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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	PM-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-01
	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	DTC-01	/052W

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O 110634Z JUN 92
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0878
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE //ECJ4-SA//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 02336

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, MOPS, MARR, PINR, PGOV, RW
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RETIRES TOP MILITARY
OFFICERS

REF: KIGALI 1709

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: THE GOR ANNOUNCED TODAY, 10 JUNE, THAT THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS TAKEN THE DECISION TO
REORGANIZE THE ARMED FORCES. THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE
ARMY AND THE GENDARMERIE, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER
OFFICERS, HAVE BEEN SENT INTO RETIREMENT AND REPLACED.
END SUMMARY.

3. THE GOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TOOK
THE DECISION AT THEIR JUNE 9 MEETING TO SEND INTO
RETIREMENT A NUMBER OF KEY OFFICERS IN THE RWANDAN
MILITARY. AMONG THOSE PUT TO PASTURE ARE COLS. SERUBUGA

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AND RWAGAFILITA, CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND GENDARMERIE. SERUBUGA WILL BE REPLACED BY COL. DEOGRATIAS NSABIMANA; RWAGAFILITA BY COL. AUGUSTIN NDINDILIIYIMANA. ALSO RETIRED WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICERS' ACADEMY, TO BE REPLACED BY COL LEONIDAS RUSATIRA, WHO MOVES OVER FROM HIS LONG-HELD POSITION AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

4. OTHER CHANGES IN THE MILITARY HIERARCHY INCLUDE THE POSTING OF COL. FRANCOIS MUNYENGANGO FROM CHIEF OF THE MILITARY COOPERATION SECTION (AND POST'S PRINCIPLE INTERLOCUTOR AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE) TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF IMPLEMENTING ANY FUTURE DEMOBILIZATION PLANS.

5. COL. NDINDILIIYIMANA TAKES ON A DAUNTING TASK AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENDARMERIE. THE GENDARMES ARE NOT KNOWN FOR EITHER THEIR TRAINING OR DISCIPLINE, AND HAVE A NASTY REPUTATION AMONG THE POPULATION AS BANDITS

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AND THIEVES. THE COLONEL COMES FROM PREVIOUS POSTS AS MINISTER AT THE PRESIDENCY FOR MILITARY AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, AND AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE IS WELL RESPECTED IN AND OUT OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO NOT HAVE USED HIS POSITIONS OF POWER TO ENRICH HIMSELF.

6. COL. NSABIMANA, WHO TAKES THE POSITION OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, IS A COMPLEX FIGURE. HE IS CELEBRATED AS ONE OF THE TRUE HEROS OF THE ONGOING WAR WITH THE RPF, HAVING BEEN IN COMMAND OF TROOPS IN THE MUTARA SECTOR SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR IN OCTOBER 1990. HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HIS SOLDIERS AND, IN THIS TIME OF DECREASING ARMY DISCIPLINE, IS KNOWN AS AN OFFICER TO BE OBEYED. HE ALSO FACES A DIFFICULT JOB IN ATTEMPTING TO RE-ESTABLISH DISCIPLINE IN THE RANKS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

7. COMMENT: THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP. AS LONG AS I HAVE BEEN HERE I HAVE HEARD THE NAMES OF RWAGAFILITA, SERUBUGA AND SAGATWA AS THE EMINENCES GRISES BEHIND ALL OF THE EVILS OF THIS HABYARIMANA REGIME. THE REMOVAL OF TWO OF THEM WILL PROVE TO MANY RWANDANS THAT THIS GOVERNMENT OF TRANSITION IS NOW FUNCTIONING. I BELIEVE THE SAME MESSAGE SHOULD BE

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UNDERSTOOD BY THE RPF WHICH HAS CONTINUED THROUGH ITS MEETINGS WITH COHEN, WITH THE PARTY LEADERS AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO QUESTION WHETHER THIS GOVERNMENT HAD THE CAPABILITY TO MAKE REAL CHANGE. OF COURSE THE CYNICS WILL POINT OUT THAT SAGATWA IS STILL THERE. I MUST ADMIT THAT SEEING HIM TODAY AT THE PRESIDENCY WITH A BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT HE MAY

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HAVE EVEN BENEFITTED BY THE REMOVAL OF HIS TWO COLLEAGUES. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE CONFIRMED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF CABINET, ENOCH RUHIGIRA, THAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS AGREED TO THE CHANGES. IF HE CAN MAKE THAT KNOW PUBLICLY, IT SHOULD DEFLECT RIGHT WING OBJECTIONS. HE DID HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING IN KINYARWANDA, BUT SO FAR AS WE KNOW DID NOT SAY HE WAS CHANGING HIS MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

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8. COMMENT CONTINUED. THERE IS A POSSIBLE DOWNSIDE IN ALL OF THIS OF COURSE. NSABIMANA IS KNOWN TO BE A HARDLINE MILITARY OFFICER, EFFECTIVE AND HAVING EARNED THE RESPECT OF HIS SOLDIERS. AT THE SAME TIME HE IS KNOWN AS A MAN WHO GIVES NO QUARTER, BELIEVED TO HAVE
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TORTURED PRISONERS TO DEATH AND INSTITUTED SUMMARY EXECUTIONS ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THIS REPUTATION IS SURELY KNOWN TO THE RPF, AND COULD OFFSET THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE REMOVAL OF SERUBUGA. END COMMENT. FLATEN

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