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LILONGWE FOR DAO - LT. KELLER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, OAU, RW SUBJECT: RWANDA VISITED BY TANZANIAN PRIME MINISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS DATE/CASE ID: 01 NOV 2007 200103014

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE TANZANIAN PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED OPTIMISM AFTER HIS VISIT HERE WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND RPF LEADER. HE BBLIEVES THE RPF WILL ACCEPT 40 PERCENT OF ARMY POSITIONS; GOR WILL DEBATE THIS FIGURE IN CABINET JUNE 11. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A REFERENDUM TO FINALIZE THE PEACE ACCORD, A PROCESS WHICH COULD REQUIRE A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) TANZANIAM PRIME MINISTER JOHN MALLCELA, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VISITED RWANDA JUNE 7-8. THEY MET WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TWICE, WITH PRIME MINISTER NSBNGIYAREMYE TWICE, AND TRAVELED TO MULINDI TO MEET WITH RPF CHAIRMAN KENYARENGWE AND VICE CHAIRMAN MAJOR KAQAME. ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS OPTIMISM FOR THE CHANCES OF PEACE IN RWANDA. THAT'S ALL HE SAID. CONFIDENTIAL

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(C) DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET ENOCH 3. RUHIGIRA DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS USEFUL, BUT REMAINS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF RPF INTENTIONS. RUHIGIRA SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE RPF WOULD ACCEPT 40 PERCENT OF THE POSITIONS IN THE ARMY, AND THAT KENYARENGWE HAD RECONFIRMED THIS TO HIM DURING THEIR MEETING IN MULINDI ON JUNE 7. RUHIGIRA SAID THAT THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT HAS NOT EET AGREED TO 40 PERCENT, STILL HOPES TO FIND A SOMEWHAT LOWER PERCENTAGE, BUT WILL DISCUSS THE TANZANIAN PROPOSAL DURING THE NEXT CABINET MEETING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 11. RUHIGIRA IS NOT SURE HOW THE TANZANIANS WILL PROCEED NEXT. AS FACILITATORS THEY MAY PUT THE 40 PERCENT PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE IN ARUSHA, OR THEY MAY SUGGEST THAT THE RPF TABLE IT AS A FINAL OFFER.

4. (C) COMMENT: THE INTERNAL DEBATE HERE IS INTENSE. MDR PRESIDENT TWAGIRAMUNGU WOULD GIVE THE RPF 45 PERCENT FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT. PSD NATIONAL SECRETARY GATABAZI WOULD EASILY GIVE THEM 40 PERCENT. IT IS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE THAT THERE ARE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT EVEN GOING TO 40

PERCENT. THESE RESERVATIONS ARE BASED FIRST ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT SECOND ON VERY REAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, WHEREBY HONEST PEOPLE SUCH AS GASANA AND RUHIGIRA FEAR THAT A PERCENTAGE FOR THE RPF THAT IS PARCEIVED TO BE UNREASONABLE WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE WITHIN THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, OTHERS WITHIN THE MRND CIRCLE WHO USE THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 02231 01 OF 02 092155Z AS A THREAT TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. WHATEVER THE MOTIVATIONS, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR RWAMDANS TO ACCEPT 39 PERCENT THAN 40 PERCENT, AND EASIER STILL TO ACCEPT WHAT IS SAID TO BE MUSEVENI'S OFFER OF AN ARMY OF 8,000 RWANDANS AND 5,000 RPF (38.5 PERCENT). END COMMENT.

5. (C) ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WAS THE FINAL STAGE OF THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE MEANS OF LEGITIMATING THE PROTOCOLS UNDER RWANDA LAW. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE PREFERRED TO USE A REFERENDUM AS THE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THE FINAL STEPS. MDR PRESIDENT TWAGIRAMUNGU TOLD ME THAT ON FIRST EXAMINATION HE

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LILONGWE FOR DAO - LT. KELLER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, OAU, RW SUBJECT: RWANDA VISITED BY TANZANIAN PRIME MINISTER

WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A REFERENDUM RATHER THAN RUNNING THE PROTOCOLS THROUGH THE MRND DOMINATED CND. RUHIGIRA TELLS ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO USE A REFERENDUM OR THE CND.

6. (C) COMMENT: THE REFERENDUM WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF LEGITMATING THE PROCESS WITHOUT RUWNING THE RISK OF A MRND BLOCKAGE IN THE CND. HOWEVER, IT WOULD TAKE TIME. AMD IT PROBABLY WOULD REQUIRE NEGOTIATION WITH THE RPF OVER THE EXACT QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO THE PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH TWAGIRAMUNGU

EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A REFERENDUM AT FIRST BLUSH, I SUSPECT THAT HE AND HIS PARTY WOULD INSIST ON INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AND SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORMS OF SAFEGUARDS IN ORDER TO ASSURE A FREE AND FAIR VOTE. AGAIN, THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH THIS IS THE LENGTH OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY OR WITH THE RPF AS THE PROCESS WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH. MY OWN INCLINATION IS TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT TO AVOID THE REFERENDUM, TO GIVE THE PROTOCOL HIS FERVENT SUPPORT IN THE CND, AND TRY TO GET THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 02231 02 OF 02 090939Z RATIFICATION PROCESS DONE WITHIN LESS THAN ONE MONTH FROM SIGNATURE. END COMMENT. FLATEN

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