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EXCISE

United States Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
SPOT Intelligence Report

AS OF 08:45 EDT APRIL 7, 1994
RWANDA/BURUNDI: Turmoil in Rwanda

[] told Ambassador David Rawson this morning that rogue Hutu elements of the military--possibly the elite presidential guard--were responsible for shooting down the plane carrying Presidents Habyiramana of Rwanda and Ntaryamira of Burundi. The Chief of Staff of the Rwandan military, two ministers from Rwanda and two ministers from Burundi were among those killed in the crash.

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Military elements are also blamed for the subsequent killing of Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and the seizure and or killing of several other Rwandan cabinet officials including the senior ranking Tutsi. The Prime Minister had attempted to reach the home of the US Deputy chief of mission, but fled when she heard gunfire in the area. She subsequently sought refuge in the UNDP headquarters, but presidential guard elements broke down the door and executed her, according to Ambassador Rawson.

[] told the Ambassador that the military is attempting to bring the rogue elements under control and that a meeting had been sheduled for 1100 Kigali time. We have no readout on that meeting or whether it even took place. News reports indicate fighting in Kigali among various elements of the military, the presidential guard and the gendarmes. The fighting appears to be limited to the capital, Kigali.

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Ultra conservative Hutus had been opposed to the peace settlement agreed to by the Hutu Rwandan government and the rebel Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). One Rwandan official has accused the RPF of shooting down the plane, according to press reports; the RPF has denied responsibility.

All US Embassy personnel are reportedly safe, but are unable to reach the Embassy because of roadblocks. The airport is also closed with 5 trucks are blocking the runway.

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Drafted: jmann
Approved: jmann

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Members of the United Nations Observer Mission UNAMIR, operating under rules of engagement which preclude their firing unless fired upon, have not been involved in the fighting. France has put its troops in Africa on alert, but has no plans to send forces to Rwanda or Burundi, according to media reports.

Bujumbura is reported calm according to the US Embassy there.

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