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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CA-02	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FDRE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-10	L-01	ADS-00	MFLO-03	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SCT-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	FMP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-10	DRL-09	G-00

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O 281317Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0592
INFO 17AF SEMBACH AB GE//CCA//
RWANDA COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 001347

SEMBACH AB FOR MG HEFLEBOWER

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PREF, RW
SUBJECT: RWANDA SETS UP INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO
KIBEHO EVENTS

1. SUMMARY. RWANDAN PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU WENT TO KIBEHO
APRIL 27 TAKING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND INTERNATIONAL
PRESS WITH HIM. THERE HE ONCE GAIN REGRETTE THE LOSS
OF LIFE AT THE CAMP, ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE EVENTS AT

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KIBEHO AND PROCEEDED WITH UNAMIR AND RPF HELP TO VISIT MASS GRAVES AND IDENTIFY THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER BURIED. HE ASKED MAJOR DONORS TO ASSIST IN THE INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY. ACTION REQUESTED: PAR 10. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOVERNMENT, DIP CORPS AND PRESS ARRIVING AT KIBEHO ABOUT 1000 HRS ASSEMBLED TO HEAR THE PRESIDENT EXPRESS HIS SADNESS FOR ALL WHO HAD LOST THEIR LIVES AT KIBEHO AND HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILIES TOUCHED BY THIS TRAGEDY; HE ASKED THE AUDIENCE TO STAND IN SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD. BIZIMUNGU THEN ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WHICH WOULD LOOK INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT: REVIEWING THE BACKGROUND, DESCRIBING HOW EVENTS PLAYED OUT, DETERMINING HOW MANY DIED AND BY WHAT MEANS, AND ASSESSING RESPONSIBILITY. HE ASKED RWANDA'S MAJOR ASSISTANCE PARTNERS, BELGIUM, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, TO ASSIST THIS INQUIRY AND TO NOMINATE A MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION WHICH WOULD START ITS WORK NOT LATER THAN MAY 3.

3. THE PRESIDENT THEN VISITED MASS GRAVE SITES ACCOMPANIED BY UNAMIR AND RPF SOLDIERS WHO HAD BURIED THE DEAD AT THE RESPECTIVE SITES. BY EARLY AFTERNOON, HE ASSEMBLED THE PRESS AND DIP CORPS TO ANNOUNCE THAT, BASED ON THE FIGURES GIVEN BY THOSE THAT BURIED THE BODIES IN THE GRAVES, THE TOTAL OF DEAD CAME TO 334. WHEN THE PRESS INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBLE BURIAL IN LATRINES OR ACROSS THE VALLEY, THE PRESIDENT OFFERED TO GO IMMEDIATELY TO THOSE SITES AND DETERMINE THE NUMBER

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OF DEAD THEREIN. MEDICINE SANS FRONTIERS STOOD STALWARTLY BY THEIR EARLIER ESTIMATE OF THOUSANDS DEAD BUT ADMITTED THAT ITS PERSONNEL HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE SITE BEFORE THE BURIALS AND COULD NOT KNOW WHERE THOSE PERSONS MIGHT BE BURIED.

4. MEANWHILE, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HAVING SURVEYED THE LITTER STREWN SITE, ENDED UP INSIDE THE MSF HOSPITAL SITE WITH THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND OF FAMILY TRYING TO CONVINCING RECALCITRANT

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CAMPERS THAT THEY WOULD BE SAFELY CONDUCTED TO THEIR HOMES. THE INMATES GAVE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL VENT TO THEIR FEARS, CLAIMING THAT ALL WHO LEFT THE CAMP WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY SHOT BY THE RPF OR DONE IN ONCE THEIR INTERNATIONAL ESCORT LEFT THEM. WHILE MANY, ESPECIALLY WOMEN WITH CHILDREN SEEMED ANXIOUS TO LEAVE, ANGRY YOUNG MEN WOULD CIRCLE IN THE CROWD AND WITH A FEW COMMENTS CAUSE THEM TO BACK AWAY. FINALLY, A COUPLE OF MEN AGREED TO TOUR A LOCAL COMMUNE WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND BRING BACK WORD TO THE REST.

5. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AMBASSADOR RAWSON BUTTONNOLED RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND KEY ARMY OFFICERS, RAISING THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDLING THIS RESIDUAL POPULATION IN A NON-VIOLENT AND HUMANE WAY. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGREED THAT LIFE-SUSTAINING PROVISION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE REMAINING GROUP AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT AGREED THAT THEY WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND WATER AS REQUIRED. IN A FINAL CONCLAVE AT THE END OF THE DAY WITH US

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AMBASSADOR, UNDP RES REP, AND SRSG KHAN, RWANDAN
MINISTERS ASKED UNAMIR TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR
GETTING THE RESIDUAL POPULATION EVENTUALLY MOVED.

6. AMBASSADOR RAWSON REPORTED TO PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU THAT HE SENSED FROM TALKS WITH THE PEOPLE THAT THEY DID WANT TO LEAVE THE ENCAMPMENT BUT WERE GRIPPED BY THE DUAL FEAR OF INSECURITY ON THE OUTSIDE AND CONSEQUENCES OF BREAKING RANK WITH THOSE ON THE INSIDE. THE GOOD RWANDAN TRADITION OF PROLONGED DISCUSSION WOULD EVENTUALLY BRING POSITIVE AND PEACEFUL RESULTS. THE PRESIDENT ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PATIENT ON THE CAMP ISSUE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SO.

7. COMMENT. THE UNEXPECTED AND TRAGIC RESULT OF RWANDA'S CLEARING POLICY HAS CLEARLY SHAKEN THE GOVERNMENT AND TURNED IT TOWARD A MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. DURING

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THE EXTENDED STAY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE, HE AND GENERAL HEFLEBOWER REPEATEDLY AND CONSISTENTLY LAID DOWN MARKERS REGARDING WHAT THE UNITED STATES EXPECTED OUT OF ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE RWANDAN TRAGEDY. THOSE DEMARCHES HAVE HAD RAPID EFFECT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS

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QUICKLY PICKED UP MANY OF THOSE MARKERS: AN
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE KIBEHO
EVENTS, CLEAR REGRET FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE IN AN
OPERATION THAT WENT TRAGICALLY WRONG, DETERMINATION TO
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DEAL WITH HARDLINERS HUNKERED DOWN AT KIBEHO WIN A NON-
VIOLENT AND HUMANE WAY, MUCH CLOSER AND MORE POSITIVE
COOPERATION WITH UNAMIR AND UN AND NGO IMPLEMENTERS IN
HANDLING THE RESIDUAL PROBLEM AT KIBEHO AND IN SETTling
THE DISPLACED BACK HOME.

8. AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF RUSHING IDP'ERS HOME
HAS BEEN A HOSTILE AND SOMETIMES VIOLENT RESPONSE OF
LOCAL POPULACE TO THEIR RETURN. THE VICE PRESIDENT
TOLD AMBASSADOR RAWSON THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY
ISSUED AN APPEAL TO THE POPULATION TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS
TO THOSE RETURNING AND WOULD CONTINUE THAT EFFORT.
MINISTERS HAVE TRAVELLED TO TROUBLED COMMUNES TO SMOOTH
OVER THE REENTRY. THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AGREED
TO EXPAND SUCH VISITS. AFTER MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION,
THE GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY AGREED WITH UNDP AND ICRC ON
A STRATEGY QUICKLY TO EXPAND DETENTION FACILITIES IN
ORDER TO RELIEVE LIFE-THREATENING CONGESTION IN
COMMUNAL AND REGIONAL DETENTION CENTERS.

9. IN SHORT, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE KIBEHO TRAGEDY AND
ATTENDANT PROBLEMS IN BRINGING IDP'ERS HOME AND IN PART
BECAUSE OF VIGOROUS REPRESENTATIONS BY THE MOOSE
DELEGATION (AMONG OTHERS), WE MAY BE SEEING A TURN BY
THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE AND
CLEAR VISION WITNESSED AT THE GENEVA ROUNDTABLE.
AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN, NOW TOURING CAMPS IN GOMA, WILL
HAVE A CHANCE TO TEST THE WATER IN FAREWELL CALLS HERE
ON MAY 1, AS HE REITERATES THE CONCERNS WHICH MOOSE AND
MG HEFLEBOWER RAISED AND SEEKS TO REINFORCE THE

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UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE GENEVA PARTNERSHIP.
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10. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION
TO INFORM THE GOR THAT THE USG ACCEPTS ITS INVITATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF
INQUIRY ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU. WE SHOULD,
IN OUR ACCEPTANCE, INSIST ON INDEPENDENCE, FREE ACCESS,
AND OBJECTIVITY. SEPTTEL WILL PROPOSE SEVERAL
CANDIDATES ALREADY ON THE GROUND WHO WOULD BE ADMIRABLE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. RAWSON

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