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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01	EUR-01
	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01
	DRL-09	G-00	/044W				

-----BE5D33 231725Z /38

O 231723Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0540
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS KIGALI 001259

BRUSSELS FOR AF A/S MOOSE

GENEVA FOR RMA; ROME PASS FODAG

E.O. 12356:NA
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PHUM, PREF RW
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TRAGEDY AT KIBEHO

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, FOUR DAYS OF UNREST AT KIBEHO
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) CAMP WHICH BEGAN APRIL
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18 WHEN THE RPA SURROUNDED THE CAMP WITH THE INTENTION OF

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CLOSING IT DOWN, ENDED IN GREAT LOSS OF LIFE SATURDAY APRIL 22 WHEN THE RPA OPENED FIRE ON A GROUP OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ATTEMPTING TO BREAK OUT OF THE CAMP WITHOUT FOLLOWING RPA REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. LATEST ESTIMATES FROM UN SOURCES ARE AS MANY AS 5000 DEAD, SOME 2000 SUFFERING INJURIES AS A RESULT OF THE FIREFIGHT, PANIC, AND STAMPEDE. UNAMIR REPORTS THAT THE RPA OPENED FIRE USING RIFLES, MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS, AND ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES. THERE ARE CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE CAMP FIRED ON RPA LINES. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF MANY DEATHS AND WOUNDS FROM MACHETES, THESE MOST LIKELY PERPETRATED BY CAMP RESIDENTS. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN THE DARK, IN THE RAIN, AND DETAILS OF THE ACTION ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN WITH ANY CERTAINTY.

2. DATT AND OPSCO FLEW TO KIBEHO IN A UNAMIR HELICOPTER APRIL 23. THEIR REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

3. BRIEFING BY SRSG KHAN:

AMBASSADOR AND ACTING DCM ATTENDED A BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION GIVEN BY UN SRSG KHAN APRIL 23. KHAN REPORTED THAT THE SITUATION IN KIBEHO HAD BEEN BREWING FOR A "BLOWOUT" SINCE THE RPA FIRST MOVED ON THE CAMP APRIL 18. THE REMAINING INMATES HAD NO SANITATION, LITTLE FOOD, AND WERE HELD IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS. THERE HAD BEEN TROUBLE AT THE CAMPS ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, WITH WHAT KHAN REFERRED TO AS "MACHETE ATTACKS." THE CAMP, AFTER THE TRAGIC VIOLENCE OF APRIL 22, IS LARGELY DESERTED NOW, THOUGH SOME 8000 INMATES, WHOM KHAN REFERRED TO AS "THE HARD-CORE" REMAIN AT AN MSF HOSPITAL

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NEAR THE CAMPSITE. HE REPORTS THAT SOME SHOOTING HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE AT THE HOSPITAL, WITH FIRING FROM BOTH SIDES.

4. KHAN REPORTED THAT MOST OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE VIOLENCE ARE EN ROUTE, ON FOOT, TO BUTARE, THE LARGEST NEARBY TOWN SOME DISTANCE TO THE EAST. THERE, AND IN THE COMMUNES TO WHICH OTHERS ARE BEING FORCIBLY REPATRIATED IN RPA TRUCKS, THE INMATES ARE BEING RECEIVED WITH PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE. ONE PARTICIPANT AT THE

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BRIEFING REPORTED THAT IN BUTARE, A TOWN NOW POPULATED LARGELY BY FORMER TUTSI EXILES, THE INMATES MUST PASS A GAUNTLET OF STICK-WIELDING TUTSIS WHO BEAT THE INMATES ON ARRIVAL. SIMILAR HOSTILE RECEPTIONS EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SMALLER COMMUNES.

5. KHAN REPORTED THAT THE GOR AND RPA ARE REACTING CAUTIOUSLY AND DEFENSIVELY TO THE TRAGEDY. HE SAID THAT THE RPA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE IDP CAMPS HAS HARDENED, AND THE MESSAGE SEEMS TO BE THAT ALL THE CAMPS SHOULD CLOSE. ONE, AT NDAGO, IS VIRTUALLY DESERTED ALREADY; THE OTHER TWO, AT KAMANA AND MANINI HAVE BEEN WARNED TO CLOSE DOWN. KHAN SAID THAT THE RPA CHOSE TO MOVE FIRST ON KIBEHO BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN A PROBLEM SITE WITH MANY NIGHT TIME MACHETE RAIDS AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

6. KHAN COMPLAINED THAT ACCESS TO THE CAMP HAS BEEN ARBITRARILY RESTRICTED. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RPA HEADQUARTERS IN KIGALI AND LOCAL COMMANDERS IS NOT WORKING WELL, KHAN SAID. HE HAD HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE KAGAME APRIL 21

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GAINING AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS, HOT FOOD AND WATER FOR INMATES AND WALK-AWAY PERMISSION AFTER SCREENING. THESE MEASURES WERE NOT IMPLEMENTED BEFORE TENSION IN THE ENCAMPMENT LED TO THE BLOWOUT. KHAN NOTED A COMMUNICATION PROBLEM BETWEEN KIGALI POLICY MAKERS AND RPA FIELD COMMANDERS. HUMAN RELIEF AND MEDICAL RELIEF OPERATIONS HAVE STARTED, WITH ALL AGENCIES ENGAGED AND COORDINATED THROUGH THE ALREADY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER (IOC). BUT CARING FOR THE NOW WIDELY SCATTERED DISPLACED POPULATION AND FOR WOUNDED IN A RWANDAN BACKWATER WILL PROVE DIFFICULT. SEPTEL ON RELIEF MEASURES FOLLOWS.

7. GOR REACTION TO THE TRAGEDY HAS BEEN SLOW IN COMING, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED ON THE BBC AS "DEEPLY REGRETTING" THE LOSS OF LIFE, AND THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION DEFENDING THE RPA'S ACTIONS, CLAIMING THEY HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY VIOLENT ELEMENTS IN THE CAMP AND

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WERE ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE. RAWSON

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