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ACTION AF-01

OASY-00 DIM-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 HA-09 DODE-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 H-01EB-01 EUR-01 IML-00 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-01 ADS-00 10-16 PM-01 NEA-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 SS-00 STR-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SR - 00 PRS-01 P-01 /045W RPE-01 PMB-00 TRSE-00 T-00\_\_\_\_\_33D89E 241328Z /38

O 241324Z MAR 94

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3168

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, BY

SUBJECT: STATUS OF SITUATION IN BURUNDI -- MARCH 24, 1994

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R. MELONE

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REFS: A) REILLY/OPS CENTER TELECON 3/24/94;

B) STATE 076599 (NOTAL)

1. (LOU) CONTRARY TO UNCONFIRMED REUTERS PRESS REPORT CITED REFTEL, THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT/NOT BEEN OVERTHROWN. AT LEAST SOME ERRONEOUS REPORTS ABOUT BURUNDI HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO SOME GRB OFFICIALS, LIKE THE INTERIOR MINISTER. VISITING AF DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR ARLENE RENDER, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, MET WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER KANYENKIKO AND PRESIDENT CYPRIEN NTARYAMIRA AT THEIR OFFICES IN THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING TODAY FROM 0915 TO 1115. SEPTEL TO FOLLOW. FOLLOWING THESE MEETINGS DAS BUSHNELL WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS IN WHICH SHE STRONGLY URGED A HALT IN THE KILLINGS AND VIOLENCE AND FOR AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO PEACE.

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2. (U) THE OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL AMCIT COMMUNITY
REMAINS SAFE, INCLUDING VISITING AF OFFICIALS WHO ARE DUE
TO DEPART ON SATURDAY MORNING'S SABENA FLIGHT. (FYI:
PLANNED TRIP TO THE INTERIOR ON MARCH 25 BY DAS BUSHNELL
AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER HAS BEEN CANCELLED/CANCELLED.
END FYI.) DESPITE AN UNSTABLE SITUATION IN BUJUMBURA
OUTLYING AREAS, THE AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN, BUSINESS AND
GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE OPEN.

- (U) GRB OFFICIALS ARE CONFRONTED BY A SERIOUS SITUATION IN SOME SUBURBAN QUARTIERS OF BUJUMBURA (NOT/NOT AFFECTING BUJUMBURA CENTER WHERE MISSION PERSONNEL LIVE AND WORK) WHERE ELEMENTS OF THE BURUNDI SECURITY FORCES WERE ORDERED BACK TO PATROLS TO QUELL VIOLENCE. SOME OF THE VIOLENCE HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ARMED HUTU ASSAILANTS. TIME, SOME ELEMENTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SERIOUS EXCESSES. IN CLASHES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE WEEKENDS, MANY DEATHS ARE SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED BUT THERE IS NO/NO ESTIMATE OF OVERALL NUMBERS. LATE YESTERDAY, RSO OBSERVATIONS IN SOME CALM AREAS LIKE KAMENGE AND KINAMA INDICATED MORE THAN EIGHTY (80) DEAD. THIS MORNING PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA TOLD AF VISITORS THAT HE HAD NO CREDIBLE ESTIMATES BUT BELIEVED THE FIGURE COULD BE IN THE HUNDREDS.
- 4. (U) THE GRB YESTERDAY ISSUED ORDERS FOR THE MILITARY

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TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AFFECTED AREAS, BUT AS OF THIS MORNING HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE WAS STILL REPORTED IN KAMENGE AND KINAMA IN QUARTIERS, PREDOMINATELY HUTU. THERE WERE REPORTS LAST NIGHT THAT THE GENDARME CHIEF OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUJUMB 01008 01 OF 02 241327Z STAFF HAS BEEN FIRED SINCE HE WAS UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY COMMAND AND CONTROL HIS FORCES. DAS BUSHNELL AND AF/C DIRECTOR RENDER HAVE REQUESTED A MEETING TOMORROW WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE BURUNDI CRISIS.

5. (LOU) COMMENT: GRB LEADERS ARE STUCK IN A SITUATION WHERE THE MILITARY STATES IT IS CONFRONTING ARMED CIVILIAN EXTREMISTS IN COUNTRY AND, IN GENERAL, AS AN ARMED POPULATION, HUTU AND TUTSI. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME SECURITY FORCES ORDERED TO THE QUARTIER BY THE GRB ARE REFUSING TO WITHDRAW AS NOW DIRECTED SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED. THE PRESIDENT MADE A STRONG STATEMENT ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT CALLING ON ALL BURUNDIANS TO RESTORE CALM, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. HE TOLD AF VISITORS

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INFO	LOG-00 DODE-00 IML-00 NEA-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00	AID-01 DOEE-00 IMMC-01 NSAE-00 P-01 T-00	AMAD-01 DS-00 TEDE-00 NSCE-00 SNP-00 RPE-01	CIAE-00 EB-01 INR-00 OIC-02 SP-00 PMB-00	C-01 EUR-01 IO-16 OMB-01 SR-00 /045W	OASY-00 HA-09 L-01 PA-01 SS-00	H-01 ADS-00 PM-01 STR-01
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AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0860

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THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TODAY TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT POINT THE WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. END COMMENT.

6. (U) EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND UPDATE THE SITUATION. LANGE

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