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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FDRE-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/073W		

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P 041546Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4988
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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STATE FOR RP, AF/C, AMD AF/RA
AID FOR AF/EA AND OFDA
GENEVA FOR RMA AND AID
ADDIS ABABA FOR OFDA/FARNSWORTH
ROME FOR WFP
YAOUNDE AND BUJUMBURA FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREF, PHUM, PREL, RW, BY, TZ, CG
SUBJECT: BURUWDI REFUGEES: NUMBERS UP, COORDINATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200003723

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COMING TOGETHER

REF: (A) GENEVA 10107, (B) KIGALI 3935

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EARLY, SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR'S URGENT ADVANCE APPEAL (REF A). UNHCR'S NEW PLANNING FIGURE FOR BURUNDI REFUGEES IN RWANDA IS 375,000. UNHCR HAS 15 ADDITIONAL STAFF ON THE GROUND, IS DEPLOYED IN THE FIELD AND SECTOR ASSESSMENTS ARE UNDERWAY. ASSISTANCE COORDINATION IS COMING TOGETHER VIA REGULAR SECTORAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETINGS. UNHCR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, ANDREW SOKIRI, WHO IS PURSUING POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS, LEFT FOR BUJUMBURA 11/4. DONOR MEETING TO BE CALLED FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. ADVANCE APPEAL. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USG RESPOND QUICKLY WITH A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR'S URGENT ADVANCE APPEAL FOR USD 17 MILLION FOR THE BURUNDI REFUGEE EMERGENCY. SO FAR THE EMBASSY HAS

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 ANNOUNCED ITS EMERGENCY DECLARATION AMOUNT OF USD 25,000. FRANCE, BELGIUM, CANADA, AND SWITZERLAND HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND KIND, MUCH OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AIRLIFTED INTO THE COUNTRY. NOTE: UNHCR'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, ANDREW SOKIRI, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED A 2-DAY VISIT, TOLD DCM THAT UNHCR ESTIMATED IT WOULD NEED USD 17-20 MILLION FOR THREE MONTHS, ALTHOUGH THIS TIME-FRAME IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE UNHCR SOLICITATION. END NOTE.

3. NUMBERS. UNHCR HAS INCREASED ITS PLANNING FIGURE FOR BURUNDI REFUGEES IN RWANDA TO 375,000. GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES ALREADY EXCEED 400,000. EMERGENCY PLANNING SPECIALIST TOLD DCM, THAT CONTRARY TO HIS EARLIER IMPRESSIONS, HE BELIEVES GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES REFLECT REALITY.

4. HCR STAFF ARRIVES. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE RODRIGUEZ TOLD DCM THAT 15 STAFF PERSONS ARRIVED TO HELP WITH THE REFUGEE EMERGENCY. TWO HAVE ALREADY

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ESTABLISHED A SUB-OFFICE IN BUTARE TO COVER THE PREFECTURES OF BUTARE, GIKONGORO, AND CYANGUGU; TWO ARE COVERING BUGESERA (SOUTH OF KIGALI) AND KIBUNGO FROM KIGALI; TWO WILL GO TO ZAIRE; AND TWO ARE PROTECTION OFFICERS. FOUR ARE TSS SECTOR SPECIALISTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTING SECTOR ASSESSMENTS.

5. COORDINATION. REGIONAL PLANNING MEETINGS AND REGULAR SECTORAL MEETINGS IN KIGALI ARE CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS NGO'S THAT
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HAVE BEGUN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT-NGO-DONOR CRISIS COMMITTEE FOR THE DISPLACED IS CONTINUING TO COMPILE AND DISSEMINATE TO INTERESTED PARTIES DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT WHO IS DOING WHAT, WHERE. UNHCR PROMISED DCM THAT IT WOULD CALL A DONOR BRIEFING FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK.

6. FOOD. DISPLACED IN THE NORTH HAVE BEGUN TO COMPLAIN THAT THEIR FOOD IS BEING DIVERTED TO THE REFUGEE EMERGENCY IN THE SOUTH. WFP ASSURED DONORS AND HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT AN 11/4 MEETING THAT THIS IS NOT/NOT THE CASE AND THAT ENOUGH FOOD IS IN THE PIPELINE TO ASSURE THAT THIS WILL NOT/NOT HAPPEN. COMMENT. EMBASSY/USAID WILL MONITOR THE

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SUBJECT: BURUWDI REFUGEES: NUMBERS UP, COORDINATION

FOOD SITUATION CLOSELY. THE PROBLEM WILL COME IF THE
FOOD BORROWED FROM STOCKS FOR THE DISPLACED CANNOT BE
REPLENISHED BY THE TIME THEY ARE NEEDED IN THE
NORTH. END COMMENT.

7. REFUGEE IMPACT. UNMCR PLANNERS ARE CONSCIOUS OF
THE NEED TO TAKE THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION
INTO CONSIDERATION IN IMPLEMENTING ASSISTANCE TO THE
REFUGEES. WITH THE CURRENT HARVEST SEASON
JEOPARDIZED BY DELAYED RAINS, WHICH NOW APPEAR TO
HAVE STARTED IN MOST AREAS, FOOD WILL PRESENT THE
BIGGEST ISSUE. THIS, UNHCR BELIEVES, SHOULD BE LEFT

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TO WFP AND THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT. MEDICINES AND
MEDICAL SERVICES ARE LIKELY TO BE ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS
ISSUE. LOCAL PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR SERVICES
(BAMAKO PLAN), WHILE THE REFUGEES WOULD BE RECEIVING
FREE SERVICES. UNHCR IS CONSIDERING A STRATEGY
WHEREBY REFUGEE MEDICAL SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED IN
THE CAMPS. THIS MAY CONFLICT WITH THE BELGIAM RED
CROSS WHICH INTENDS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CLINICS TO
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PROVIDE SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND LOCAL PEOPLE.

8. POLITICS. SOKIRI, ALONG WITH UNHCR'S DESK
OFFICER FOR RWANDA, DANIEL TSHITUNGI, HAVE BEEN
MEETING OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS WITH RWANDAN OFFICIALS
AND ASSISTANCE AGENCIES IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN A
READ-OUT ON RWANDA'S APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION.
THEY DEPARTED FOR BURUNDI MORNING 11/4. THE MESSAGE
THEY ARE GETTING IS THAT, UNLESS SECURITY CAN BE
ASSURED IN THEIR HOME AREAS, THE REFUGEES ARE
UNLIKELY TO RETURN HOME ANY TIME SOON. THEY ARE ALSO
GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTIMATE LINK BETWEEN
WHAT HAPPENS IN BURUNDI AND THE SECURITY SITUATION IN
RWANDA.

9. BURUNDI MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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