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## Rwanda: Security Conditions at Kigali Airport

### Capabilities and Intentions

13 July 1994

Situation: Kigali's international airport has become less dangerous since the Rwandan Patriotic Front drove troops of the Hutu interim government from the capital on 4 July. There appears to be no organized resistance to the RPF within 50 kms of Kigali. Taking advantage of this relative improvement in security and RPF promises of cooperation, since 8 July the UN has been sending two flights a day--using Canadian C-130 aircraft--to Kigali with supplies for the UNAMIR peacekeeping contingent and humanitarian relief efforts.

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- \* Risks: We believe that the military capabilities of the RPF and rogue Hutu military units could potentially pose serious threats to air operations into Kigali. RPF forces are equipped with anti-aircraft artillery and man-portable SA-7 air defense missiles. Press reports say they shot at two commercial aircraft flying 15,000 feet over Kigali on 30 June. This incident probably occurred because the RPF feared that they would be targeted by French aircraft deployed over Rwanda as part of Operation Turquoise.
- Clashes between RPF and French troops in western Rwanda could lead the RPF to close Kigali airport again and even to open fire on aircraft operating over their positions--especially if the French flew combat sorties against the rebels.
  - \* -- The RPF, or RPF elements, could target UNAMIR forces and aircraft if in their judgment UNAMIR was siding with the Hutu government or military. ██████████

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAY 2001

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We cannot rule out the possibility that forces of the Hutu interim government could attack air operations in Kigali. When fighting broke out in early April, Hutu regime troops had some 35 pieces of air defense artillery and--according to information passed by [REDACTED] to the US defense attache--15 French-made Mistral surface-to-air missiles. These arms are almost certainly no longer in the Kigali area, and if so, no longer under Hutu control.

\* Nevertheless, there is some chance that a squad of Hutu soldiers could infiltrate the hills around Kigali airport to attack flight operations there, possibly in the hope the RPF would be blamed.

-- Hutu regime troops--most likely including elements of the Presidential Guard--were almost certainly responsible for downing the airplane of the late President Habyarimana as it was landing at Kigali on 6 April. [REDACTED]

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