND PREPARED TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ON PEACEKEEPING IN AFRICA AND FORMER
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SOVIET UNION, SANCTIONS ON LIBYA AND IRAQ AND NUCLEAR ISSUE IN NORTH KOREA. THE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SET UP A SPECIAL SECURITY COUNCIL POLICY UNIT WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL INSONERE (FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES) WOULD BE OUR CHIEF CONTACT IN THAT WORKING GROUP.

3. IN OUR DISCUSSION, THE MINISTER REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO RWANDA AS A SOVEREIGN NATION CONCERNED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT. RWANDA TOOK ITS SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE SERIOUSLY, AND WANTED TO

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CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON PEACE FROM ITS PERSPECTIVE AS A DEVELOPING AFRICAN COUNTRY. RWANDA FAVORED BROADENING THE UN'S PEACEKEEPING ROLE AND AGREED ON THE UTILITY OF SANCTIONS AS A MEASURE FOR INDUCING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AMONG NATION STATES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER'S GRASP OF THE ISSUES AND HIS POSITION ON THEM WAS REASSURING, THE MINISTER IS SO INVOLVED IN POLITICS AS TO BE OFTEN OUT OF HIS OFFICE AND HARDLY IN CONTACT WITH HIS MINISTERIAL STAFF. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET, RUHIGIRA, 1/17, I MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTIES OF DOING BUSINESS WITH A HIGHLY POLITICIZED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. RUHIGIRA CLAIMED THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD GAVE FOREIGN POLICY TO THE PRBSIDENCY. THE INFERENCE WAS THAT IF WE WANTED A DECISION MADE ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, WE SHOULD GO TO THE PRESIDENCY AND IT WOULD INSTRUCT RWANDAN AMBASSADORS ABROAD.

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5. ALTHOUGH INFIGHTING OVER WHO GETS TO DO WHAT WITHIN THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT MAY HAMPER OUR EFFORTS TO COORDINATE WITH RWANDA ON SECURITY COUNCIL MATTERS, THE RWANDAN POSITION ON KEY ISSUES IS VERY MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE RWANDAN PERSPECTIVE IS, HOWEVER, THAT OF A POOR, SMALL COUNTRY FOR WHOM RESPECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER IS A PREAMBLE TO SURVIVAL

6. RWANDAN INTEREST FOCUSES ON AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING ISSUES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPLAUDED U.S. INITIATIVES IN SOMALIA AND CONSIDERED "OPERATION RESTORE HOPE" A SUCCESS THAT COULD NOT BE DIMMED BY SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID RWANDANS WERE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S PROVISION OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES WITHIN THIS COUNTRY, THUS ALLOWING THE TIME AND POLITICAL SPACE FOR HEALING NATIONAL DIVISIONS AND ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN EXILED POPULATIONS AND THE CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT.

7. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING UNSC ISSUES, I REMINDED THE MINISTER OF A/S BENNET'S PLAN TO VISIT /

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FEBRUARY 1-3. HE WELCOMED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT AND PROMISED FULL ACCESS TO RWANDAN AUTHORITIES SO THAT A/S BENNET MIGHT GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN RWANDA AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

8. COMMENT: THE UNITED STATES CAN LOOK FOR
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CONSISTENT RWANDAN COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON ISSUES WHICH CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL COMITY OR IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS SEEKING TO REESTABLISH ORDER. HOWEVER, SINCE IT BEARS LITTLE COST OF U.N. OPERATIONS, AND IS INDEED A MAJOR BENEFICIARY OF A SIGNIFICANT PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, WE COULD EXPECT ANY RWANDAN CONCERN ABOUT EXPENSES IN SUCH OPERATIONS TO BE MERE LIP SERVICE.
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