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May 3, 1994

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RELEASED IN FULL

TO: AF - Ms. Render
FROM: INR/AA - Janean Mann
SUBJECT: Rwandan Radios

Stations. There have been three major radio broadcast outlets operating in Rwanda:

--Kigali Radio Diffusion National de la Republique is the government's radio station broadcasting from Kigali.

--Radio Muhabura is the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) radio station, which broadcasts clandestinely, possibly from Mulindi where the RPF was headquartered before the current fighting.

--Radio-Television Libre des Mille Collines--known as RTLM Radio or Radio Mille Collines--is a private Rwandan radio station that has broadcast from Kigali hard-line Hutu and anti-Tutsi invective linked to the Coalition for the Defense of the Republic (CDR).

Monitoring. FBIS has been using BBC facilities in Nairobi to monitor Rwandan radio broadcasts. From that distance, they can monitor only shortwave transmissions, not the AM or FM broadcasts that most Rwandans would hear. It also means that they have not been monitoring Radio Mille Collines, which unlike Kigali Radio and Radio Muhabura, apparently has not been broadcast on shortwave. Reports of Radio Mille Collines transmissions have been second-hand, from other media reporting what Mille Collines Radio reportedly has said.

Radio Mille Collines since April 6. Radio Mille Collines was the first to report that the president's aircraft was shot down. It had long assaulted as "cockroaches" the RPF and those Hutu moderates who were seen to be cooperating too closely with the RPF and had threatened them, by name, with death. These broadcasts continued after Habyarimana's death. In addition, Radio Mille Collines asserted that Belgian troops affiliated with UNAMIR had downed Habyarimana's plane, reasoning that they were the only forces in the country with the weapons to do the job. It also claimed that the Belgians were actively assisting the RPF. Embassy Brussels reported April 20 that the Belgian

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- 2 -

Minister of Justice had begun legal proceedings against a Belgian citizen who ran Mille Collines for spreading false stories that endangered Belgian lives.

Radio Mille Collines was reportedly shelled by the RPF and put out of commission on April 17. We have heard only one reference to Radio Mille Collines since it reportedly went off the air. An human rights NGO claims that Mille Collines has said that the extermination of Tutsis and Hutu opponents in Rwanda would end on May 5, the day of Habyarimana's burial. We cannot confirm the accuracy of the assertion.

Kigali Radio since April 6. Kigali Radio, the government's radio station, was active in the first days after Habyarimana's aircraft was shot down. It mainly broadcast communiques from the newly established interim government which did not seem to be particularly provocative. It called for a ceasefire and a return to a political settlement based on the Arusha Accord. It also called for unity and vigilance against the RPF and warned against RPF efforts to split the military and government from the people. To our knowledge, it did not incite anti-Tutsi massacres, but neither did it condemn them.

The ongoing fighting in Kigali may have forced Kigali Radio to shut down by mid-April. An April 13 press report from Kigali indicated that Radio Mille Collines was the only radio station broadcasting from Kigali at that time, suggesting that Kigali Radio had gone off the air. On April 29, FBIS reported that it had been unable to locate any Kigali Radio short-wave transmissions for at least several days.

Radio Muhabura since April 6. Radio Muhabura has been steadily broadcasting RPF propaganda since the crisis began. Its programming has transmitted the RPF line, but has not been bloodthirsty. Instead, it has mainly attempted to sow divisions between the Rwandan military and the interim government. It has strongly criticized the killings in Rwanda--mainly of Tutsis and others thought to be pro-RPF--and asserts that an end to the killings must precede any RPF ceasefire. FBIS reports that Radio Muhabura has also broadcast an appeal for an end to the bloodshed by President Clinton and a Voice of America interview on the Rwanda crisis with former Assistant Secretary Herman Cohen.

Other Radios. Rwandan government officials and the RPF have been given a radio stage by the national radios of other countries, including Belgium, Kenya and Zaire. Zairien Radio has been generally supportive of the interim government, reflecting President Mobutu's close personal and political relationship with the late President Habyarimana. Zairien radio carried on April 20 an interview with the Rwandan ambassador in which he accused Belgian UNAMIR troops of shooting down Habyarimana's aircraft; it--along with other news agencies--

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

later replayed the same accusations by the Belgian negotiating team attending the non-peace talks in Gbadolite on April 24. Zairien radio also reported that Zaire "bitterly deplores the indescribable horrors and massacres perpetrated with impunity by armed political and military factions" and "deplores" the "unexplainable indifference shown by the international community" to the killing in Rwanda.

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