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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01
	IML-00	IMMC-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SNP-00
	RNEA-00	SP-00	SR-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	RPE-01
	PMB-00	/059W					

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O 260626Z MAR 94  
 FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3175  
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE  
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 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

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 ATO AFRICA IMMEDIATE  
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0861

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUJUMBURA 01025

DEPT FOR AF/C, DSS/OP, DS/OP/AF, USAID  
 ACCRA FOR A/S MOOSE  
 LONDON FOR MCKINLEY  
 PARIS FOR PERLOW  
 YAOUNDE FOR DAO  
 EUCOM FOR J3

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: AMGT, PGOV, PREF, PHUM, PINR, BY  
 SUBJECT: DAS BUSHNELL MEETING WITH BURUNDI PRIME

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
HARRY R. MELONE

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- MINISTER ANATOLE KANYENKIKO

REF: BUJUMBURA 1008

1. SUMMARY: DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER RECONFIRMED TO PRIME MINISTER KANYENKIKO THE U.S. CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN BURUNDI AND CONCERN FOR THE VIOLENCE STILL PLAGUING THE COUNTRY. THEY STRESSED THE NEED TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE MEDIA TO REASSURE CITIZENS, DISPEL RUMORS AND ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY DURING THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT AND REAFFIRMED BURUNDI'S IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

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 DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT  
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2. PRIME MINISTER KANYENKIKO RECEIVED DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LANGE ON MARCH 23. HE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THEIR VISIT AND DECLARED BURUNDI'S IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT IN ESTABLISHING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN OVERCOMING DISCORD AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES DURING THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE STATED HE SAW EVIDENCE OF THE BEGINNING OF ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND THAT BURUNDI MUST RECOUP ITS DEMOCRACY AND GET ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BACK ON TRACK. HE SAID THIS PLAN WOULD REQUIRE THE COURAGE AND WILL OF THE POPULATION AND ALSO THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. DAS BUSHNELL RECOGNIZED THE PM'S PERSONAL COURAGE IN ACCEPTING A DIFFICULT TASK AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S., AS A NEIGHBOR IN THE "GLOBAL VILLAGE," WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR AND CLOSELY MONITORING BURUNDI'S PROBLEMS. SHE EXPRESSED U.S. COMMITMENT TO CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN BURUNDI, BUT SAID THE U.S. DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE PHENOMENON OF VIOLENCE. SHE ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS SITUATION CAME TO BE AND WHAT THE LEADERS WERE DOING TO RESOLVE IT. THE U.S. WANTS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE BUT MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT THE GRB IS DOING

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ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE  
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4. THE PM PROVIDED A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF ETHNIC ANIMOSITY, AGGRAVATED DURING THE END OF THE MONARCHY (I.E., UNDER COLONIALISM) AND DESCRIBED FORMER PRESIDENT BUYOYA'S ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE NATIONAL UNITY IN PREPARATION FOR A DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THE OCTOBER COUP, WHICH TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT NDADAYE, HAD REVERSED BUYOYA'S EFFORTS AND OLD HATREDS HAD RESURFACED.

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AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE  
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ATO AFRICA IMMEDIATE  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0862

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BUJUMBURA 01025

DEPT FOR AF/C, DSS/OP, DS/OP/AF, USAID  
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: AMGT, PGOV, PREF, PHUM, PINR, BY  
SUBJECT: DAS BUSHNELL MEETING WITH BURUNDI PRIME

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MEDIA AS A COUNTERMEASURE  
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5. DAS BUSHNELL CITED THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH GIVEN THE EVENING BEFORE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW MEDIA COULD BE USED TO INFORM AND REASSURE CITIZENS AS WELL AS TO DEMONSTRATE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE. IT COULD ALSO SERVE TO SHOW THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS LEADERS ARE IN CHARGE AND WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRY. AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER CITED THE DANGER OF RUMORS AND GAVE THE EXAMPLE OF HEARING ON RWANDAN RADIO THE NEWS OF A COUP IN BURUNDI ON MARCH 22. IT PROVED TO BE COMPLETELY FALSE BUT, RENDER NOTED, SHE HAD HEARD NO  
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PUBLIC DENIAL FORM THE GRB. THE MINISTER AGREED AND SAID HE WAS HOPING TO FORM A QUICK REACT COMMUNICATION TEAM TO REASSURE AN INSECURE POPULATION. HE ALSO NOTED HOW UNHELPFUL RWANDAN RADIO IS. RENDER SUGGESTED THAT BURUNDI MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH RWANDA ON MEDIA MATTERS SO THAT FUTURE INCIDENTS COULD BE AVOIDED OR CORRECTED. THE PM STATED THAT RWANDAN RADIO, AS WELL AS THE BEHAVIOR OF SOME BURUNDIAN LEADERS, WAS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL BUT AGREED THAT BOTH ACTIONS WERE APPROPRIATE.

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ACTION TO DISPEL RUMORS  
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6. RESPONDING TO AN INQUIRY FROM DAS BUSHNELL ABOUT ON-GOING CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA, THE PM SAID HE INTENDED TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ONCE FORMED. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH COOPERATION WAS NECESSARY FOR THE STABILITY OF DEMOCRACY IN THE SUB-REGION.  
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ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS  
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7. BOTH DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER REAFFIRMED U.S. CONCERN FOR BURUNDI AND THE SUB-REGION. BUSHNELL STRESSED THAT ETHNIC PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY SOLVED BY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND EXTENDED HER PERSONAL OFFER OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. SHE INFORMED THE PM THAT A NEW AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN NAMED AND SHOULD ARRIVE SOON.

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8. THE PM EXTENDED HIS THANKS FOR U.S. SUPPORT AND FOR THE VISIT AND EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO PROFIT FROM IT TO MAKE A "NEW START" FOR BURUNDI. HE REITERATED HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT.

9. COMMENT: BEFORE COMING TO THE MEETING, UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ABDALLAH TOLD BUSHNELL AND RENDER THAT THE PM HAD TALKED TO HIM ABOUT RESIGNING. WHILE THE PM MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY POSSIBLE RESIGNATION, HE CLEARLY APPRECIATED BEING REASSURED OF U.S. SUPPORT. BUSHNELL TOLD HIM THAT IF HE EVER GOT DISCOURAGED, HE COULD CALL HER FOR A PEP TALK. END COMMENT. LANGE

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