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Printed: 12/31/1997 DOC_NUMBER: 94PARIS20872
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 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8591
 INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4808
 FRANCOPHONE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 () Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
 Date 1/7/99 Exemption _____

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FSI PLEASE PASS TO HANNA BALDWIN

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ECON, OPRC, PREL, XA, FR
SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE FRENCH PRESS
JULY 23-29, 1994: RWANDA

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH MEDIA COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS WAS AGAIN DOMINATED BY RWANDA THIS WEEK. THE PRINCIPAL STORIES WERE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PLEDGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE REFUGEES, THE ENSUING AID SHIPMENTS BY THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND ARTICLES ON RPF AND HUTU RETRIBUTION.
END SUMMARY.

AMERICAN AID

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2. MOST MAJOR FRENCH DAILIES JULY 23 GAVE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "MASSIVE AND IMMEDIATE" PLEDGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO RWANDA, WITH SIDEBAR STORIES ON PRESIDENT MITTERAND THANKING HIM AS HE WAS LEAVING HIS HOSPITAL BED. "LE MONDE" REPORTED THAT OPERATION "SUPPORT HOPE" WOULD SEND 4,000 TROOPS AND THAT US HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE SET UP IN KIGALI. ALL MAJOR PARIS DAILIES DEVOTED COVERAGE TO THE AIR-DROPPING OF RELIEF SUPPLIES BY U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES, BUT A PROMINENT PLACE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO CRITICISMS OF THIS BY INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZERS ON THE GROUND.

3. THE LEAD ARTICLES EXAMINED REASONS FOR THE MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES. "LE MONDE," FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLISHED A FRONT-PAGE CARTOON IN ITS JULY 24 EDITION, SHOWING PRESIDENT CLINTON BEHIND THE PRESIDENTIAL PODIUM DECLARING "RWANDA EXISTS | I SAW IT ON CNN |" THE LEAD STORY EMPHASIZED HOW "THE CNN EFFECT" LED TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO AID MASSIVELY THE REFUGEES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME

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"CAREFULLY AVOIDING PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS IN RWANDA ITSELF."

4. AS THE WEEK PROGRESSED, THE INTENSIFICATION OF US
AID TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS ALONG THE ZAIRE BORDER
RECEIVED SECONDARY COVERAGE IN MOST FRENCH MEDIA. THE
ARRIVAL OF THE GIANT WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM FROM SAN
FRANCISCO AND THE DOZENS OF DAILY FLIGHTS INTO GOMA
BRINGING REHYDRATION PACKETS AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES
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RECEIVED TERTIARY COVERAGE.

AID PLEDGES

5. "LE MONDE" ON JULY 26 REPORTED ON AID PLEDGES BY
OTHER COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S
PLEA. ISRAEL PROMISED TO SEND EIGHT RELIEF FLIGHTS TO
GOMA JULY 31, INCLUDING A MILITARY HOSPITAL. SPAIN
PLEGGED US \$7.6 MILLION, AND GERMANY, JAPAN, KUWAIT,
SWITZERLAND AND TUNISIA ALSO DONATED SEVERAL MILLION

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PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/031W			

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P 011118Z AUG 94
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 INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4809
 FRANCOPHONE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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JULY 23-29, 1994: RWANDA

DOLLARS EACH TO THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT.

6. MOST FRENCH PAPERS JULY 23 REPORTED ON
BOUTROS-BOUTROS GHALI'S APPEAL FOR \$434 MILLION IN AID
TO RWANDA, AS WELL AS WASHINGTON'S \$76 MILLION PLEDGE.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

7. FRENCH NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED ON DEFENSE MINISTER
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FRANCOIS LEOTARD'S "LONG PLANNED" VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
IN WHICH LEOTARD WAS EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON RWANDA IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY PERRY.

8. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER BALLADUR,
WHO ARRIVED IN SENEGAL ON JULY 27 FOR A FOUR-DAY,
THREE-COUNTRY AFRICAN VISIT, IS DECIDED TO ADD A VISIT
TO THE ZAIRE-RWANDA BORDER THE WEEKEND OF JULY 29-31.
HE WOULD BE JOINED THERE BY THE FRENCH MILITARY CHIEF
OF STAFF, ADMIRAL LANXADE, WHO ARRIVES JULY 28 TO
INSPECT FRENCH FORCES IN SOUTHWEST RWANDA. THE VISIT
TO GOMA ON JULY 23 BY HEALTH MINISTER PHILLIPE
DOUSTE-BLAZY WAS ALSO REPORTED.

REFUGEE SITUATION

9. PARIS-BASED DAILIES REPORTED THAT AS A RESULT OF AN
APPEAL BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR RWANDANS TO RETURN
HOME, A "TRICKLE" OF REFUGEES HAS BEGUN RECLAIMING
THEIR HOMELAND. IN THE SECURITY ZONE PROTECTED BY
FRANCE, ABOUT 45,000 REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR
HOMES, "LE FIGARO" REPORTED JULY 24. MOST PAPERS
REPORT THAT ALTHOUGH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES HAVE
STARTED TO MOVE BACK TO RWANDA, MANY MORE REFUSE TO DO
SO BECAUSE THEY ARE EITHER TOO WEAK TO WALK OR THEY
FEAR REPRISALS FROM THE NEW TUTSI-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT.

CHOLERA

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10. ALL FRENCH DAILIES REPORTED ON THE 14,000 PEOPLE
ALREADY DEAD FROM CHOLERA, WITH MOST USING THE WORD
"UNCONTROLLABLE" TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION AND NOTING
THAT IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED THAT MOST NEW CORPSES BE
BURNED FOR LACK OF ROOM FOR MORE MASS GRAVES. EVERY
DAY BRINGS 3,000 MORE DEAD, THE PAPERS REPORTED. "LE
FIGARO" IN ITS JULY 23 EDITION CITED A DOCTORS WITHOUT
BORDERS ESTIMATE OF 50,000 NEW CASES OF CHOLERA, HALF
OF WHICH COULD PROVE DEADLY "THE SITUATION IS THE
WORST WE'VE EVER KNOWN ANYWHERE," THE UNCHR SPOKESMAN

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IN GOMA TOLD THE PAPER.

FRENCH PRESENCE

11. IN AN INTERVIEW

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CARRIED BY "LE FIGARO" JULY 25,
SADAKO OGATA, HEAD OF THE UNHCR, SAYS THE PRESENCE OF
FRENCH TROOPS IN RWANDA REMAINS "INDISPENSABLE." SHE
SAYS THEY SHOULD REMAIN THERE UNTIL A UN FORCE ARRIVES,
OR UNTIL THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT INSPIRES ENOUGH

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CONFIDENCE FOR THE REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME. AN EXODUS
OF THE FRENCH PEACEKEEPERS, SHE SAID, WOULD "CREATE A
NEW CHAOS." HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER ALAIN JUPPE SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE SAME EDITION THAT THE OBJECTIVES
OF OPERATION TURQUOISE "HAVE BEEN ATTAINED" AND THAT
FRANCE WILL STICK TO THE UN MANDATE, "CLEAR, BUT
LIMITED IN ITS DURATION," AND DEPART RWANDA BY AUG. 22.

RETRIBUTIONS

12. "LE MONDE" REPORTS JULY 24 THAT FRENCH INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES BELIEVE THE FORMER RWANDAN ARMY IS
REORGANIZING ITSELF IN ZAIRE AND IS PREPARING TO WREST
CONTROL OF KIGALI BACK FROM THE RPF. MORE THAN 6,000
TROOPS ARE REPORTED TO BE "UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
ZAIRIAN ARMY," ACCORDING TO A FRENCH DEFENSE OFFICIAL,
BUT IT'S UNCLEAR HOW MUCH MANEUVERING ROOM THERE IS FOR
THESE RWANDAN ARMY TROOPS.

13. A CORRESPONDENT FROM "LE FIGARO" ON JULY 25
REPORTED FROM KIGALI THAT DESPITE THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S
CALL FOR PEACE AND ITS CONDEMNATION OF ACTS OF
RETRIBUTION, "EVERY DAY HUTUS TEND TO DISAPPEAR." A
STORY THE SAME DAY IN "LIBERATION" SAID THAT UNAMIR HAS
RECEIVED SCORES OF REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES AND
SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF HUTUS SINCE THE RPF REGAINED
CONTROL OF KIGALI ON JULY 4.

COLLABORATOR TRIALS

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14. MOST MAJOR FRENCH DAILIES REPORTED ON JULY 29 THE
CREATION BY BOUTROS-BOUTROS GHALI TO SUPPORT
ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN COMMISSION THAT WOULD IDENTIFY
THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMITTING GENOCIDE IN RWANDA
SINCE APRIL. THE 3-MEMBER COMMISSION WILL BE BASED IN
GENEVA AND WILL ISSUE ITS REPORT BY NOVEMBER 30.

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

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15. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN THE FRENCH PRESS WAS FOCUSED ON THE FRENCH PLAN TO WITHDRAW FROM RWANDA BY AUGUST 22. "LIBERATION" IN ITS JULY 25 EDITION CALLED THE FRENCH PLAN "RISKY" AND DECRIED IT AS A "SHORT PARANTHESIS" FOR RWANDANS SAVED BY FRENCH INTERVENTION. "LE FIGARO" COMMENTS ON JULY 25: "IT'S CLEAR THAT FRANCE'S MISSION HAS CHANGED IN NATURE. IT HAS GONE FROM THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS FACING RACIAL HATRED TO A GIANT OPERATION OF HUMANITARIAN SALVATION."

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