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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 8244-8245 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 3000-3001 IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1110-

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 9183-

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 3889-

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 2030-2031 IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, TZ, RW

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON RECONVENING ARUSHA TALKS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

ACTION REQUEST

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2. WITH THE RPF MOVING ON KIGALI AND RWANDA TORN BY VIOLENCE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SOME EFFORT BE MADE TO STOP THE VIOLENCE, RESUME THE DIALOGUE, AND SEEK TO RESUSCITATE THE ARUSHA PROCESS, IF THAT IS STILL POSSIBLE. POST IS INSTRUCTED TO SEEK A MEETING WITH PRES. MWINYI AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO:

-- ASK THE PRESIDENT HOW HE SEES THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA AND WHERE HE BELIEVES IT IS HEADED.

-- EXPRESS OUR BELIEF THAT THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND ARUSHA SHOULD CONTINUE TO GUIDE ANY POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

-- ASK HIM WHETHER HE BELIEVES THE ARUSHA ACCORDS CAN STILL BE IMPLEMENTED OR MIGHT FORM THE BASIS FOR A FUTURE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

-- URGE HIM TO CONVOKE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL RWANDAN GOVERNMENT, THE RPF, AND THE OBSERVER COUNTRIES TO ARUSHA FOR RENEWED PEACE TALKS.

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IN MAKING THIS DEMARCHE, POST MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND AND TALKING POINTS:

BACKGROUND

3. THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAS REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ARUSHA PROCESS AND HAS SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CEASE FIRE AND RESUME TALKS WITH THE RPF WITH A VIEW TOWARD INSTALLING THE BROAD-BASED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. ALTHOUGH THE RPF HAS STATED THAT THEY STILL PLAN TO FORM A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT LEADING TO FREE ELECTIONS, AS CALLED FOR BY THE ARUSHA ACCORDS, THEY HAVE SHOWN NO DESIRE TO TALK AND REJECT ANY CEASE FIRE EXCEPT PERHAPS TO FACILITATE EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS. THE RPF HAS THE MILITARY MOMENTUM AND HAS PUBLICLY REJECTED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND APPARENTLY PLANS TO TAKE KIGALI AND "RESTORE ORDER".

4. WHILE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO GET THE RPF TO COME TO

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THE TABLE AT ARUSHA UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TRY. WE MUST TRY TO END THE FIGHTING AND PREEMPT THE RPF FROM OBTAINING A MILITARY VICTORY THAT MIGHT ALLOW THEM TO IMPOSE A GOVERNMENT ON THE RWANDAN PEOPLE. EVEN WITH A MILITARY "VICTORY", THE RPF WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO GOVERN THE OVERWHELMINGLY HUTU POPULATION AND WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT POWERSHARING. THE RPF RECOGNIZES THIS AND THUS MAY BE WILLING TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE DESPITE THEIR APPARENT MOMENTUM ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

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TALKING POINTS

5. BELOW ARE TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH MWINYI:

-- WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW YOU SEE THE CURRENT SITUATION IN RWANDA AND WHERE YOU BELIEVE IT IS HEADED.

-- IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS CAN STILL BE IMPLEMENTED OR AT

LEAST SERVE AS A BASIS FOR RENEWED DISCUSSIONS ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT?

, - THE RENEWED WAR IN RWANDA IS CAUSING MASSIVE HUMANITARIAN SUFFERING AND THREATENS THE STABILITY OF THE ENTIRE SUBREGION.

-- IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MAKE AN EFFORT TO END THE FIGHTING AND RETURN THE PARTIES TO THE ARUSHA PROCESS.

-- THE ARUSHA PROCESS HAS BROUGHT SUCCESS IN THE PAST EVEN WHEN IT APPEARED THAT THE PEACE PROCESS HAD STALLED OR BROKEN DOWN.

-- DESPITE THE APPARENT EXECUTIONS OF SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE DRAMATIC CHANGES ON THE MILITARY FRONT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ARUSHA PROCESS IS STILL VIABLE AND IS IN FACT THE ONLY SOLUTION POSSIBLE FOR RWANDA.

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-- THE CONTRIBUTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO THE RWANDAN PEACE PROCESS HAS BEEN ENORMOUS. WE MUST BUILD ON THAT PROCESS AND CANNOT LET THOSE EFFORTS GO TO WASTE.

-- FOR THESE REASONS, WE URGE YOU TO RECONVENE THE ARUSHA TALKS IMMEDIATELY AND CONVOKE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF, ALONG WITH THE OBSERVER COUNTRIES.

-- THE FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO NEGOTIATE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE. AFTER THAT, WE BELIEVE THE PARTIES SHOULD UNDERTAKE TALKS DESIGNED TO INSTALL A BROAD-BASED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT.

6. INFO ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE OUR STRATEGY WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS/OAU/UN.

7. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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