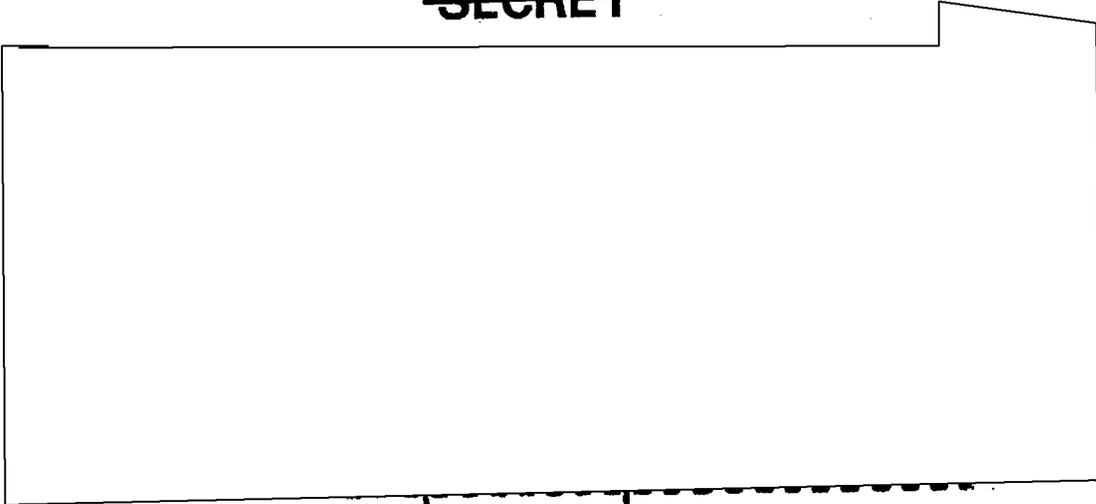


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OUTGOING MESSAGE

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR MIDDLE EAST BRIEF OCPAS MEA 90-238 FOR FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER 1990.

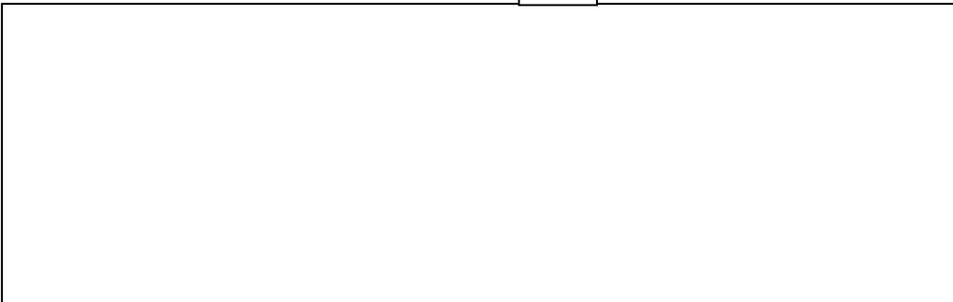


OUTGOING MESSAGE

CONTENTS



2. RWANDA: FIGHTING MAY BE PROLONGED



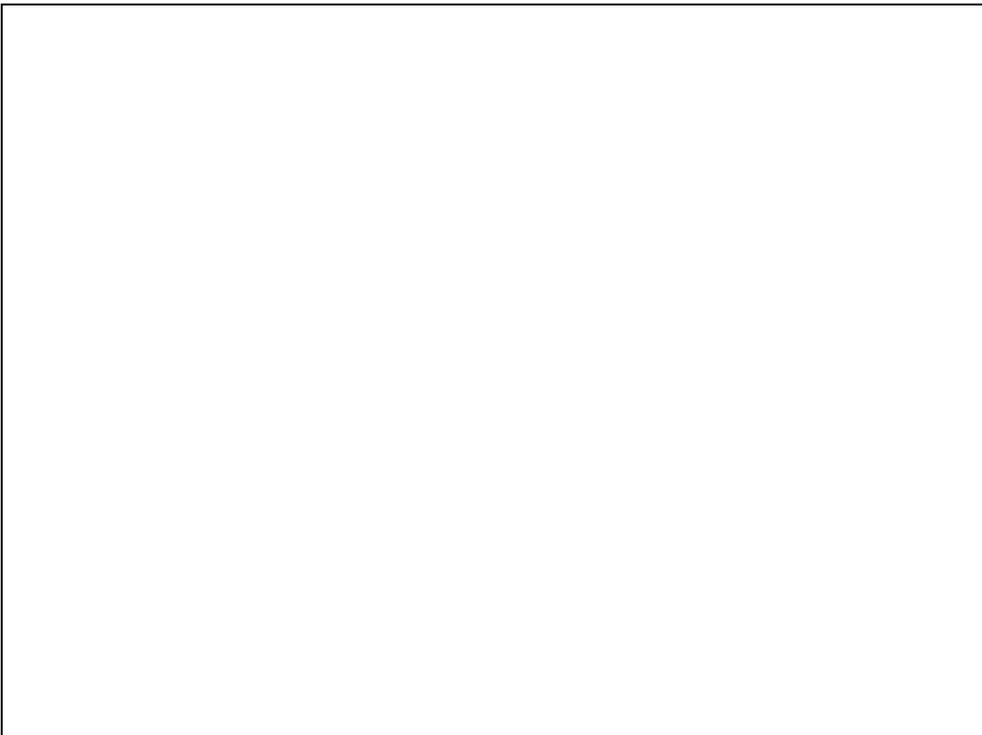
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DATE: OCT 2005

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2. RWANDA: FIGHTING MAY BE PROLONGED [REDACTED]

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE NORTHEAST BETWEEN INVADING TUTSI EXILES AND THE RWANDAN ARMY AND ITS ZAIRIAN ALLIES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SOME REBELS HAVE BEEN PUSHED BACK TO THE MUVUMBA RIVER AREA WHERE THE TERRAIN FAVORS GUERRILLA TACTICS, BUT A LARGE REBEL FORCE REMAINS AT GABIRO. UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS SAY THE REBELS ARE BEING SUPPLIED AND REINFORCED FROM UGANDA DESPITE KAMPALA'S EFFORTS TO SEAL THE BORDER. UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAVE CALLED FOR A REGIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE CONFLICT. KIGALI HAS DETAINED SOME 3,000 SUSPECTED REBEL SYMPATHIZERS, AND PRESS REPORTS CLAIM THE RWANDAN MILITARY HAS ATTACKED TUTSI VILLAGES IN THE MUTARA REGION AND CONDUCTED SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. RWANDA'S MAIN OVERLAND SUPPLY ROUTE IS STILL CLOSED, CAUSING SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND FUEL IN THE CAPITAL, AND THE DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN EXPATRIATES HAS CURTAILED MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: SOME OF THE REBEL FORCE--WHICH MAY NUMBER AS MANY AS 3,000--PROBABLY HAS SPLIT INTO SMALL GUERRILLA BANDS AND MAY HAVE INFILTRATED THE LOCAL POPULACE, INCREASING THE LIKELIHOOD OF PROLONGED FIGHTING AND ETHNIC REPRISALS THAT MIGHT SPILL OVER INTO NEIGHBORING STATES. PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY BALANCING OUTSIDE PRESSURE FOR A SETTLEMENT WITH THE RESISTANCE OF HIS HUTU SUPPORTERS TO AN ACCOMMODATION OF TUTSI INTERESTS. KIGALI IS QUIET AND THERE IS NO DIRECT THREAT TO THE APPROXIMATELY 110 US CITIZENS THERE, BUT GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES COULD ENDANGER CIVILIANS. [REDACTED]

COMPLICATED ETHNIC EQUATION

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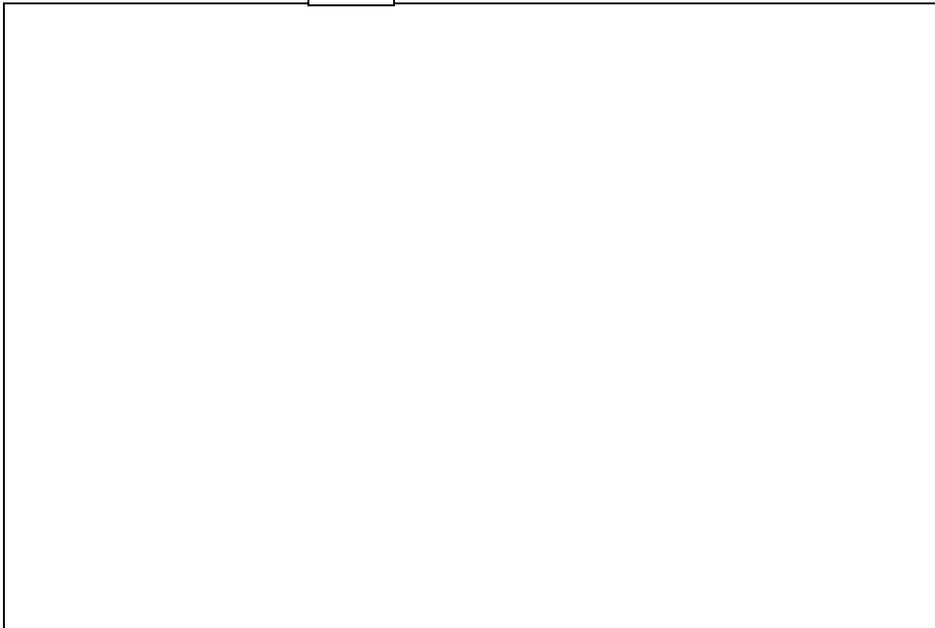
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SINCE THE LATE 1950S, BLOODY CLASHES THROUGHOUT THE REGION BETWEEN THE NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR HUTUS AND THE TRADITIONALLY ASCENDANT TUTSIS HAVE PRODUCED LARGE REFUGEE POPULATIONS. BORDER REGIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA HAVE THE SAME ETHNIC MAKEUP AS RWANDA AND BURUNDI: 85 TO 90 PERCENT HUTU; 10 TO 15 PERCENT TUTSI. UGANDA'S MUSEVENI HAS RECRUITED ETHNIC RWANDANS FOR HIS ARMY SINCE THE LATE 1950S; THEY NOW MAKE UP 15 TO 20 PERCENT OF THE UGANDAN ARMY.



THE MINORITY TUTSIS RULE IN BURUNDI, WHILE THE HUTUS HAVE HELD POWER IN RWANDA SINCE OUSTING THE TUTSIS SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN 1962. CLAIMING LIMITED RESOURCES, KIGALI HAS REBUFFED ATTEMPTS AT WHOLESALE REPATRIATION OF ITS REFUGEES. SOME 225,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES--MOSTLY TUTSIS--LIVE IN UGANDA AND WERE THE POOL FROM WHICH MOST OF THE INVASION FORCE WAS DRAWN. A SIMILAR NUMBER OF RWANDAN TUTSIS ARE IN BURUNDI AND THERE ARE SMALLER REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN TANZANIA AND ZAIRE.



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