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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	CORE-00	/055W

-----057701 161514Z /38

P 161507Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5054
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 04084

YAOUNDE FOR DATT
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREF, PREL, MARR, RW, BY
SUBJECT: BURUNDI CRISIS: POTENTIAL REGIONAL TENSIONS
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REF: (A) BUJUMBURA 4577, (B) STATE 342895
(C) KIGALI 3993

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE BURUNDI COUP HAS STIRRED UP RUMORS OF PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITY IN RWANDA AND IN REFUGEE CAMPS. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME TRUTH TO IT BUT EXACTLY WHAT

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KIND OF ACTIVITY AND HOW WIDESPREAD IS NOT YET CLEAR.

3. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, TOLD DCM 11/6 OF REPORTS OF PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITY IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN BUGESERA, THE REGION SOUTH OF KIGALI THAT BORDERS BURUNDI (REF C). HE SAID RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN BUGESERA HAVE WITNESSED PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITY, BUT HE COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC. RODRIGUEZ IS PREPARING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO EXPRESS UNHCR'S CONCERN, REMIND THE AUTHORITIES OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING SECURITY IN THE CAMPS, AND RECALL TO THEM THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OAU CONVENTION. HE SAID HE PLANS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

4. THE NONCE APOSTOLIC TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF MILITARY RECRUITMENT ACTIVITY IN REFUGEE CAMPS, BUT DID NOT KNOW IF THIS ACTIVITY WAS SPONSORED BY THE PALIPEHUTU OR SOME ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI. AGAIN, WE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFICS.

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5. THE HEAD OF THE GENDARMERIE'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (PROTECT) TOLD DCM AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY OF TWO BURUNDI REFUGEE STUDENTS WHO WERE ARRESTED WHEN THEY WERE TRYING TO PROCURE ARMS. HE SPECULATED THAT THEY WERE BEING FUNDED BY SOMEONE AND IMPLIED IT MIGHT BE A RWANDAN BUSINESSMAN. THEY ARE BEING HELD PENDING INVESTIGATION.

6. THE BURUNDI AMBASSADOR, A FORMER REFUGEE APPOINTED TO HIS POSITION BY PRESIDENT NDADAYE, TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD FIRED HIS NUMBER TWO, A HUTU, UPON HIS RETURN FROM BURUNDI WHERE HE WAS DURING THE COUP ATTEMPT. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, THE COUNSELOR HAD FIRED ALL TUTSI EMPLOYEES AT THE EMBASSY AND REPLACED THEM WITH PALIPEHUTU AND WAS USING THE EMBASSY FOR RECRUITMENT FOR THE PALIPEHUTU. THE AMBASSADOR REHIRED THE TUTSIS AFTER FIRING HIS COUNSELOR.

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7. COMMENT. THE BURUNDI REFUGEE POPULATION IN RWANDA, ABOUT 20,000 STRONG BEFORE THE RECENT INFLUX, HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED A SUBSTANTIAL PALIPEHUTU ELEMENT. THE PALIPEHUTU HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED AN OFFICE HERE. HOWEVER, ALLEGATIONS OF PALIPEHUTU TRAINING BEING CONDUCTED IN RWANDAM REFUGEE CAMPS IN 1992 COULD NEVER BE PROVEN AND WERE OFFICIALLY DENIED. NEVERTHELESS, SUCH TRAINING COULD HAVE BEEN OCCURRING THEN AND COULD BE OCCURRING NOW. THE NYUNGWE FOREST, BORDERING BURUNDI, IS A VAST, UNPOPULATED AREA FREQUENTED PRIMARILY BY ILLEGAL GOLD
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DIGGERS AND HAS BEEN RUMORED TO HAVE PALIPEHUTU TRAINING CAMPS. IN THE CLIMATE OF HEIGHTENED ANTI-TUTSI FEELINGS FOLLOWING THE BURUNDI COUP, PALIPEHUTU ACTIVITIES COULD FIND SUPPORT FROM RWANDAM HUTU SUPREMACISTS, LONG THE NATURAL ALLIES OF BURUNDI'S PALIPEHUTU REFUGEES. SO FAR WE HAVE NOTHING CONCRETE TO OFFER BUT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE INQUIRIES.
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