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ACTION RP-10

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 OASY-00
DODE-00 EUR-01 OIGO-01 HA-09 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16
ADS-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SR-00 FMP-00 /044W
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P 190849Z JAN 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5528
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE FOR RP AND AF/C
GENEVA FOR RMA
NAIROBI FOR REFCOORD

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PEF, RW, BY, UG
SUBJECT: REFUGEE UPDATE

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REF: KAMPALA 343

1. SUMMARY. UNHCR CONFIRMS REFUGEES AND THEIR CATTLE
HAVE RETURNED TO RWANDA FROM UGANDA. CENSUS OF BURUNDI
REFUGEES SHOW TOTAL OF 272,000 AT END DECEMBER, 100,000
LOWER THAN INITIAL PLANNING FIGURE. UNHCR'S SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE ON BURUNDI REFUGEES TO ARRIVE KIGALI
JANUARY 20. UNHCR/OAU ADDIS MEETING ON PLAN OF ACTION
FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES POSTPONED PENDING FORMATION OF
BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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SPONTANEOUS REFUGEES

2. UNHCR CONFIRMED TO DCM THAT 309 FAMILIES, OR BETWEEN 1500 AND 2,000 REFUGEES, RETURNED RECENTLY FROM RWANDA TO THE RPF-HELD ZONE IN NORTHERN RWANDA (REFTEL). THE GROUP BROUGHT WITH THEM APPROXIMATELY 2,500 HEAD OF CATTLE. THE GROUP DATES FROM THE 1960'S EXODUS. UNHCR VISITED THE GROUP 1/16 WITH GOR AND RPF REPRESENTATIVES.

3. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD THE GROUP RETURNED FOR FEAR THE UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MIGHT RESULT IN A REPEAT OF THE EVENTS OF ELECTIONS IN THE 1980'S WHEN RWANDAN REFUGEES WERE PUSHED BACK TO RWANDA. A UNAMIR OFFICER, WHO OPERATES IN THE RPF ZONE, SAID HIS OFFICERS LEARNED THE REFUGEES HAD BEEN PUSHED ACROSS THE BORDER BY UGANDAN AUTHORITIES.

4. COMMENT. THE ISSUE OF "SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES" HAS BECOME A POINT OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF. THE RPF HAS ARGUED THAT THEY EXPECT ONE
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MILLION REFUGEES TO RETURN SPONTANEOUSLY IN THE COMING YEAR. THEY HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PROJECTED RETURNEES BY AGREEING TO DISCUSS THEIR NEEDS AND INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE FORTHCOMING UNDP ROUNDTABLE TO SOLICIT FUNDING FOR DEMOBILIZATION, REINSTALLATION OF DISPLACED AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WAR ZONE. BOTH UNDP AND UNHCR HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADD THE REFUGEE ISSUE TO THE UNDP ROUNDTABLE. THE ISSUE MAY BE CLOSE TO RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE VERGE OF AGREEING TO WORK WITH THE RPF AND UNHCR TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY AND ASSOCIATED COST FIGURES THAT UNHCR WILL PRESENT AS AN APPEAL AT THE UNDP ROUNDTABLE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE IS ANY LINK BETWEEN THE SPONTANEOUS RETURN OF THE RECENT REPATRIATES AND THE DISPUTE. END COMMENT.

BURUNDI REFUGEES: CENSUS RESULTS

5. A CENSUS OF THE BURUNDI REFUGEE POPULATION CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNHCR DURING THE LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER REVEALED A POPULATION OF 272,000, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW HUNDRED. THIS IS NEARLY 100,000 LESS THAN THE INITIAL WORKING FIGURE AND 125,000 LESS THAN THE FIGURE BEING USED BY UNHCR AN WFP AT THE END OF

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DECEMBER. THE WORKING FIGURE FOR WFP AND UNHCR WAS REDUCED TO THE ACTUAL FIGURE AS SOON AS IT WAS KNOWN IN EARLY JANUARY.

6. UNHCR BELIEVES THE CENSUS WAS CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT YIELDED AN ACCURATE COUNT. A CARE INTERNATIONAL FIELD WORKER DID TELL DCM THAT HE SAW SOME REFUGEES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00252 01 OF 02 190935Z WASHING OFF THE INDELIBLE INK, HAVING RUBBED THEIR HANDS IN DIRT BEFORE DIPPING THEM IN THE INK, IN ORDER TO GO THROUGH THE COUNT LINES AGAIN. UNHCR BELIEVES THESE MUST HAVE BEEN ISOLATED CASES.

UNHCR'S REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT

7. THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR THE BURUNDI REFUGEE SITUATION, MICHEL MOUSSALI, WILL VISIT RWANDA BEGINNING JANUARY 20. HIS TASK, ACCORDING TO UNHCR/KIGALI REP RODRIGUEZ, IS TO COME UP WITH A "GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE REGION." HE WILL CALL ON KEY OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE RPF,

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AND THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE (UNAMIR) AS WELL AS VISIT
REFUGEE SITES DURING HIS VISIT.

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PLAN OF ACTION FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES

8. FURTHER UNHCR/OAU INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN
OF ACTION FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES IS ON HOLD PENDING
FORMATION OF THE TRANSITION INSTITUTIONS CALLED FOR IN
THE PEACE ACCORD. ONCE IN PLACE, THE RPF WILL HAVE THE
PORTFOLIO FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND WILL
HAVE THE TASK OF FORMING THE COMMISSION TASKED WITH THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF PLANNING FOR REFUGEE RETURN. THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL SET A DATE WITH UNHCR AND THE OAU FOR
THE NEXT MEETING ON THE PLAN OF ACTION DEFERRED FROM
MID-JANUARY.

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