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Page: 1
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PAGE 01 STATE 194079 202049Z
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INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00
	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00
	SP-00	SR-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/055R		

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CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 194079 202049Z
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Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE194079

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194079

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL PREF PHUM PGOV RW CG FR UN
SUBJECT: A/S MOOSE JULY 19 TELCON WITH RPF COMMANDER
REF: (A) 94 STATE 192840

REF: SEPTTEL

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. RPF COMMANDER GENERAL KAGAME TOLD AF A/S MOOSE JULY 19 THAT THE RPF RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITY IS TO RESTORE A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN RWANDANS SO THAT FLEEING REFUGEES WILL RETURN HOME. KAGAME SUGGESTED THAT UNAMIR TROOPS COULD ESCORT PEOPLE BACK INTO RWANDA. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 194079 202049Z
3. IN FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS DEMARCHES TO RPF CALLING FOR A CEASE-FIRE (REFTEL), A/S MOOSE REACHED RPF COMMANDER GENERAL KAGAME BY TELEPHONE JULY 19. A/S MOOSE BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE RPF HAS NOW SUCCEEDED BOTH MILITARILY AND POLITICALLY IN RWANDA. HE WENT ON TO REITERATE TO GENERAL KAGAME THAT THE RPF'S MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY NOW IS TO RESTORE A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN RWANDANS, IN ORDER TO END THE REFUGEE OUTFLOWS AND GET PEOPLE TO RETURN HOME. A/S MOOSE EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT THE MASSIVE CROSS-BORDER FLIGHT INTO ZAIRE IS NOT JUST THE RPF'S RESPONSIBILITY, BUT THE RPF MUST DO WHAT IT CAN NOW TO REVERSE THIS FLOW. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CANNOT RESPOND APPROPRIATELY OR EFFECTIVELY TO A CRISIS OF THIS MAGNITUDE.

4. A/S MOOSE THEN TOLD KAGAME THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. APPRECIATES TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CEASE-FIRE, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN URGING FOR DAYS, THE RPF NEEDS TO GO FURTHER THAN A CEASE-FIRE. A/S MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT THE RPF SHOULD CONSIDER PULLING ITS TROOPS BACK FROM THE ZAIRE BORDER AREA AND THE FRENCH PROTECTED ZONE IN SOUTHWESTERN RWANDA. THE RPF SHOULD TRY TO CREATE A SPACE IN ORDER TO

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE194079

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

LESSEN THE CHANCES OF FIGHTING BREAKING OUT.

5. GENERAL KAGAME RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE RPF IS BEING UNFAIRLY BLAMED FOR CAUSING THE MASSIVE FLIGHT INTO ZAIRE. IT WAS THE IGOR (INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA) WHICH CAUSED THE PEOPLE TO PANIC AND FLEE. A/S MOOSE REPLIED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE RPF TO CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS IT COULD TAKE NOW TO REVERSE THE MASSIVE

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PAGE 04 STATE 194079 202049Z
FLIGHT AND RESULTING HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY.

6. A/S MOOSE EXPRESSED US CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT THE NAMES ANNOUNCED TODAY FOR THE NEW RPF GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEEM TO CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR IN THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. THE INORDINATE NUMBER OF MINISTRIES ALLOTTED TO THE RPF WAS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA AND DID NOT SERVE TO ENCOURAGE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO RWANDA. KAGAME DISAGREED, SAYING THAT THE RPF HAS REACHED OUT TO OTHER PARTIES, BUT THAT SOME HAD DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE OUT OF FEAR OF RETRIBUTION FROM EXTREMIST HUTUS. KAGAME ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE RPF CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO INCLUDE IN ITS GOVERNMENT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE. KAGAME ASKED A/S MOOSE TO SUGGEST NAMES OF MODERATES WHOM THE RPF COULD INCLUDE IN THE GOVERNMENT. A/S MOOSE REPLIED THAT RWANDANS WERE BETTER PLACED TO KNOW WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT. A/S MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT THE RPF COULD MAKE IT KNOWN THAT THE LIST OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS IS NOT SET IN CONCRETE, AND THAT CHANGES CAN BE MADE AS NEEDED.

7. GENERAL KAGAME SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO BRING REFUGEES BACK FROM ZAIRE WOULD BE TO HAVE UNAMIR TROOPS ESCORT THE RETURNEES. A/S MOOSE STRONGLY ENDORSED THIS IDEA AND SAID THAT KAGAME SHOULD TALK TO THE UNAMIR COMMANDER IN ORDER TO SECURE UNAMIR COOPERATION FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. AF WILL ALSO SEEK TO INFORM GENERAL DALLAIRE OF KAGAME'S SUGGESTION TO HAVE UNAMIR ESCORT RETURNED.

8. A/S MOOSE EMPHASIZED TO GENERAL KAGAME THAT THE U.S. WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 194079 202049Z

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE194079

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

ADDRESS THIS CRISIS, AND THAT THOUGH WE WOULD LIKE TO BE
ABLE TO DO MORE IN THE FUTURE, OUR EFFORTS WILL
NECESSARILY BE AFFECTED BY THE RPF'S BEHAVIOR. A/S MOOSE
AND GENERAL KAGAME AGREED TO REMAIN IN FREQUENT TOUCH.

9. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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Page: 4

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