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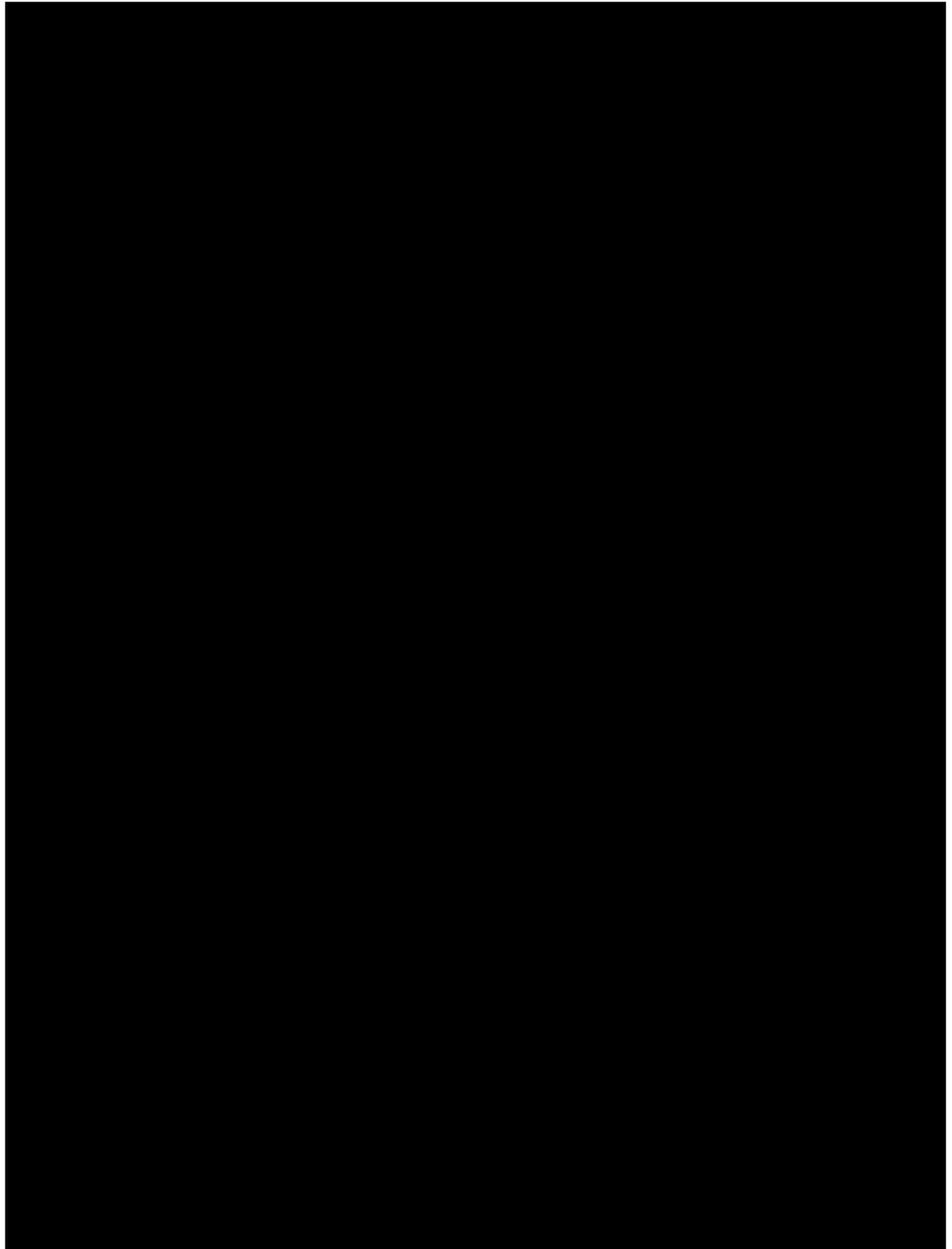
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Africa Review ■

14 March 1994

Page

Articles



~~Secret~~
ALA AR 94-006
14 March 1994

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Brief

Rwanda: RPF Patience Growing Thin (C NF)

21



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Africa

Brief

Rwanda

Rwanda: RPF Patience Growing Thin [REDACTED]

The rebel Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), increasingly impatient with what it views as Hutu President Habyarimana's manipulation of the 1993 peace accords, is threatening to return to war if progress is not made toward forming a multiethnic coalition government. [REDACTED] after yet another scheduled swearing-in of the new government was scrubbed in late February, senior RPF leaders left Kigali protesting that Habyarimana was instigating violence to disrupt the political transition. Rwandans accused him of being behind the killings in February of a moderate Hutu politician that led to the subsequent revenge murder of a hardline Hutu leader and triggered a resurgence in ethnic violence. [REDACTED]

The UN, which has a 2,160-man monitoring mission in Rwanda, has criticized the Rwandans for stalling on ethnic reconciliation. [REDACTED] the UN deployed a battalion of troops for patrols in Kigali and established five-person intervention teams to respond to emergency situations in the capital. In December, the RPF deployed a 600-man contingent to Kigali to guard RPF leaders participating in the multiethnic coalition government. [REDACTED]

A resumption in fighting is likely if the transitional government is further delayed. For now, the RPF may be content with warning the international community of its intentions to force the government's hand. The rebels may opt to continue patrolling the demilitarized zone, for example, in hopes of gaining concessions from the government. Hardline elements in the RPF, however, will probably continue to press for military action. Unless Habyarimana makes concessions to the RPF by engaging them in plans for the installation of the new government and quells accusations that his party is undermining the peace accord, the rebels are likely to resume fighting in the demilitarized zone. UN troops presence in the capital will probably deter the RPF from initiating military action there, but the presence of 600 rebel troops increases the opportunities for renewed fighting between the two sides. [REDACTED]