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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00  
EUR-00 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16 L-00  
ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00  
PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00  
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AF/C: RJFENDRICK  
AF/C: JLEADER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
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AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

STATE 104015

YAOUNDE FOR DATT; GENEVA ALSO FOR IO A/S BENNET

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL MOPS RW  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT TELLS RPF TO STOP THE FIGHTING NOW

REF: USUN 01604

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. AF/C CALLED IN RPF WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES MURIGANDE ON APRIL 18 AND REITERATED OUR PUBLIC CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE, AN END TO THE VIOLENCE, AND A RETURN TO THE ARUSHA PROCESS. RWANDA DESKOFF AISTON AND EMBASSY KIGALI DCM LEADER TOLD MURIGANDE THAT REPRISALS FROM ANY SIDE WERE UNACCEPTABLE. MURIGANDE SAID THAT THE RPF REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE ARUSHA ACCORD BUT SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT STOP FIGHTING UNTIL THE POLITICAL AND ETHNIC KILLINGS STOPPED. END SUMMARY

RPF TOLD TO STOP FIGHTING NOW AND RETURN TO PEACE PROCESS

3. ON APRIL 18, RWANDA DESKOFF KEVIN AISTON AND EMBASSY KIGALI DCM JOYCE LEADER (CURRENTLY ON EVACUEE STATUS) MET WITH CHARLES MURIGANDE, THE WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE RPF. AISTON TELEPHONED MURIGANDE LAST WEEK (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL) AND CONVOKED HIM TO THE DEPARTMENT TO REITERATE THE USG'S POSITION ON RWANDA. DESKOFF MADE THREE MAIN POINTS:

-- THE USG CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES;

-- THE VIOLENCE MUST STOP, AND REPRISALS WERE

UNACCEPTABLE;

-- THE PARTIES SHOULD RESUME TALKS INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS AND INSTALL THE BROAD-BASED TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.

RPF SAYS NO CEASE FIRE UNTIL MASSACRES STOP

4. MURIGANDE REPLIED THAT THE RPF HAD RESUMED FIGHTING TO STOP THE KILLINGS BY THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND OTHER (HUTU) EXTREMISTS, TO PROTECT THE 600-MAN RPF FORCE THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO KIGALI UNDER THE ARUSHA ACCORDS IN DECEMBER, AND TO "RESTORE LAW AND ORDER". HE ADMITTED THAT RESUMING HOSTILITIES WAS "NOT THE BEST THING", BUT INSISTED THE RPF HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.

5. THE RPF REP SAID THAT IF THE OTHER SIDE STOPS THE MASSACRES, THE RPF WILL STOP FIGHTING. MURIGANDE COMPLAINED THAT THE GOR MILITARY WAS NOT DOING ANYTHING TO STOP THE KILLINGS, WHICH WERE SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. RATHER, HE CLAIMED THAT THE MILITARY WAS ACTUALLY ENCOURAGING THE MASSACRES, AS WAS THE HUTU EXTREMISTS' PRIVATE RADIO STATION. MURIGANDE WAS PARTICULARLY OUTRAGED BY THE RADIO BROADCASTS, WHICH (HE CLAIMED) HAD SAID THAT EVEN BABIES SHOULD NOT BE SPARED

FROM THE KILLING, SINCE (RPF COMMANDER) KAGAME HAD LEFT RWANDA AS A BABY.

6. DESKOFF POINTED OUT THE INHERENT CONTRADICTION IN THE RPF'S POSITION THAT IT HAD RESUMED THE WAR TO STOP KILLINGS. HE TOLD THE RPF THAT IT MUST NOT MAKE ITS CEASE FIRE CONTINGENT ON THE OTHER SIDE STOPPING FIRST, SINCE THE OTHER SIDE COULD JUST AS WELL TAKE THE SAME POSITION, WHICH WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE FIGHTING. INSTEAD, BOTH SIDES MUST AGREE TO STOP THE FIGHTING AT THE SAME TIME -- NOW.

7. BOTH AISTON AND LEADER STRESSED THE SUFFERING OF THE POPULATION AND THE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER THAT FACED THE COUNTRY AS A RESULT OF THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES. AISTON SAID THE RPF MUST ACT FOR THE POPULATION AND STOP THE FIGHTING, AND LEADER EMPHASIZED THAT AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT KIGALI FROM BEING DESTROYED.

RPF COMMITTED TO ARUSHA

8. MURIGANDE REAFFIRMED THE RPF'S COMMITMENT TO THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW AND POWER-SHARING LEADING TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. HE AGREED THAT THE ARUSHA ACCORD WAS "THE BEST DEAL FOR THE RWANDAN PEOPLE" AND SAID THE RPF HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTING ARUSHA. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE ARUSHA FRAMEWORK IS BEING IGNORED BY THE OTHER SIDE.

IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WARNED THAT A PARTY CANNOT BE COMMITTED TO SOMETHING THE OTHER PARTY IS NOT ITSELF COMMITTED TO.

AF/C WARNS AGAINST REPRISALS

9. DESKOFF MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE USG CONSIDERED REPRISALS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND STRESSED THAT THE RPF COULD NOT PLAY JUDGE AND JURY AGAINST OPPONENTS THEY BELIEVE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MASSACRES.

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MURIGANDE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND CLAIMED THE RPF DID NOT INTEND TO PUNISH OR SUMMARILY EXECUTE ANYONE. RATHER, THEY WOULD TRY TO "NEUTRALIZE" THE ELEMENTS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES.

10. DESKOFF ASKED MURIGANDE WHAT HE MEANT BY "NEUTRALIZE". HE REPLIED THAT THE RPF WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISARM AND ARREST THOSE THEY BELIEVED WERE RESPONSIBLE AND TURN THEM OVER TO THE UN TO BE PROSECUTED, PREFERABLY BY A UN TRIBUNAL OF SOME SORT. IF, HOWEVER, THE SUSPECTS RESIST ARREST, THEY WILL BE TREATED AS COMBATANTS AND SHOT. DESKOFF STRESSED THAT THIS PROCEDURE WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT INNOCENT VICTIMS MIGHT RESIST ARREST OUT OF FEAR OF THE RPF AND THEN BE KILLED AS A RESULT. HE INSISTED THAT THE RPF RESPECT THE DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF ALL SUSPECTS.

RPF DISAPPOINTED WITH INTERNATIONAL REACTION  
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11. MURIGANDE COMPLAINED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS IN RWANDA WAS INADEQUATE. HE COMPARED THE SITUATION TO KUWAIT, WHERE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD AMASSED A HUGE INTERVENTION FORCE TO STOP IRAQI ABUSES AND ROLL BACK IRAQI AGGRESSION.

12. DCM LEADER REPLIED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT ANALOGOUS. SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE HELP THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD PROVIDED TO RWANDA, IN PARTICULAR THE 2500-STRONG UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION, WAS PROVIDED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RWANDANS WERE COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS. GIVEN THE RENEWED HOSTILITIES, SHE SAID THAT THE RPF SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THAT SUPPORT WERE DISSIPATED. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS CRUCIAL TO PUT THE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK.

MURIGANDE SAYS RPF HAS BUYUMBA; GOR MEMBERS IN ZAIRE?  
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13. MURIGANDE CLAIMED THAT BYUMBA (THE NORTHERN HEADQUARTERS FOR THE GOR FORCE) HAD FALLEN TO THE RPF THE PREVIOUS DAY (APRIL 17). HE SAID THE RPF CONTROLLED THE HILLS AROUND KIGALI AND THAT GOR FORCES ARE USING HEAVY ARTILLERY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISLodge THEM FROM THESE POSITIONS. HE SAID THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE GOR WERE UNKNOWN AND THAT THE ONLY FUNCTIONING INSTITUTION WAS THE RWANDAN ARMY. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOR HAD BEEN GIVEN ASYLUM IN KINSHASA, INCLUDING (MRND) HEALTH MINISTER CASIMIR BIZIMUNGU.

14. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
CHRISTOPHER

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