

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01

/163 W

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P 111400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2541

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT RW

SUBJ: RWANDA COUP

REF: KIGALI 0429

1. SUMMARY: VARIOUS SOURCES CONTINUE TO REPORT WIDESPREAD SATISFACTION WITH CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND OPTIMISM, EVEN AMONG TUTSIS, ABOUT FUTURE. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNT OF STRANGE EVENTS OF NIGHT JULY 4-5 WHICH PRECIPITATED COUP CONFORMS IN ESSENTIAL ASPECTS WITH ACCOUNT REPORTED KIGALI 0422, PARTICULARLY THAT HABYALIMANA AND OTHERS WERE MARKED FOR DEATH. KOREAN CHARGE HAS AUTHORITY RECOGNIZE NEW

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GOVERNMENT. LIBYAN OFFICIAL VISITS HABYALIMANA.

EX-MINISTERS ARE AT LIBERTY BUT SEVERAL FORMER HIGH-RANKING PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS ARE INCARCERATED IN RUHENGERI. THESE ARE DOUBTLESS THE "WORST" OF THE "BAD ADVISERS" WHO GUARD CHARGED HAD SET GOVERNMENT ON WRONG COURSE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTINUES RECEIVE REPORTS THAT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT GENERALLY WELCOMED. APOSTOLIC CHARGE INFORMED US JULY 11 OF MEETING IN KIGALI JULY 10 OF PRINCIPAL PRIESTS OF KABGAYI (GITARAMA) ARCHDIOCESE AT WHICH GENERAL APPROVAL REGISTERED OF GUARD'S TAKEOVER. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT CHURCH HAD PROBLEMS WITH KAYIBANDA GOVERNMENT SUCH AS GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE ON ETHNIC RATIO IN SEMINARIES. WITH RESPECT TO VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD THIS WAS AN UNREALISTIC AND TROUBLESOME REQUIREMENT. WHEN I MENTIONED IT WAS SURPRISING THESE PRIESTS WOULD TURN AGAINST DEVOUT CATHOLIC LIKE KAYIBANDA (WHO IS NOT ONLY FAITHFUL CHURCHGOER BUT COMMUNICANT), HE SAID HABYALIMANA WAS ALSO PRACTICING CATHOLIC WHO HAD COMPLETED HALF OF FOUR YEAR COURSE IN MAJOR SEMINARY LEADING TO PRIESTHOOD. HE SAID PRIESTS WHO HAD GATHERED YESTERDAY WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS UNDER NEW REGIME. BELGIAN-UNIVERSITY TRAINED HUTU WITH RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE KIGALI EXPRESSED TO US HIS DECIDED APPROVAL OF EVENTS STRESSING, AS EVERYONE SEEMS TO, HIS HIGH REGARD FOR KAYIBANDA AS PERSON AND CERTIFIED PATRIOT. BUT KAYIBANDA HAD BECOME "TIRED" ("FATIGUE" -- THEY ALL USE SAME WORD) AND AMENABLE TO BAD INFLUENCES AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD COMMITTED ONE "ABERRATION" AFTER ANOTHER. HE CITED EX-GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR ETHNIC VIOLENCE LAST FEBRUARY-MARCH, SENSELESS EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS, UNJUST MASSIVE DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR GITARAMA PEOPLE, ETC. IN EXPECTATION NEW REGIME WILL PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS RWANDAN TUTSIS ARE REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELATED. ONE SAID HE WAS SLEEPING SOUNDLY FOR FIRST TIME IN MONTHS. CRS DIRECTOR (FRENCHMAN) TELLS US FROM HIS SOUNDINGS "100 PERCENT" OF POPULATION IS GLADDENED BY CHANGE. MEMBER INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION KAMPALA WHO HAS BEEN TRAVELING THROUGHOUT RWANDA SINCE JULY 1, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 11 THAT ASIAN BUSINESSMEN ARE VERY HAPPY ABOUT CHANGE FEELING THEY HAVE NEW LEASE ON (BUSINESS)

LIFE.

3. CRS CHIEF CITES FOLLOWING ACCOUNT BY KNOWLEDGEABLE GITARAMA-BASED PRIEST OF EVENTS AT PRESIDENT'S HOUSE NIGHT OF JULY 4-5 WHICH ESSENTIALLY CONFORMS TO BELGIAN ADVISER'S STORY REPORTED KIGALI 0422. GITARAMA PRIEST RECOUNTED THAT BANK GOVERNOR BIRARA, GENERAL HABYALIMANA AND OTHER PRINCIPAL NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS WERE TO BE CALLED TO PRESIDENCY ONE BY ONE THAT NIGHT AND ASSASSINATED, WITH CAPTAIN BIZIMANA THE TRIGGER MAN. NEXT DAY PRESIDENCY WOULD HAVE ANNOUNCED THESE MEN HAD COME TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT AND WERE KILLED IN ATTEMPT. STORY SAYS HABYALIMANA MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND THEN RETURNED WITH TROOPS AND TOOK OVER. IN HIS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE REPORT TO HIS SUPERIORS CRS DIRECTOR CONCLUDES: "IT MIGHT BE SAID COUP D'ETAT CERTAINLY HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS; THE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL, WHAT HE DID, WHAT HE SAID SO FAR, WON HIM MUCH SYMPATHY. PROVIDED THE ARMY REMAINS AS WISE AS IT SEEMS WANT TO REMAIN, THE NEW CLIMATE THUS CREATED WILL BE PROPITIOUS TO THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY."

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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4. KOREAN CHARGE' VISITED ME JULY 11. HE HAS FOUND GENERAL SATISFACTION AMONG RWANDANS WITH DEVELOPMENTS. ON RECOGNITION ISSUE, HE SAID HE HAD NOW BEEN AUTHORIZED BY SEOUL TO "REAFFIRM" KOREA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH RWANDA AND TO INFORM NEW GOVERNMENT THAT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE.

5. GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT LATE JULY 10 REPORTED BURUNDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE HAD PASSED THROUGH ON WAY TO KAMPALA AND THAT SAME FLIGHT BROUGHT "LIBYAN MINISTER OF LABOR" (PROBABLY GARGUM MENTIONED BUJUMBURA 0700) WHO AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET BEEN INVITED SEE HABYALIMANA.
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THIS FACT PLUS VISIT OF LIBYAN PLUS APPARENT CORDIALITY OF THE EXCHANGES WITH AMIN AND MICOMBERO ARE BELEIVED TO BE CAUSING ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SOME CONCERN AS TO FUTURE. EMBASSY INCLINED BELIEVE ANY SUCH FEARS PREMATURE FOR IT DOUBTFUL HABYALIMANA WOULD HURRY TO APE AMIN AND MICOMBERO RE ISRAEL. BESIDES ISRAEL ARMY OFFICERS WHO MANAGE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMS WITHIN MINISTRY NATIONAL GUARD HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH HABYALIMANA.

6. SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN RELAXED. ARMORED CARS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM CENTER OF KIGALI. TRAVELERS ARE ARRIVING KIGALI FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF COUNTRY WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND REPORT THEIR DISTRICTS CALM. MOST MINISTERS ATE AT LIBERTY AND MANY HAVE RETURNED "TO HILLS." ELIE NTALIKURE, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY, IS REPORTED STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST. REPORTED IN PRUON AT RUHENGARI ARE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CIVIL SERVICE NYILIBAKWE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS BIZIMANA, PRESIDENCY DIRECTORS GENERAL HODARI, GASAMUNYIGA AND BINZIDELI. LATTER HAD JUST BEFORE COUP BEEN APPOINTED DIRECT OF THE NEW STATE TRADING

OFFICE. PHOTOGRAPHS OF KAYIBANDA HAVE BEEN
REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES.
CORRIGAN

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