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P 231421Z AUG 91
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0000
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0000
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, XA
SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS - AUGUST 22, 1991

BRUSSELS PLEASE PASS USEC
NAIROBI PLEASE PASS MOMBASA
RIYADH ALSO FOR AMB. FREEMAN
ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN
PARIS FOR ARS

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

THE OFFICIAL RADIO RWANDA SAID YESTERDAY THAT REBELS OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD LAUNCHED A FRESH ATTACK ON THE NORTHEASTERN RUHENGERI REGION BORDERING UGANDA, BOMBARDING GOVERNMENT BARRACKS. MONDAY'S BOMBARDMENT LASTED NINE HOURS. THE REPORT DID NOT GIVE FURTHER DETAILS OR SPECIFY IF THERE WERE CASUALTIES. RWANDA HAS REPEATEDLY ACCUSED UGANDA OF SUPPORTING THE RPF REBELS, MOST OF WHOM WERE SERVING IN UGANDAN PRESIDENT YOWERI

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MUSEVENI'S NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY BEFORE THEY LAUNCHED AN INVASION OF THEIR COUNTRY ON OCT. 2 OF LAST YEAR. P. A2;

EIGHT ALLEGED IVORY AND RHINO-HORN SMUGGLERS WERE ARRESTED IN JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA YESTERDAY. TWO ELEPHANT TUSKS AND WHAT DETECTIVES DESCRIBED AS AN "ABNORMALLY LARGE" RHINO HORN WERE CONFISCATED. THE BREAKTHROUGH FOLLOWS THE INTRODUCTION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF TIGHTER CONTROLS ON IVORY AND RHINO-HORN SMUGGLING. TWO ZAMBIANS WERE SENTENCED ON TUESDAY TO SIX YEARS IN JAIL EACH OR FINES OF DOLLARS 20,700. P. A2;

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THERE WAS CONFUSION IN ANTANANARIVO MADAGASCAR WHEN BOTH THE OPPOSITION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PRES. RATSIRAKA CLAIMED TO BE IN CHARGE. PRIME MINISTER GUY WILLY RAZANAMASY HELD TALKS ON FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT TWO DAYS AFTER THE OPPOSITION SAID IT WAS ASSUMING POWER BECAUSE PRES. RATSIRAKA WAS NO LONGER IN CONTROL. CHURCH LEADERS

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MEDIATED HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS WEDNESDAY TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS. THE ACTIVE FORCES COALITION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS SAID IT WAS SUSPENDING DAILY RALLIES UNTIL TODAY. PRES. RATSIRAKA IS REPORTED TO BE IN HIS BUNKER-LIKE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE 12 MILES SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL. POLITICAL ANALYSTS SAY THE POSITION OF THE LEADER LOOKS HOPELESS. P. A8, W TIMES P. A2;

DOUG HENWOOD EDITOR OF THE LEFT BUSINESS OBSERVER, WRITES A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NY TIMES. HE REFERS TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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STORY ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NEWSPAPER THE WEEKLY MAIL THAT SAID "MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS" VIEW THE PAPER AS "TRYING TO SABOTAGE THEIR BEST HOPE FOR MODERATE CHANGE." HENWOOD ASKS "WHAT IS 'MODERATE CHANGE' IN SOUTH AFRICA? A TASTEFUL DILUTION OF APARTHEID THAT MIGHT PERHAPS RESEMBLE MISSISSIPPI IN 1960 OR NEW YORK CITY IN 1991?" HE IS BOTHERED BY THE TIMES' FREQUENT IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANC AS "MANDELA GROUP" IN HEADLINES, AS IT MAKES THE ANC SOUND LIKE A PERSONALITY CULT. HE WRITES THAT THE ANC "IS A PRINCIPLED ORGANIZATION WITH MASS SUPPORT." WHILE INKATHA "WOULD HARDLY EXIST WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY SERVICES, WESTERN CONSERVATIVES...AND THE AFL-CIO." P. A26;

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SOUTH AFRICA DECIDED TO INTRODUCE ITS VALUE-ADDED TAX AT A 10 PERCENT RATE INSTEAD OF 12 PERCENT. THE SYSTEM IS TO REPLACE THE 13 PERCENT GENERAL SALES TAX ON SEPT. 30. UNIONS AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND COMMUNITY GROUPS HAD PROTESTED THE HIGHER VAT RATE, SAYING THE SYSTEM WOULDN'T

PROVIDE ENOUGH RELIEF FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE. THE VAT WILL TAX MANY GOODS AND SERVICES THAT NOW ARE EXEMPT; ANTI-VAT GROUPS WILL MEET TODAY. GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL PRICES WILL INCREASE TOMORROW, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RAISE AN ADDITIONAL 630 MILLION RAND (DOLLARS 216.5 MILLION) IN FISCAL 1992. P. A7;

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OFFICERS BLOCKED PROTESTS AGAINST SEGREGATED EDUCATION. 50 PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO OCCUPY AN UNCLASSIFIED

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EMPTY WHITE-ONLY SCHOOL WERE ARRESTED. ANTI-APARTHEID
ACTIVISTS CANCELED PLANS TO TAKE OVER THREE UNUSED WHITE
SCHOOLS. P. A1.
EAGLEBURGER

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