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Directorate of Intelligence

SI/BLA ---- BB-94-005 ----

Africa Review

25 February 1994

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Africa Review

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Rwanda: Worker Discontent Spreading

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Africa

Briefs



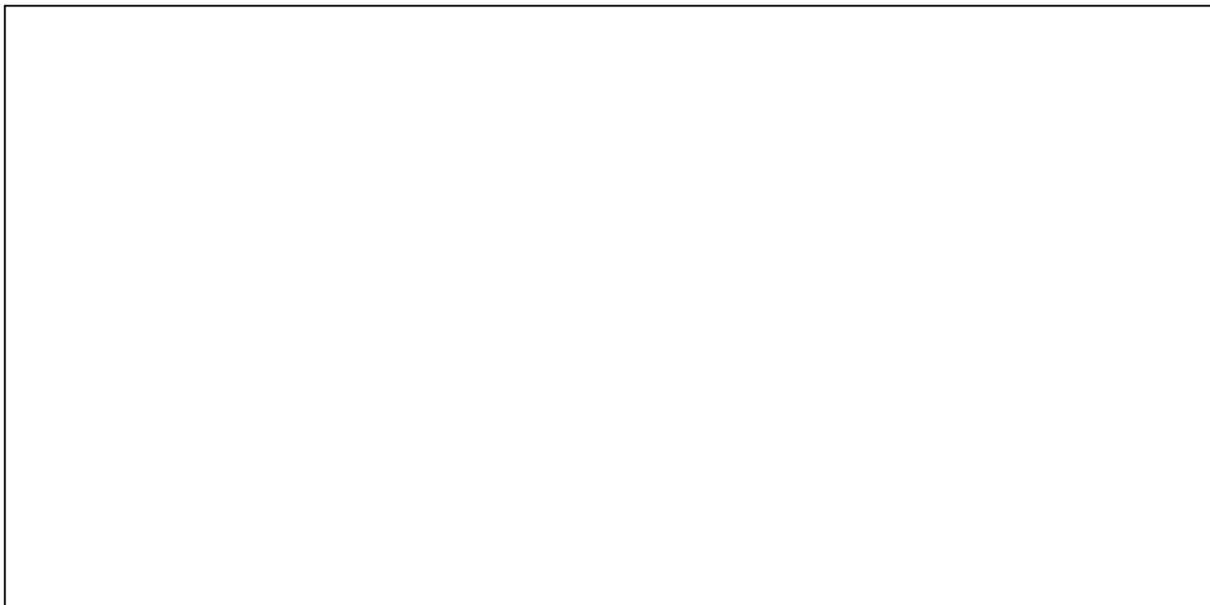
Rwanda

Worker Discontent Spreading

Striking government workers, who account for about three-quarters of formal sector employees, are disrupting economic activity in the Kigali area and further undermining the country's war-ravaged economy. Workers at a state-run bank and school teachers are demanding wage increases and past-due salary checks. In December workers at a government-owned sugar plant walked out after Kigali removed its sugar production subsidy. about 400 workers at the state electrical utility were fired last month following a clash with authorities that damaged several water and electricity installations. We believe that strikes are likely to continue because of the rapidly rising cost of living and the government's inability to meet worker demands for higher wages. Economic policymaking is likely to remain in limbo until the oft-delayed transitional government can be formed and functioning.

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