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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5650
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KIGALI 00489

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OTRA, UNSC, RW
SUBJECT: IO A/S BENNET DISCUSSES SECURITY COUNCIL
- ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER REVIEWED WITH A/S
BENNET RWANDAN VIEWS ON KEY SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES,

STRESSING IN EVERY CASE THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL
SOLUTIONS IN TANDEM WITH MILITARY APPROACHES. HE
CRITICIZED CASES WHERE A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE
EXPLOIT SITUATIONS FOR PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRARY TO
THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, CITING RWANDA AND BURUNDI AS
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EXAMPLES. A/S DOUGLAS J. BENNET ENCOURAGED THE
MINISTER TO PURSUE HIS CONCERN FOR CONFLICT
PREVENTION BY SIGNALING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY
INTERVENTION. HE ALSO URGED RWANDA TO MAKE A SUCCESS
OF ITS PEACEKEEPING OPERATION BY QUICKLY FINDING A
WAY TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL IMPASSE AND IMPLEMENT
THE ARUSHA ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

3. A/S BENNET CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER ANASTASE
GASANA 1 FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS PEACEKEEPING AND

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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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SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES. THE MINISTER TALKED GENERALLY ABOUT PEACEKEEPING AND THE RWANDAN SITUATION AND THEN OUTLINED RWANDA'S VIEWS ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES IN SOMALIA, ANGOLA, BURUNDI, BOSNIA, GEORGIA, HAITI, IRAQ AND LIBYA. ACCOMPANYING A/S BENNET WERE THE AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND VISITING IO/PHO OFFICER DAVID JENSEN. ALSO PARTICIPATING ON THE RWANDAN SIDE WERE MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL, MFA LIAISON TO THE UN FORCES, AND MFA DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAS AND UN AFFAIRS.

4. PEACEKEEPING AND RWANDA. IN OPENING HIS REMARKS, MINISTER GASANA EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONFLICT PREVENTION. ARGUING PREVENTION IS MORE COST EFFECTIVE THAN CURE, HE CALLED FOR ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATION'S SYSTEM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG SUPPORT IN ESTABLISHING THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN RWANDA TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD AND URGED THE USG NOT TO CONFUSE THE IMPASSE CREATED BY A FEW WITH THE WILL OF THE RWANDAN PEOPLE FOR PEACE. HE ALSO

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 ARGUED THAT RWANDA SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION FROM THE SUBREGION, INCLUDING BURUNDI AND ZAIRE. HE ASKED FOR USG INTERVENTION TO ENCOURAGE THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BURUNDI SITUATION WHERE, HE SAID, 180 PERSONS A DAY ARE DYING. (NOTE: THIS FIGURE APPEARS TO REFER TO THE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BURUNDI DYING PER DAY IN REFUGEE CAMPS AT THE END OF DECEMBER. END NOTE)

5. BURUNDI. A/S BENNET SUGGESTED THAT THE UN AND OAU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN BURUNDI MAY BE ABLE TO SUGGEST STRATEGIES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN PURSUE TO HELP THE SITUATION.

6. ANGOLA. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED RWANDA'S CONCERN THAT UNITA'S SAVIMBI HAD REJECTED THE ELECTION OUTCOME. HE SAID THE U.S. SHOULD PRESS SAVIMBI TO MAKE A POLITICAL COMPROMISE AND TO ACCEPT THE ARBITRATION OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH ELECTIONS.

7. SOMALIA. GASANA SALUTED THE USG HUMANITARIAN

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INTERVENTION IN SOMALIA AND CALLED THE OPERATION A
SUCCESS BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
SURVIVE. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW, HE SAID, IS A POLITICAL
SOLUTION. RWANDA WANTS TO SUPPORT THE USG IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL
SOLUTION THAT WILL MAKE THE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION
WORTHWHILE. AIDEED SAYS HE WILL INSTALL A GOVERNMENT
BY 31 MARCH WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER CLAN
LEADERS. THE USG, THE UN, AND THE OAU SHOULD
ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AND AVOID LETTING SOMALIA BECOME
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THE STRONGHOLD OF ONE MAN.

8. BOSNIA. THE MINISTER SAID RWANDA WANTS TO WORK
WITH THE USG IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT A
POLITICAL PROCESS THAT WILL PARALLEL THE EFFORT.
RWANDA BELIEVES RUSSIA NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED AS A
POTENTIAL MAJOR PARTNER IN ACHIEVING A SOLUTION IN
BOSNIA.

9. GEORGIA. THE MINISTER HAILED UNSCR 896

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INCREASING THE NUMBER OF UN OBSERVER TROOPS IN GEORGIA AS A STRATEGY AIMED AT ENGAGING BOTH SIDES IN DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION LEADING TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION. AGAIN, HE SAID, RUSSIA SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN REACHING A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

10. HAITI. THE MINISTER SAID THE ARMY IN HAITI IS MAKING A MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WHILE HOLDING THE HAITIAN PEOPLE HOSTAGE. RWANDA SEES THE SITUATION IN HAITI AS SIMILAR TO THAT IN BURUNDI WHERE THE ARMY IS TAKING AWAY DEMOCRACY FROM THE PEOPLE. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEEDS
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TO DO MORE THAN IMPLEMENT AN EMBARGO TO SECURE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO ENFORCE SANCTIONS AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ARMY DOES NOT BURY THE HOPES OF THE PEOPLE. A/S BENNET REPLIED THAT THE MILITARY IN HAITI HAS BEEN UNYIELDING. HE SAID THE UN IS WORKING WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN STATES ON FINDING A RESOLUTION TO THE SITUATION BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RESULTS YET.

11. IRAQ. RWANDA, THE MINISTER SAID, BELIEVES IN MAINTAINING SANCTIONS ON IRAQ AND OBSERVING WHETHER THERE IS ANY EVOLUTION TOWARD DEMOCRACY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR MINORITIES. HE SAID RWANDA WILL DEFEND THIS POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNTIL EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION IS DEFINITIVE. SANCTIONS MUST BE KEPT IN PLACE UNTIL THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN REALLY SEE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION AND BE CONVINCED THAT IRAQ HAS CHANGED ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING A BUILD-UP OF ARMS AND WAGING WAR ON ITS NEIGHBORS. A/S BENNET AGREED THAT RESULTS MUST BE EVIDENT BEFORE SANCTIONS CAN BE LIFTED.

12. LIBYA. GASANA SAID SANCTIONS ON LIBYA HAVE ACHIEVED POSITIVE RESULTS; TERRORIST ATTACKS HAVE DIMINISHED. AS A SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, HE SAID,

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RWANDA WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF LIBYA WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SEE TOGETHER HOW BEST TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE RESULTS.

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13. CONFLICT PREVENTION. A/S BENNET THANKED THE MINISTER FOR HIS TOUR D'HORIZON AND PROMISED TO REPORT HIS COMMENTS ON THE VARIOUS COUNTRY SITUATIONS TO WASHINGTON. HE THEN COMMENTED ON SOME OF THE GENERAL ISSUES RAISED BY THE MINISTER. HE NOTED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL NEEDS TO IMPROVE ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND EARLY TO CONFLICT SITUATIONS. HE ENCOURAGED THE MINISTER TO LOOK FOR EARLY INTERVENTION POSSIBILITIES AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THE U.S. AD THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO FORESTALL ESCALATION. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL CURRENT SITUATIONS WERE IN THE "CLEANUP PROCESS" WHICH IS MORE DIFFICULT. A/S BENNET SAID USE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS ONE POSSIBLE RESPONSE STRATEGY. THE COMPLEX SITUATIONS OF TODAY, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO NEED A COMPLEX OF GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND BILATERAL RESPONSES, AS IS THE CASE IN BURUNDI. A/S BENNET UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITTEN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARTIES, NOTING THAT, IN CONTRAST TO RWANDA, SOMALIA HAD NO SUCH AGREEMENT.

14. LEADERSHIP FOR SUCCESS. A/S BENNET CITED THE MINISTER'S REFERENCE TO SITUATIONS (RWANDA AND BURUNDI) WHERE THE MINISTER CLAIMED INDIVIDUALS WERE EXPLOITING A FLUID POLITICAL SITUATION AGAINST THE WILL OF THE POPULATION. HE CALLED ON THE MINISTER TO

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THINK INSTEAD OF SITUATIONS WHERE BRAVE PERSONS, SUCH AS MANDELA AND DE KLERK OF SOUTH AFRICA, STEP FORWARD AND SAY "ENOUGH". STATESMEN, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, AND OTHERS NEED TO BE MOBILIZED (IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI) TO COUNTERACT THOSE WHO WOULD EXPLOIT THE SITUATION FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. IF RWANDA FAILS TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR

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OTHER CONFLICT RESOLUTION SITUATIONS. IF RWANDA FAILS TO MAKE THE PEACE AGREEMENT A REALITY, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION CAN WORK. A/S BENNET STRESSED THE URGENCY OF MOVING FORWARD BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY LOSES INTEREST.

15. COMMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER GASANA WAS A GRACIOUS

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HOST FOR THE A/S BENNET VISIT, RECEIVING HIM AT THE AIRPORT, HOSTING A DINNER FOR HIM, AND SEEING HIM OFF AT THE AIRPORT. UNDOUBTEDLY, HIS INTENTION IS TO SOLICIT OUR INTEREST IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RWANDAN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. AS A QUID PRO QUO, WE CAN EXPECT RWANDA TO BE READY AND WILLING TO COOPERATE ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

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