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S E C R E T STATE 092374

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, RW, BE, FR, BY, CASC
SUBJECT: WGRW01: RWANDA UPDATE; REQUEST FOR INFO FROM
BELGIANS AND FRENCH

Current Class: SECRET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R. MELONE
DATE/CASE ID: 4 MAY 2000 199501642

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1. THIS CABLE IS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR BRUSSELS AND PARIS. SEE PARAGRAPHS FOUR AND FIVE.

2. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN KIGALI IS CHAOTIC. REPORTS INDICATE SIGNIFICANT KILLING AND HOUSE BURNINGS. THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD IS OUT OF CONTROL AND FIRING INDISCRIMINATELY THROUGHOUT THE CITY. UNAMIR TROOPS HAVE BEEN FIRED ON; AT LEAST THREE BELGIAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE. ALTHOUGH NIGHT HAS BROUGHT GREATER CALM, SOME SHOOTING CONTINUES. BUJUMBURA REMAINS QUIET AT PRESENT.

3. THE ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT HAS APPROVED ORDERED DEPARTURE FROM KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE A MILITARY ASSISTED EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM KIGALI; WE ARE EXAMINING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS WHICH COULD BE EMPLOYED IF THIS DECISION WERE TO BE MADE.

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4. FOR EMBASSIES BRUSSELS AND PARIS: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CRISIS. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE U.S. WISHES TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL AND ONGOING POLITICAL AND MILITARY COORDINATION AMONG OUR GOVERNMENTS AS WE WORK TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AND MONITOR THE SITUATION.

5. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE THE PLANS OF THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR EVACUATION OF THEIR CITIZENS FROM RWANDA AND BURUNDI, AND FOR ANY DIPLOMATIC AND/OR MILITARY RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZED CONSIDERED.
CHRISTOPHER

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