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UNAMIR HQ INFORMATION SUMMARY ON GENERAL SITUATION IN RWANDA
FOR FEB 1996

1. The general situation in Rwanda over the past one month has been relatively stable. However, a series of continuous banditry activities, Clashes between the RPA and the FRGF, sabotage, robberies, mine incidents, and killings took place in the month of Feb 96.

SABOTAGE.

2. The most significant act in the month of February was the sabotage relating to the electricity pylon in Gisenyi. The explosion of the electricity pylon resulted in the killing of approximately 10 people who were present at the scene of the incident. In the same instance the pipeline supplying water to a local brewery was also damaged.

KILLINGS / AMBUSHES

3. Of late, the trend has moved to **Gitarama** where two councilors were killed. The councillor of Meyambe Sector was killed on 25 Feb and the councillor of Muko Commune was murdered alongwith four of his family members on 26 Feb 96.

4. Apart from the assassinations directed against political figures the killings have been random ranging from deaths during armed robberies to innocent killings or shall we say killings without any evident motive.

5. 03 locals were killed, two injured and one kidnapped in the early hours of 26 Feb 96 in Bugarama in **Cyangugu**. This is the second incident where a man has been kidnapped. In Jan 96, an alleged FRGF group had stolen some cattle and kidnapped a man to Burundi.

6. Another incident which has caused a lot of concern especially to the NGOs is the ambush of an NGO vehicle in Bweyeyin **Cyangugu**, on 27 Feb 96.

MINE INCIDENTS

7. During the past one month, four incident of mine explosions were reported. The first and the second were reported on 06 Feb 96, where a woman lost her leg and a man was injured in an incident

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which happened at Kinhira in **Gisenyi** at 0800HRS where the victims were assisting a previous victim of another mine explosion in the same place on the same day.

8. The third was on 20 Feb 96, when an anti tank mine blew off an IRC Mobile Clinic vehicle at about 1000HRS at Rusuyu Sector in **Gisenyi**. nobody was injured but the engine compartment was completely damaged.

9. The last was an incident in **Cyangugu** where a light Daihatsu truck belonging to Cemerwa Cement Factory hit an anti tank mine at about 1100HRS on the road between Karengera and Nyakabuye. Six people were injured.

INFILTRATIONS

10. Although there was no substantial evidence, locals of Cyangugu and Gisenyi have constantly complained of frequent infiltrations by the ex-FAR.

11. The bougermestre of Kibungo in **Cyangugu** Prefecture reported having seen ten armed men in his commune at 2300HRS on 21 Feb 96 heading towards the Nyungwe Forest. The following day RPA soldiers were observed combing the general area.

12. Although there was no substantial evidence, locals of Cyangugu and Gisenyi have constantly complained of frequent infiltrations by the ex-FAR. In **Gitarama**, 07 persons alleged to be infiltrators, were arrested on 20 and 23 Feb 96. Two were arrested around the RPA Bde commander's residence while the rest were arrested near the Sector headquarters in Kabgayi.

13. On 21 Feb a local patrol clashed with a suspected group of infiltrators. In a bag left behind by the alleged infiltrators, two grenades were found.

14. On 29 Feb locals of Gacundura Sector in **Gisenyi** reported the circulation of leaflets. The leaflets asked the Hutus to collaborate and be prepared for the return of the ex-FAR. The authorities suspect presence of infiltrators in the islands of the lake and have subsequently restricted movements on Lake Burela.

ROBBERIES

15. A number of robberies took place. The figures are not alarming. The broad pattern is

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tabulated below:- (Details are at Appendix attached) :-

<u>COMMUNE</u>	<u>BY</u>	<u>TIME/ DATE</u>	<u>ITEMS STOLEN</u>	<u>INJURIES KILLINGS</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>
<u>BUTARE</u>	?	1000H 07 FEB	Music System & Household Items	-	Nil
<u>GITARAMA</u>	?	15 FEB	Bicycle, Food Items & Cash (?)	-	Nil
<u>GITARAMA</u>	4 Armed Bandits	18 FEB 2300 H	14000FRW 2 Cases Beer	1 Person Shot Dead	Nil Nil
<u>GITARAMA</u>	?	22 FEB	4000FRW	Woman Beaten	Nil
<u>GISEYNI</u>	5 Armed Men	09,16 & 17 FEB	1,690,000FRW		3 Persons Identified As RPA by victim.
<u>GISEYNI</u>	05 Armed Men	24 FEB	Unspecified Amount of Cash	Man Shot in thigh 04 Others Injured.	Nil
<u>GISEYNI</u>	Some Armed Men	27 FEB	Goods from Shop	Shopkeeper Attacked	Nil
<u>CYANGUGU</u>	Group of armed Men	08 FEB	House-hold Goods	1 Man Killed	Nil

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COMMENT

16. The robberies could be ascribed to actions by the ex-FAR who are operating from nearby refugee camps in Zaire, stealing food items and money for their survival. Combined with this are the other acts of infiltration extortion and killings which are indicators that insurgency (though in the nascent stage) is possibly gaining a foothold in the region in question.

17. On the other hand, is the allegation by the old woman in Gisenyi who has claimed to have recognized three of the five bandits in the armed robbery as RPA soldiers. Another instance is the one on 30 Jan 96 when 08 armed men wearing military uniform forced a guard at Kivumu Health Clinic to knock on the door of an med asst of nutrition dept and the perpetrators who forced their entry were later identified as RPA soldiers by a bourgemestre who refused to go to the RPA camp to identify the culprits for fear of his life.

18. There are chances that some of the lower ranks in the RPA cadre are involved in an odd case. If this be the case, it is imperative that the miscreants be identified and disciplined so that the name of the RPA is not unduly maligned and the Government of Rwanda can continue to instil confidence in the minds of its population.

REFUGEE SITUATION

19. The refugees are said to be very apprehensive of the security situation in Rwanda hence their refusal to come back. To this is added the spate of rumours and intimidations which abound in the camps.

20. An exchange programme of confidence-building in the refugees was initiated during the last week by the UNHCR. On 26 Feb 96, a group of 33 refugees drawn from various camps in Tanzania and accompanied by UNHCR officials, visited their respective communes in Kibungo to study the situation so as to give a true account of the situation to their colleagues on their return to Tanzania. Nine of them touring Kibungo found their houses occupied by other returnees but were assured by their respective buorgermestres that the same would be vacated when they finally returned. Another refugee confidence building team is said to have visited the Prefecture of Gisenyi where, among other places, they were expected to visit Kigali.

21. Despite reports by the Zairian government that it would not allow international aid workers to continue working in Rwandan Refugee camps in Zaire in an effort to persuade the refugees to go back to Rwanda, activities by the UN aid workers were still going on as of 22 Feb 96.

22. On 21 Feb, the government of Zaire announced a package of measures to implement the so

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called "guided repatriation" in which UNHCR and other organizations it funds would not operate in camps sealed off for closure.

23. With the appointment of a new Minister of Interior, Kamanda wa Kamanda, a hardliner, it is likely that there will be more camps being closed down and some more refugees returning in the month of March. But the Rwandan Hutu refugees have warned of possible catastrophic violence in the event of forced repatriation if it is implemented.

COMMENT

24. It is becoming increasingly clear that the voluntary repatriation programme sponsored by the UNHCR is not working. However, visits to their respective prefectures by Refugees from across, are likely to attract a number of refugees to return to Rwanda. Rwanda looks set to receive returnees from refugee camps in neighbouring countries of Tanzania Burundi and Zaire. This is evident by the zeal displayed by the Rwandan Government to reform its judicial system as seen from the dismissal and detention in Kigali Central Prison of the former prosecutor for Kigali, Mr Silas Munyangishali who was initially suspended from duties and confined to his home under armed guards. Mr Munyangishali was charged with complacency during the genocide.

EXHUMING OF MASS GRAVES

25. The UN Tribunal on Rwanda's genocide is expected to start a second round of mass exhumations in July after the completion of work on a first site last month. The Forensic Anthropologists have already worked on grave sites in Kibuye and are likely to start working on grave sites identified in the Central Gitarama Region.

26. The exhumations are aimed at investigations to document violence and provide crucial evidence to facilitate further indictments of genocidaires.

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Appendix

DETAILS OF ROBBERIES IN FEB 96

1. It was reported that at 1000 hrs on 07 Feb, the house of a Human Rights official in Butare was burgled. A music system and some household items were made away with. The perpetrators of the robbery were neither identified nor arrested.
2. In Gisenyi, on 09, 16 and 17 Feb, 05 armed men robbed houses and a shop at different times. From the houses they are said to have stolen 1,690,000 FRW, while all valuables were stolen from the shop. The locals suspected the involvement of the RPA because one old lady recognized three of the five as RPA soldiers.
3. On the night of 15th Feb, bandits raided the sectors of Rugalika and Kinyami in Gitarama and stole a bicycle and food items and an unspecified amount of money. There has been no arrest so far.
4. In Gikoma Sector of Gitarama, 04 armed bandits shot dead one person at about 2300 HRS on 18 Feb 96. The wife of the deceased was severely beaten and robbed of 14,000 FRW and two cases of beer. On the same day, in Musamo Sector, armed bandits attacked a family and demanded money. As money was not forthcoming, they severely beat the members of the family. No arrest was made.
5. In Gitarama, a woman was beaten and robbed of 4,000 FRW on 22 Feb 96 at Ginhira Commune.
6. On 24 Feb in Mutanda commune in Gisenyi, a local was attacked and robbed by 05 armed men. The man was shot on the thigh and four other people were injured in the incident.
7. On 08 Feb 96, a group of gunmen believed to be FRGF went into a man's house to rob him and in the process got him killed. This was in Karengera at Cyangugu.
8. Three FRGF were killed with machettes early on 08 Feb 96. They were reported to have indulged in stealing in the area.
9. On 27 Feb, in Nkumba, Gisenyi, some armed men attacked a shopkeeper and looted his goods.

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GENERAL SITUATION

1. (U) THE OVERALL SITUATION IS STABLE. REFUGEE REPATRIATION CONTINUES WELL BELOW DESIRED LEVELS. A WEEK AFTER THE KANAMA KILLINGS, THE RPA HAS REPLACED THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF 211 BRIGADE IN RUHENGERI. FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER PROPOSES MEASURES TO ENHANCE STABILITY IN ADVANCE OF A PLANNED VISIT TO THE REGION THIS WEEK. FRANCE SENDS ITS TOP HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICIAL TO RWANDA.

MILITARY

2. (C) A NUMBER OF STAFF CHANGES WERE MADE BY THE RPA IN THE PAST WEEK. IN RUHENGERI, COLONEL CHARLES NGOGA HAS BEEN APPOINTED COMMANDER OF 211 BRIGADE. HE WAS FORMERLY COMMANDER OF 301 BRIGADE IN BUTARE. HE REPLACES COLONEL BAGIRE. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF 17 BN, A SUB-UNIT OF 211 BRIGADE BASED IN MUTURA, ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN REPLACED. IT IS SOLDIERS FROM THIS BN WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THE KILLINGS AT KANAMA. DURING A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OPERATION, SOLDIERS APPARENTLY ACCUSED LOCALS OF HARBOURING INSURGENTS, AND THEN EXECUTED THEM ON THE SPOT FOR ALLEGEDLY WITHOLDING INFORMATION.

3. (U) AS WAS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BALTHAZAR NDENGEYINKA, A HUTU FROM KIBUYE AND A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE RPA REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR FORMER EX-FAR SOLDIERS, ASSUMED COMMAND OF 305 BRIGADE IN GITARAMA.

4. (C) G2 COMMENT. DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF COLONEL BAGIRE FROM

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COMMAND OF 211 BRIGADE, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT HE WAS THE ORCHESTRATOR OF THE KILLINGS AT KANAMA. COLONEL BAGIRE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A LOYAL SUPPORTER OF VICE-PRESIDENT KAGAME. HE IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE RPF, AND BELIEVED TO BE A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THEIR PROGRAMME, AND BY EXTENSION THE PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE NEED FOR DEMONSTRATIVE AND DECISIVE ACTION FOLLOWING KANAMA MAY HAVE MADE IT NECESSARY TO REPLACE HIM.

5. (U) IN THE AREA WHERE THE KILLINGS TOOK PLACE, POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE LOCAL POPULATION LIKELY PRECIPITATED THE RAMPAGE BY RPA SOLDIERS. THESE SAME CONDITIONS EXIST ELSEWHERE. IT WILL TAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT BY MILITARY COMMANDERS TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE AMONG THEIR TROOPS TO PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER SUCH INCIDENT. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS JUST THE TYPE OF INCIDENT THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPONENTS MAY TRY TO PROVOKE.

6. (U) COLONEL CHARLES NGOGA IS A RESPECTED OFFICER WHO COMMANDED AN RPA BN DURING LAST YEAR'S FIGHTING WITH THE EX-FAR. HE WILL BE EXPECTED TO REIGN IN ANY REMAINING ROGUE ELEMENTS IN 211 BRIGADE.

7. (U) THE APPOINTMENT OF EX-FAR LIEUTENANT-COLONEL NDENGEYINKA AS COMMANDER OF 305 BRIGADE WAS INTENDED TO REASSURE CRITICS OF THE TUTSI-DOMINATED MILITARY THAT THE RPA, AND THE GOVERNMENT, IS VIGOROUSLY COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION AND THE SECURITY OF THE POPULATION. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE OF THIS MOVE WAS NULLIFIED BY THE KANAMA TRAGEDY. THE RPA MUST NOW UNDERTAKE SERIOUS AND DETERMINED MEASURES TO ENHANCE ITS CREDIBILITY AS A FORCE OFFERING PROTECTION EQUALLY TO ALL RWANDANS. SUCH MEASURES MIGHT INCLUDE INCREASING THE ROLE AND JURISDICTION OF THE GENDARMERIE WITH RESPECT TO INTERNAL SECURITY ISSUES AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, WHILE REDUCING THE MILITARY PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES.

POLITICAL

8. (U) FRANCE HAS PLEDGED FINANCIAL HELP FOR RWANDA. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE DURING A THREE-DAY VISIT TO KIGALI BY FRANCE'S TOP HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICIAL, THE FIRST BY A FRENCH MINISTER SINCE LAST YEAR'S GENOCIDE. RELATIONS WITH THE RWANDESE

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GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN SOURED BY ALLEGATIONS THAT FRANCE IS PROVIDING MONEY AND ARMS TO THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY.

9. (C) G2 COMMENT. FRANCE WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. INTERVENTION BY FRENCH MILITARY FORCES DURING THE CLOSING PHASE OF THE RPA DEFEAT OF THE EX-FAR WAS SEEN BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT THE PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE.

BY PLEDGING HUMANITARIAN AID, FRANCE MAY BE SEEKING TO COUNTER CRITICISM THAT IT IS PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT TO THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, WHILE ALSO AIMING TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THIS VISIT IS UNLIKELY TO ERASE DOUBTS ABOUT FRENCH SYMPATHIES, HOWEVER, IT IS A POTENTIALLY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE MAY HELP TO ENCOURAGE RWANDA'S HUTU REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME.

10. (U) FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WILL ARRIVE IN THE REGION TODAY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE ONGOING CRISIS IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI. THE FORMER PRESIDENT SUPPORTS A CONTINUED UN PRESENCE IN RWANDA. HE IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE MEASURES AIMED AT ENHANCING SECURITY ALONG RWANDA'S BORDER WITH ZAIRE AND MONITORING THE FLOW OF WEAPONS INTO THE REGION.

REFUGEES

11. (U) REFUGEE REPATRIATION FOR THE PAST WEEK WAS WELL BELOW DESIRED LEVELS. THE REFUGEES WHO DID RETURN WERE PREDOMINANTLY TUTSIS WHO FLED TO ZAIRE AROUND THE TIME WHEN RWANDA ACHIEVED ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND HAD SETTLED IN CAMPS IN THE MASISI AREA. ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS PROVIDED SECURITY IN THE CAMPS FROM WHERE MANY OF THE REFUGEES ORIGINATED, AND TO THE BORDER. AS THEIR TRANSPORT ROUTED THEM THROUGH THE VICINITY OF OTHER CAMPS, MANY REFUGEES APPARENTLY DUCKED DOWN OUT OF SIGHT. HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE RELATED TO THE MOVEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES.

12. (U) ALSO IN ZAIRE, THE UNHCR HAS APPARENTLY CLOSED THEIR SCHOOLS IN KIBUMBA CAMP. REFUGEES ARE BEING TOLD THAT THEY MUST RETURN TO RWANDA IF THEY WANT ACCESS TO SCHOOLS.

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13. (U) G2 COMMENT. REFUGEES CONTINUE TO RESIST VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION VIRTUALLY EN MASSE. THE KANAMA INCIDENT SERVED TO STRONGLY REINFORCE OPPOSITION PROPAGANDA THAT IT IS NOT SAFE FOR HUTU REFUGEES TO RETURN. GRADUALLY SHIFTING RESOURCES FROM THE RELIEF ZONE TO RWANDA MAY ENTICE REFUGEES TO RETURN IN GREATER NUMBERS, BUT IT IS BY NATURE A LONGER TERM PROCESS. THE SUCCESS OF THIS APPROACH WOULD RELY ON SECURING AN AGREEMENT FROM HOST COUNTRIES FOR A SLOWER REPATRIATION, AND IN MAINTAINING REGIONAL STABILITY OVER THE TERM OF THE REPATRIATION PROCESS.

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OVERVIEW

1.(U) RPA CONTINUES ITS SWEEP OF GISHWATI FOREST.

RPA

2.(UN-R) SECTOR 5: GISHWATI FOREST: REPORTS THAT THE RPA CONTINUES ITS SWEEP OF GISHWATI, FROM WEST TO SOUTH. THEY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS IN FINDING CACHES (RUCKSACKS, GRENADES, ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES) HOWEVER THE GOING IS DIFFICULT AND THEY HAVE YET TO MAKE CONTACT WITH INSURGENTS IN THE FOREST. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS AS TO HOW LONG THIS OPERATION WILL LAST. MILOB SECTOR COMMANDER ASSESSES THE OPERATION TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECREASE IN BANDITRY AND MURDER OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

FRGF/MILITIA

3.(U) NSTR.

REGIONAL

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GENERAL SITUATION

1. (U) THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN RWANDA IN THIS PAST WEEK HAS BEEN THE DISMISSAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER, FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU, AND THE RESIGNATIONS OR DISMISSALS OF THE MINISTERS OF INFORMATION, JUSTICE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTERIOR. FOUR OF THE MINISTERS, ALTHOUGH FROM DIFFERENT PARTIES, ARE HUTU, WHILE THE TRANSPORT MINISTER WAS TUTSI.

POLITICAL

2. (C/REL TO UN) ON THE 28TH OF AUGUST, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTED ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO DISMISS THE PRIME MINISTER. OF 70 MEMBERS, 61 WERE IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE. OF THIS NUMBER, 55 VOTED FOR THE DISMISSAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER, ZERO VOTED AGAINST, AND SIX ABSTAINED. OF THE 13 MEMBERS OF THE PRIME MINISTERS OWN PARTY, THE MDR, SEVEN VOTED TO DISMISS HIM, AND THE REMAINING SIX WERE THE ABSTENTIONS I MENTIONED EARLIER. COMMENT. THE FACT THAT THE VOTE WAS SO OVERWHELMING IS A FAIR INDICATION OF DISSATISFACTION AT HIS PERFORMANCE AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

3. (C/REL TO UN) EN ROUTE TO PARLIAMENT, THE PRESIDENT CALLED THE PRIME MINISTER TO TELL HIM WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO DO. THE PRESIDENT LEARNED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALREADY WRITTEN A LETTER OF RESIGNATION, AND HAD SENT COPIES TO ONLY TWO EMBASSIES - THE FRENCH AND THE BELGIANS.

4. (C/REL TO UN) COMMENT. FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU IS PERHAPS THE AUTHOR OF HIS OWN MISFORTUNE. HIS CRITICS ALLEGE THAT HE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PROMOTING HIMSELF AS A CHAMPION OF THE HUTUS AS A MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A POWER BASE FOR THE FUTURE, AND HE TREATED PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU, A HUTU MEMBER OF THE RPF, AS A FUTURE ELECTION

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COMPETITOR. HIS ACTIONS WERE PERCEIVED TO BE DEEPENING THE RIFT BETWEEN HUTU AND TUTSI FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S GENOCIDE. INSTEAD OF PROMOTING NATIONAL UNITY, A CENTRAL PLANK OF THIS COALITION GOVERNMENT'S PLATFORM, HE HAS DEFENDED HUTU INTERESTS. HE WAS OFTEN OPENLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES, SPEAKING AS IF HE WERE NOT A PART OF THE GOVERNMENT HE CRITICIZED. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, TWO CRITICAL ERRORS IN JUDGEMENT MAY HAVE FINALLY COST HIM HIS JOB.

5. (C/REL TO UN) THE FIRST ERROR CAME WHEN HE WROTE TO THE PRESIDENT ASKING, IN HIS CAPACITY AS MDR CHAIRMAN, FOR THE REMOVAL FROM CABINET OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ANASTASE GASANA. TWAGIRAMUNGU MAY HAVE BEEN SEEKING REVENGE AGAINST GASANA FOR FIRING HIS CABINET DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL LAST DECEMBER, WHICH LED TO GASANA'S SUSPENSION FROM THE MDR. PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU REFUSED HIS REQUEST.

6. (C/REL TO UN) THE SECOND ERROR CONCERNED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, ONE OF THE COMMISSIONS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORDS OF AUGUST 1993. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF THIS COMMISSION UNLESS PARTY POLITICS WERE ALLOWED TO START AT THE GRASS ROOTS AT THE SAME TIME. THERE IS A STANDING AGREEMENT IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT THAT PARTY POLITICS WILL BE SET ASIDE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST FOR SOME TIME.

7. (C/REL TO UN) COMMENT. TWAGIRAMUNGU WAS A POOR GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR. HIS JOB WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE OTHER MINISTERS WERE DOING THEIRS, AND IN THIS REGARD HE APPEARS TO HAVE FAILED. HE SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH PEOPLE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ETHNIC KINSHIP, INSTEAD OF ABILITY, AND AS A RESULT HIS OFFICE WAS WEAK. MOREOVER, THE PRIME MINISTER'S INSISTENCE THAT GRASSROOTS PARTY POLITICS BE ALLOWED TO BEGIN WAS SEEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A DELIBERATELY DIVISIVE MOVE IN A TIME THAT UNITY WAS NEEDED SO BADLY.

8. (C/REL TO UN) IT IS NOT SO CLEAR WHY THE GOVERNMENT DISMISSED SETH SENDASHONGA, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND A HUTU MEMBER OF THE RPF. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HAS HAD A FALLING-OUT WITH THE RPF. HE WAS AT THE CABINET MEETING ON 25 AUGUST, WHERE BOTH HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER WERE VERY CRITICAL OF VICE PRESIDENT KAGAME'S LACK OF CONTROL OVER A SMALL NUMBER OF UNCONTROLLED ELEMENTS IN THE RPA WHO HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED OUT SOME REVENGE KILLINGS. IN THIS

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ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE, THE PRIME MINISTER ACCUSED KAGAME OF PERSONALLY ORCHESTRATING KILLINGS, WHICH DEEPLY OFFENDED AND ENRAGED KAGAME, AND PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIRINGS OF BOTH MINISTERS.

9. (U) THE NEW MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IS ALEXIS KANYARENGWE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RPF AND A HUTU. HE IS AN EXPERIENCED MINISTER WHO HELD THE SAME POST FROM 1973 TO 1978 UNDER HABYARIMANA. HE CAME FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY. HIS REPLACEMENT AT PUBLIC SERVICE IS SHEIK ABDUL KARIM HARERIMANA, A HUTU MEMBER OF THE RPF WHO IS ALSO THE FIRST MOSLEM IN RWANDAN HISTORY TO HOLD A MINISTERIAL POST.

10. (U) THE NEW MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IS LAURIEN NGIRABANZE. HE IS A HUTU AND A MEMBER OF THE MDR, AND HE HAS A REPUTATION AS BEING A FIRST-CLASS ADMINISTRATOR.

11. (C/REL TO UN) THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, JEAN BAPTISTE NKURIYINGOMA, WAS FIRED BECAUSE HE WAS WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE. HE HAS MUCH TO DO WITH WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXPLAIN IT'S POLICIES TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE INFORMATION MINISTRY WAS RETAINED BY THE MDR, AND WENT TO A YOUNG HUTU, JEAN PIERRE BIZAMANA, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING CABINET DIRECTOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS. HE IS A COMPETENT PERFORMER WHO SHOULD DO WELL IN HIS NEW PORTFOLIO.

12. (C/REL TO UN) THE FIRING OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, NKUBITO, WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE RWANDAN JUSTICE SYSTEM. HE HAD NO APPARENT ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY, AND NO CLEAR SENSE OF DIRECTION. HIS DEPARTURE WILL NOT BE MISSED. THE NEW JUSTICE MINISTER IS MISS MARTHE MUKAMURENZI. SHE IS AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AND A HUTU.

13. (C/REL TO UN) THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, MRS IMMACULE KAYUMBA, A TUTSI MEMBER OF THE RPF, WAS ALSO FIRED. SHE WAS A POOR MINISTER, RIGID IN HER VIEWS, AND SECTARIAN IN HER ATTITUDES. SHE WAS TO HAVE BEEN REPLACED EARLIER, BUT HAD BEEN GIVEN A REPRIEVE. SHE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY DOCTOR CHARLES MURJGANDE, A BRILLIANT FORMER MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR FROM HOWARD UNIVERSITY IN THE US. HE IS EXPECTED TO DO WELL.

14. (C/REL TO UN) ASSESSMENT. THE FIRING OF FOUR HUTU MINISTERS CAME AT A BAD TIME, BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE. THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN

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INTERPRETED BY SOME TO BE A TUTSI POWER PLAY, BUT WE ASSESS THAT THIS IS A LONG-OVERDUE MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE CABINET, WHICH HAS BECOME CRUCIAL NOW WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MANY REFUGEES RETURNING. THE EX-FAR IN ZAIRE HAVE ALSO SEIZED UPON THIS AS PROOF THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA IS NOT INTERESTED IN RECONCILIATION, BUT THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR HUTU REPLACEMENTS SHOULD LET SOME OF THE STEAM OUT OF THAT ARGUMENT. FURTHERMORE, HUTUS STILL MAINTAIN A SOLID MAJORITY IN GOVERNMENT, HOLDING THIRTEEN POSITIONS TO THE TUTSI'S NINE.

15. (C/REL TO UN) UNDER THE ARUSHA ACCORDS, THE JOB OF PRIME MINISTER HAD TO COME FROM THE MDR PARTY. THE CHOICE WAS LIMITED, THOUGH, AS A LOT OF THE MDR LEADERSHIP WAS KILLED IN THE GENOCIDE. ANASTASE GASANA WOULD HAVE SEEMED AN OBVIOUS CHOICE, BUT AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, HE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE PARTY. THE BEST CANDIDATE MAY HAVE BEEN THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER, AUGUSTIN IYAMUREMYE, BUT HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PSD, NOT THE MRD. THE JOB FELL TO PIERRE CELESTIN RWIGEMA, THE FORMER MINISTER OF PRIMARY EDUCATION. HE MAY BE AN UNPOPULAR CHOICE INTERNATIONALLY, BUT IN THIS CASE, THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT TIED THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS.

19. (U) IN A SHORT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY ON 31 AUGUST, PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW CABINET MUST ACT TOGETHER IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND PUT PARTISAN POLITICAL INTERESTS BEHIND THEM FOR THE TIME BEING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER SPOKE OF THE NEED TO PURSUE COHERENT POLICIES AND TO TAKE THE GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE. HE MADE A SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ITS SUPPORT IN DEALING WITH THE REPATRIATION AND RESETTLING OF REFUGEES. HE ALSO REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA'S PRIORITIES AS THE REINFORCEMENT OF SECURITY, THE STRENGTHENING OF CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE RESTORATION OF NATIONAL UNITY, THE REINFORCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY, THE WIDENING OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, TACKLING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES.

CONCLUSION

20. (C/REL TO UN) THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE WITH THIS NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS RETAINED THE SAME ETHNIC MIX AS BEFORE. WHAT SHOULD CHANGE IS THE SPEED AT WHICH THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED. IT WILL TAKE THEM TIME, HOWEVER, TO WIN

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THE TRUST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
THE REFUGEES OUTSIDE RWANDA.

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To: MILOBS GP HQ

Date: 14 Feb 96.

From: SECT 1 HQ

File: LOG/06

Subject: THEFT IN HQ SECTOR 1

1. One of the offices in this HQ was broken into during the night 13/14 Feb 96 by some unidentified thieves and the following items stolen away:

- a. One (1) computer complete with printer and UPS.
- b. One (1) refrigerator.
- c. One (1) 4.5Kv generator.
- d. Four (4) handset radios (Motorola Radius GP 300). The exact figure can however not be confirmed as the Log Offr is away on CTO.

2. Verbal report has already been made to the Duty Officer at Milobs Gp HQ. The RPA and the UNAMIR MP Coy have also been informed. The night guard who is highly suspected is under RPA custody pending investigations. Investigation are also continuing by the Milobs to trace the culprits.

3. Please submitted for your information and necessary action.

Shuriah Maj
GA BIAH
Maj
Ops Offr
for Sect Comd

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