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ACTION RP-10

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AID-01 OIGO-01 HA-09 TEDE-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 OASY-00 EUR-01

TEDE-00 IO-16 ADS-00 OCS-06 OIC-02

FMP-00 SR-00 /050W

-----24006A 101010Z /38

O 100952Z FEB 94

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5695

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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KAMPALA FOR AMBASSADOR AND MS. LEADER

STATE FOR RP

GBNEVA FOR RMA

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ROME FOR FODAG

NAIROBI FOR REFCORD THOMAS-GREENFIELD

ADDIS FOR FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREF, RW, BY

SUBJECT: GOR, RPF, UNHCR, ICRC PLAN FOR RWANDAN

RETURNEES FROM UGANDA

REF: KIGALI 0454

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS** DATE/CASE ID: 20 NOV 2002 200003723

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Case Number: 200003723

1. SUMMARY. RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT CLAIMS THAT NEARLY 7,000 REFUGEES WITH ALMOST 10,000 HEAD OF CATTLE RETURNED FROM UGANDA TO RPF-HELD TERRITORY DURING JANUARY. UNHCR IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO ASSESS THEIR FOOD AND NON-FOOD NEEDI OR A LIMITED

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT AND RPF REQUESTS. RELIEF PLANNING IS COMPLICATED BY LACK OF STRUCTURES TO MAKE DECISIONS ON REFUGEE ISSUES PENDING FORMATION OF TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THE ISSUE IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THAT OF WAR-DISPLACED FROM THE RPF ZONE WHO STILL LIVE IN CAMPS AND DEPEND ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PAST WEEK, AMBASSADOR AND DCM DISCUSSED ISSUE OF "SPONTANEOUS REFUGEE RETURN" FROM UGANDA WITH UNHCR, RPF, ICRC, BRIEFLY WITH GOVERNMENT, AND WITH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, AMERICAN NGO UNDER CONSIDERATION AS UNCHR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER FOR ASSISTING THE GROUP. UNHCR IS UNDER PRESSURE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

#### LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00606 01 OF 05 101009Z
RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM BOTH THE
PRIME MINISTER AND THE RPF. AT THE SAME TIME, UNHCR
IS WARY OF BEING DRAWN INTO AN OPEN-ENDED OPERATION
WHERE EVENTUAL MAGNITUDE AND DURATION ARE UNKNOON.E

### NUMBERS INCREASING

3. THE RPF HAS REGISTERED AND COLLECTED DATA ON THE REFUGEES SPONTANEOUSLY RETURNING FROM UGANDA SINCE DECEMBER 28, 1993, TO THE TABAGWE SECTOR OF THE FRONTIER COMMUNE OF MUVUMBA, IN RPF-HELD TERRITORY. RPF REPORTS THAT, BY JANUARY 21, THERE WERE 1,921 FAMILIES NUMBERING 6,700 PEOPLE, WITH 9,100 HEAD OF CATTLE. MOST BECAME REFUGEES IN THE 1960'S AND HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE THEIR FAMILIES ORIGINATED FROM IN RWANDA. OTHERS, WHO FLED FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN 1990, COME FROM THE RPF-HELD ZONE. ALL HAVE LEFT THE NYAKIVALE REGION WHERE THEY WERE EITHER LOCALLY SETTLED (THE 1960'S REFUGEES) OR IN CAMPS (THE 1990'S REFUGEES). THE GROUP IS PRIMARILY MEN AND BOYS.

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4. UNHCR VISITED THE RETURNEES FEBRUARY 3 IN A JOINT MISSION WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE RPF, ICRC, AND THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CR8). UNHCR PROTECTION OFFICER TOLD DCM THAT IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO VERIFY THE RPF'S CLAIMS. THE HERDERS, ALL BUT 579 FAMILIES, ARE DISPERSED ACROSS THE HILLSIDES, HAVING BUILT SMALL SCATTERED HUTS AND FOLLOWING THEIR CATTLE BY DAY, SOMETIMES MOVING THEIR HUTS AS WELL. ACCORDING TO CRS REPRESENTATIVE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT TRIP, THE TEAM SAW ONLY A COUPLE HUNDRED OF THE
7,000 PERSONS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE AREA. THE
HERDERS ARE PRIMARILY FROM THE 1960'S GROUP. OTHERS,
FROM THE 1990'S G
OAP WHO COME FROM MUVUMBA COMMUNE,
HAVE RETURNED TO LAND THEY CLAIM IS THEIR OWN.
MUVUMBA COMMUNE IS ALSO THE HOMELAND OF WAR DISPLACED
WHO FLED TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE SOUTH (SEE PARA 10).

5. UNHCR'S PROTECTION OFFICER TALKED WITH THE

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O 100952Z FEB 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5696
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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KAMPALA FOR AMBASSADOR AND MS. LEADER STATE FOR RP GBNEVA FOR RMA

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00606 02 OF 05 101011Z ROME FOR FODAG NAIROBI FOR REFCORD THOMAS-GREENFIELD ADDIS FOR FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREF, RW, BY
SUBJECT: GOR, RPF, UNHCR, ICRC PLAN FOR RWANDAN

RBTURNEES DURING THE VISIT. SHE SAID THEY CLAIM THE LOCAL POPULATION IN UGANDA PUSHED THE REFUGEES TO RBTURN, SAYING THE ARUSHA ACCORD IS THERE, YOU CAN RETURN, AND WE WANT YOUR LAND. ASKED IF SHE BELIEVED THE MOVE WAS TRULY SPONTANEOUS, SHE RECALLED UNHOR THE VISIT IN LATE JANUARY OF UNHOR'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE REGION TO THE REFUGEE SITES IN UGANDA. HE REPORTED FINDING WIDESPREAD ENTHUSIASM FOR RETURN. SO, SHE SAID, SHE IS CONVINCED THE RPF DID NOT PUSH THE REFUGEES TO RETURN. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE NOTED THE RPF WOULD HAVE HAD TO ALLOW THE RETURNEES ACROSS THE BORDER. (COMMENT: A UN FORCES SOURCE SAID THEY HAVE LOCATED BETWEEN TWO MINE FIELDS, SUGGESTING THEY MAY HAVE HAD SOME ASSISTANCE IN FINDING THEIR WAY, AS WBLL. END COMMENT.)

#### ASSISTANCE PLANS

6. NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE. UNHCR HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE CONSISTING OF RELIEF SUPPLIES COMMON TO TEMPORARY POPULATION MOVEMENTS: BLANKETS,

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PLASTIC SHEETING, GERRY-CANS, ETC. THE PROTECTION OFFICER BELIEVES SOME SUCH SUPPLIES MAY BE ABLE TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

#### LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00606 02 OF 05 101011Z BORROWED FROM STOCKS FOR THE BURUNDI REFUGEES IN THE SOUTH.

- 7. FOOD ASSISTANCE. THE JOINT MISSION OF FEBRUARY 3 LOOKED INTO FOOD NEEDS OF THE RETURNEES. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT OVER WHAT THE FOOD NEEDS MIGHT BE. REPRESENTATIVE NOTED TO AMBASSADOR AND DCM THAT MOST OF THE CATTLE HERDERS ARE HIMA WHO LIVE ON MILK, MEAT, AND CATTLE BLOOD. THEREFORE, HE REASONED, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THEIR CATTLE, THEY HAVE NO NEED OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. UNHCR, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID ITS OFFICE IN KAMPALA AFFIRMED THAT THE PEOPLE IN QUESTION, THOUGH THEY MIGHT ONCE HAVE LIVED SOLELY OFF THEIR CATTLE, NOW ARE HABITUATED TO CEREALS, BANANAS, AND MORE TRADITIONAL FOODS. IN A TENSE MEETING WITH UNHCR FEBRUARY 2, RPF INSISTED ON IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE DATA IT HAD TABLED. UNHCR AND PVO'S SAID THEY COULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL THEY HAD A THOROUGH POPULATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT. UNHCR PLANS ANOTHER MISSION TO THE SITE FEBRUARY 11.
- 8. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. UNHCR SAID THAT ANY FOOD ASSISTANCE OPERATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT. THE SITE IS THREE AND ONE-HALF HOURS FROM KIGALI OVER UNMAINTAINED ROADS AND A LOG BRIDGE (THE OTHER WAS BLOWN UP IN THE WAR) THAT CAN TAKE ONLY A 6-TON TRUCK AT MOST. THE WFP OPERATION HAS ONLY 15-TON TRUCKS, SUGGESTING THEY WOULD HAVE TO DELIVER TO WAREHOUSES SOUTH OF THE BRIDGE FOR TRANSFER TO SMALLER VEHICLES. THE CURRENT GROUP WOULD NEED AN ESTIMATED 120 TONS OF FOOD PER MONTH, IF ALL REQUIRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00606 02 OF 05 101011Z TRADITIONAL REFUGEE RATIONS.

9. PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS. UNHCR HAS SAID IT WILL ONLY LAUNCH AM OPERATION IF THE PEOPLE ARE GROUPED

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TOGETHER, BUT THAT APPEARS UNLIKELY. THEY HAVE ALSO SAID THEY WILL NOT ASSIST PEOPLE SETTLED ON OTHER PBOPLE'S LA DS. UNHCR HESITATES TO CREATE A PULL FACTOR. ASSISTANCE TO THIS GROUP, THE PROTECTION OFFICER SAID, COULD DRAW AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF

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SR-00 SVC-00 FMP-00 /050W

-----2400C0 101014Z /25

O 100952Z FEB 94

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5697

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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KAMPALA FOR AMBASSADOR AND MS. LEADER STATE FOR RP

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ROME FOR FODAG
NAIROBI FOR REFCORD THOMAS-GREENFIELD
ADDIS FOR FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PREF, RW, BY

SUBJECT: GOR, RPF, UNHCR, ICRC PLAN FOR RWANDAN

REFUGEES IN UGANDA TO RETURN NOW. IT COULD ALSO CAUSE DISPLACED PERSONS STILL LIVING IN CAMPS AND DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO RUSH BACK, FEARING THAT THE RETURNEES WILL TAKE THEIR LAND. UNHCR, IF IT LAUNCHES AN OPERATION, WANTS IT TO BE MINIMAL AND LOW PROFILE. THE PROTECTION OFFICER ALSO BELIEVES ANY OPERATION SHOULD BE LIMITED IN SIZE AND DURATION, GIVEN THE CURRENT UNKNOWNS.

### A ROLE FOR CRS?

10. WHILE CRS HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE RETURNEE POPULATION, IT EXPRESSED TO UNHER CONCERN FOR ITS CREDIBILITY WITH THE BENEFICIARIES OF ITS CURRENT ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS. APPARENTLY THE POPULATION IT NOW AIDS, 80,000, HAIL PRIMARILY FROM MUVUMBA COMMUNE. CRS WOULD FIND IT PROBLEMATIC, UNHER SAID, TO AID THE DISPLACED AND RETURNEES SETTLING ON THEIR LAND.

### A ROLE FOR ICRC?

11. ICRC HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00606 03 OF 05 101013Z GROUP AND IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE RPF TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE ENTIRE GROUP. ICRC HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS PREPARED TO TREAT AS WAR-DISPLACED, AND ASSIST, THOSE WHO FLED TO UGANDA IN THE 1990'S. IT WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE REFUGEES FROM EARLIER TIMES, AND IT IS NOT/NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN HELPING THE WAR-DISPLACED REFUGEES NOW. THAT MUST WAIT UNTIL THE CONDITIONS FOR THE RETURN OF ALL WAR DISPLACED HAVE BEEN MET. MEAMWHILE, UNHCR HAS AGREED TO ASSIST THE ENTIRE GROUP UNTIL ICRC IS PREPARED TO HELP. (NOTE. THE

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ARUSHA SCHEDULE PERMITS RETURN TO THE RPF ZONE ONCE THE FORCES OF BOTH THE RPF AND THE GOR HAVE LAID DOWN (#) ASSEMBLY POINTS. END NOTE.)

### AMD WHAT ABOUT THE CATTLE?

12. WITH THE RISK OF CATTLE IMPORTING DISEASE TO RWANDA, THE MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEES HAS PROVIDED THE RWANDAN FRANC EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT USD 7,500 FOR VACCINES FOR THE CATTLE. HOWEVER, NOTHING IS UNDERWAY AS YET. UNHOR SAID THAT IT PLANS TO WORK WITH THE RPF, WHICH HAS VETERINARIANS IT CAN MAKE AVAILABLE FOR THE OPERATION, BUT THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT VACCINES AVAILABLE.

### ROLE FOR UN FORCES?

13. AT A MEETING CALLED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
JANUARY 31, THE GOR, RPF, AND CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS DISCUSSED HOW TO RESPOND TO THE
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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00606 03 OF 05 101013Z SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES. THE MEETING AGREED THAT THE UN FORCES AND THE RPF, IN COLLABORATION WITH UNHOR AND THE OAU, WOULD IDENTIFY TEMPORARY SITES FOR THE SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES WHERE THEY COULD BE ASSISTED. IT WAS THE SENSE OF THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO A SUMMARY PROVIDED THE DCM, THAT THE UN FORCES OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE SECURITY OF THE RETURNEES AND WITH ASSURING CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT ASSISTANCE

NOTE: (#) OMISSION IN PARA 11 CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5698

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ROME FOR FODAG

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ADDIS FOR FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREF, RW, BY

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TO BE DELIVERED.

### RPF POSITION

14. THE RPF ASSURED DCM THAT IT HAS TRIED TO DISCOURAGE PREMATURE REPATRIATION AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED KNOW, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, THAT THEY ARE IN TEMPORARY LOCATIONS. THE RPF SAID THAT ICRC IS HESITATING TO BECOME INVOLVED IN FOOD ASSISTANCE, BUT THAT IT WILL PROBABLY REFURBISH THE HEALTH CLINICS IN

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THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THE RETURNEES FIRST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LONGER-TERM PLAN FOR CLINIC REHABILITATION. THE RPF WAS PLEASED WITH THE JANUARY 31 MEETING, SAYING THAT IT OVERCAME THE RESISTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT, UNHCR, AWD THE ICRC TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE RETURNEES.

# DISPLACED ALSO RETURNING TO RPF ZONE

15. ALTHOUGH ATTENTION HAS BEEN ON THANX M
ANEOUS
RETURNEES FROM UGANDA, THE RPF CLAIMS THAT 18,000
PERSONS DISPLACED FROM THE RPF ZONE BY THE WAR HAVE
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KIGALI 00606 04 OF 05 102056Z PAGE 03 ALSO RETURNED. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE 10,000 ICRC HAS BEEN ASSISTING IN THE RPF ZONE SINCE THE PEACE ACCORD WAS SIGNED IN AUGUST. (NOTE. IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE RETURNS HAVE OCCURRED PRIMARILY IN THE BUTARO COMMUNE OF THE RUMENGERI PREFECTURE. END NOTE.) THE RPF SAYS THESE PEOPLE ARE RETURNING AS CLOSE TO THEIR HOMES AS RPF MILITARY POSITIONS AND MINE FIELDS WILL PERMIT. AID THEM, THE RPF SAID IT HAS DEMARCATED SOME MINE FIELDS (ALTHOUGH ONE PERSON HAS BEEN INJURED). RPF CLAIMS IT IS KEEPING CLOSE TRACK OF THE RETURNEES AMD PROVIDING ICRC WITH THE NAMES SO THEY CAN BE DELETED FROM ASSISTANCE LISTS IN CAMPS FOR THE DISPLACED. BUT THE RPF ANTICIPATES THEM NEEDING ASSISTANCE IN THEIR HOMES, PARTICULARLY SEEDS AND TOOLS. THIS ISSUE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE UNDER DISCUSSION FOR THE MOMENT.

### DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES LACKING

16. THE ABSENCE OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING UP FORMATION OF THE NEW SECRETARIAT, TO BE HEADED BY THE RPF, THAT WILL HANDLE REFUGEES, RETURNEES, AND DISPLACED PERSONS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. IT IS ALSO PREVENTING FORMATION OF A COMMISSION DEFINED IN THE ARUSHA ACCORD AS HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING REPATRIATION AND REFUGEE REINSTALLATION. THE PRIME MINISTER'S JANUARY 31 MEETING, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY CONCLUDED

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THAT THE CONCERNED PARTIES COULD GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS MODALITIES AND DIRECTIONS. (NOTE: UNHCR'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00606 04 OF 05 102056Z SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE REGION, MICHEL MOUSSALLI, GAVE DIPLOMATS IMPRESSION AT BRIEFING FEBRUARY 2 OF A MORE DEFINITE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE THAT WOULD HAVE DONOR REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED AT ITS DELIBERATIONS. END NOTE.)

#### COMMENT

17. WE ARE PLEASED THAT UNHCR HAS DECIDED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN RESPONDING TO THE SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES. WB ALSO BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5699
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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KAMPALA FOR AMBASSADOR AND MS. LEADER STATE FOR RP GBNEVA FOR RMA

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00606 05 OF 05 101015Z ROME FOR FODAG NAIROBI FOR REFCORD THOMAS-GREENFIELD ADDIS FOR FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREF, RW, BY
SUBJECT: GOR, RPF, UNHCR, ICRC PLAN FOR RWANDAN

SHOULD BE MEASURED AND BASED ON IDENTIFIED NEEDS. THE RISK OF CREATING A PULL FACTOR, DRAWING REFUGEES FROM THE NORTH OR DISPLACED FROM THE SOUTH IS REAL AND COULD JEOPARDIZE RWANDA'S ABILITY TO MANAGE A VERY COMPLEX PROBLEM. A MIDDLE ROAD BETWEEN HANDS-OFF AND UNRESTGIKTKKASSISTANCE IS LICOYJE FOR NOW.

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