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RWANDA WEEKLY REPORT
Friday, January 6, 1995

SUMMARY

Regional heads-of-state will meet in Nairobi on January 7 when Tanzania and Zaire are expected to press for the creation of "safe zones" inside Rwanda. The next "Friends of Rwanda" meeting, which will be co-chaired by Assistant Secretary Moose and Ambassador Spiegel, will take place in Geneva on January 17. UNAMIR reports multiple insurgency activity in northwest and southwest Rwanda, Amb. Rawson has been requested to further report on an attack on an orphanage near Cyangugu. This week the GOR started the process of replacing old currency with new. This, suggests Amembassy Kigali, will undercut the power structure of the refugee camps. AID will send specialists to Kigali to help implement a two-phase "rapid response program" to re-establish Rwanda's justice system.

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES

The regional heads-of-state are scheduled to meet in Nairobi January 7. It is expected that Tanzania and Zaire will press for the creation of "safe zones" inside Rwanda into which refugees could be moved. While this achieves the neighbors' goal of getting the refugees out of their countries, it presents security and sovereignty concerns for the GOR, which might view it as another Operation Turquoise-type situation.

We are preparing for the next Friends meeting in Geneva January 17, which A/S Moose and Amb. Spiegel will co-chair. AID Assistant Administrator for Africa John Hicks will also attend and will lead the U.S. delegation to the UNDP roundtable on January 18 and 19.

UNAMIR

Internal Political/Security Developments: UNAMIR informed our DATT in Kigali that there have been multiple reports of insurgency activity in northwest and southwest Rwanda, with reports of troops operating at night with virtual freedom of movement. So far, the attackers have avoided direct contact with the RPA, focusing instead on civilian and economic targets. The UN provided no details on incidents, but the DA learned that in the early hours of January 4, a raiding party attacked an orphanage near Cyangugu, spraying it with small arms fire and throwing at least one grenade inside. At least one child was killed and several others wounded. The RPA responded to the attack with heavy machine gun fire throughout most of the day. The DATT sees this as the beginning of an organized guerrilla campaign; we have asked Ambassador Rawson to provide us with further information on this issue.

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The other major internal development this week was the GOR's operation to replace all old currency with new notes. UNAMIR assisted in providing security for transport of the new notes, but poor coordination and money shortages have delayed the operation. The GOR closed the border at Goma, Zaire, in order to forestall any effort by the refugee population -- particularly those in the power structure -- from attempting to smuggle old bank notes back for changing before they are declared worthless. Embassy Kigali reports that the money changing operation will undoubtedly undercut the power structure of the refugee camps, but the question remains whether innocent refugees who decide to return permanently to Rwanda after the operation is over will be allowed to exchange some amount of old notes.

STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Rwanda Rule of Law Assistance: On Tuesday DRL met with AID/AF to discuss AID's proposal for a "rapid response program" to help Rwanda re-establish its justice system. The AID program will: (1) provide technical assistance to the Rwandan MoJ; (2) provide foreign jurists to help handle civil cases; and (3) explore the possibility of establishing pilot alternative dispute programs, primarily for land disputes.

AID intends to hire a contractor to send 5 specialists to Kigali for approximately one month (starting possibly before the UNDP Roundtable (Jan. 18-19)) to develop specific, detailed work programs in these three areas. In the second phase, AID will supply long-term (approximately one year) specialists to work with the MoJ, identify and fund as many as 20 foreign jurists, and supply a six-person team to begin alternative dispute programs in Rwanda.

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We noted that the need to show progress in meting out justice in criminal matters was a most pressing need in Rwanda. DRL agreed to work with AID in developing more information on the national triage commission so that AID could add this to its assistance package.

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