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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	OIGO-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00
	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/054W	

-----58E435 051424Z /38

O 051423Z JUL 94  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8087  
INFO ALLEU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07380

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C AND EUR/NE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PREF, BE, FR, RW  
SUBJECT: BELGIANS POSTPONE INDEFINITELY SENDING MEDICAL  
TEAM TO SUPPORT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN RWANDA

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REF: A) BRUSSELS 7315; B) STATE 177616

1. C - CLASSIFICATIONS AS MARKED
2. (U) BELGIAN RADIO MORNING JULY 5 CARRIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD POSTPONED INDEFINITELY THE DISPATCH OF A MEDICAL TEAM (SEE REF A) TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH INTERVENTION FORCE. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT WAS THE INABILITY OF THE FRENCH TO GIVE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES OF THE SAFETY OF THE MEDICAL TEAM. BELGIAN MEDIA SPECULATED THAT THE BELGIAN

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DECISION TO POSTPONE ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE FRENCH ACTION MIGHT ALSO BE LINKED TO THE CHANGE IN THE FRENCH STANCE ON AVOIDING DIRECT ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RPF. BELGIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST SENDING BELGIANS BACK TO RWANDA AS PART OF THE FRENCH INTERVENTION FORCE.

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3. (C) EARLY AFTERNOON JULY 5 POLCOUNS SPOKE TO MFA CHEF DE CABINET LODE WILLEMS TO CONVEY POINTS IN REF B. WILLEMS SAID HE VERY MUCH LIKED THE IDEA OF ADOPTING OR AT LEAST PROVIDING SOME HELP TO AN AFRICAN TROOP CONTINGENT FOR UNAMIR. HE HAS THE LIST OF MATERIEL THE ZAMBIANS NEED AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ERIK DERYCKE TO SEE WHAT BELGIUM MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REPEATED THAT BELGIUM HAD ALREADY LEFT A GREAT DEAL OF MATERIEL FOR UNAMIR IN RWANDA, HAD BORNE THE HEAVY COSTS OF THE EVACUATION, AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO MUCH MORE. WILLEMS SAID HE HAD ALREADY TALKED TO THE DUTCH TO SEE IF THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN THIS REGARD.

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4. (C) IN RESPONSE TO POLCOUNS' QUERY ABOUT THE BELGIAN MEDICAL UNIT THAT HAD BEEN SLATED TO JOIN THE FRENCH INTERVENTION FORCE, WILLEMS SAID THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD MADE SAFETY OF THE BELGIAN TEAM A CONDITION. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN ITS FRIDAY MEETING HAD DECIDED BELGIUM SHOULD NOT/NOT SEND A TEAM IF THE FRENCH CAME INTO REAL CONFLICT WITH THE RPF, AND THE SITUATION IN THIS REGARD WAS NOT YET CLEAR. IN ADDITION, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD SENT A DIPLOMAT TO GISENYI TO CHECK OUT WITH THE "SO-CALLED" GOVERNMENT THERE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FRENCH INTERVENTION FORCE. THE RWANDAN "GOVERNMENT" IN GISENYI HAD TOLD THE FRENCH THAT THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO A BELGIAN PRESENCE. WILLEMS THOUGHT NO BELGIAN UNIT WAS LIKELY TO BE SENT WHILE THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILED. FINALLY, WILLEMS POINTED TO THE OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE OPINION IN THE PRESS ABOUT A BELGIAN PRESENCE WITH THE FRENCH FORCE AND TO QUESTIONS IN THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT ABOUT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION AS FACTORS THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

4. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

BLINKEN

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