

Bloodless Coup by General Gains Control of Rwanda

NAIROBI, KENYA (AP)—A general who served as the defense minister overthrew the civilian government in Rwanda on Thursday and he emerged as the apparent leader of the tiny Central African nation.

The takeover was reported to have been bloodless. Military forces simply surrounded government buildings in Kigali, the capital.

The coup leader, Maj. Gen. Juvenal Habyarimana, then



had allowed himself to be controlled by enemies of peace.

A statement broadcast in Kigali in the name of Habyarimana and 10 other army officers said a national committee for peace and unity was set up to put down divisive elements.

The coup reflected growing instability in the formerly Belgian-ruled Central African region where extreme poverty inflames ancient tribal hatreds.

Juvenal Habyarimana, then called in foreign diplomats and told them that conditions would swiftly return to normal, according to reports reaching Nairobi.

Army leaders proclaimed a 6 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew throughout Rwanda and ordered non-military government vehicles to be driven to military camps for reassignment by army commanders.

Dodges Questions

Diplomatic sources said Habyarimana dodged questions concerning the fate of Gregoire Kayibanda, Rwanda's only president in 11 years of independence. Various reports said Kayibanda had resigned or was still in office as a figurehead.

Radio Uganda said Kayiban-



RWANDA TAKEOVER

Army Takes Charge

da and his civilian cabinet ministers were under house arrest. The broadcast said Gen. Idi Amin, Uganda's president, had been in contact with the new Rwanda leaders during the day. Uganda borders Rwanda on the north.

Kayibanda was widely regarded as a moderate on the tribal and economic problems facing Rwanda. Monitors quoted the official radio in neighboring Burundi as commenting that the president

hatreds.

Tribal reprisals have taken tens of thousands of lives in the past year, mostly in Burundi. Thousands of refugees are still crossing national borders to escape what they say are fresh outbreaks of violence.

The disorders are the legacy of centuries of feudal rule in Rwanda and Burundi by a cattle-owning Tutsi tribal minority over Hutu majority farmers. Tutsi dominance persisted under 60 years of German and then Belgian colonial administration.

Hutus seized power in Rwanda before independence, but Tutsis suppressed Hutu revolts in Burundi. Burundi accused Rwanda in May of helping Hutu refugees seeking to overthrow the Tutsi regime.