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AMBABEL ADDIS-ABABA TO BELEXT BRU
193 OF 05/05/94 CODE
P/GEO.04
SUGG. RPT DAR ES SALAAM, CAIRO

SUBJECT: RWANDA: PRESS CONFERENCE

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF ITS AMBASSADOR ([illegible] THE EMBASSY OF RWANDA (A HUTO [illegible] PRESIDENTIAL GUARD HAS GIVEN THIS [illegible] PRESS CONFERENCE TO WHICH HE INVITED ME. [illegible] I ABSTAINED, AND GIVEN THE NUMBER [illegible] DECIDED NOT TO SEND THERE [illegible] WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE BEEN SPOTTED. THE UNITED STATES HAD ALSO PREFERRED TO ABSTAIN AND MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE HAD DELEGATED A TRAINEE TO WHOM MY EMPLOYEE THEN WENT FOR INFORMATION.
2. ACCORDING TO THIS FRENCH COLLEAGUE:
 - ONLY 2 DIPLOMATS (F AND 1 UNIDENTIFIED AFRICAN) AND 5 JOURNALISTS (2 ETHIOPIANS, 1 BURUNDIAN, 2 UNIDENTIFIED) WERE PRESENT.
 - THE RWANDAN DIPLOMAT ALLEGEDLY PARTICULARLY CRITICISED THE FPR, WHICH REFUSES TO TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT AND WANTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ARMY, WHEREAS THE ARMY IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS THE SITUATION IN HAND (INTERESTING SLIP: "THE MASSACRES ARE UNDER CONTROL").
 - THE BELGIAN CONTINGENT OF THE UNAMIR HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF CULPABLE NEGLIGENCE IN THE CONTROL OF THE AIRPORT.
 - THE FACT THAT 2 BELGIAN MERCENARIES WERE ALLEGEDLY KILLED OUTSIDE OF KIGALI WAS ACKNOWLEDGED.
 - THE UGANDAN SUPPORT FOR THE FPR HAS BEEN BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION (NO ALLUSION TO BELGIAN SUPPORT).
 - THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE FPR ALLEGEDLY LEFT KIGALI 2 DAYS BEFORE THE ATTACK HAS BEEN USED AS PROOF OF THE GUILT OF THE FPR.
 - THE VISIT TO PARIS BY THE RWANDAN MINAFET HAD THE AIM OF ASKING FRANCE TO DECODE THE BLACK BOX OF THE ATTACKED AEROPLANE.
3. COMMENTS (IF THEY WERE INDEED REPORTED TO US IN THEIR ENTIRETY) WHICH THEREFORE SEEM MARKEDLY MORE REASONABLE THAN THOSE RECORDED UNTIL NOW, NOTABLY IN PARIS AND CAIRO.
4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, THESE 2 CRT, IN AN ADDRESS TO A CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION THROWN FOR AFRICA, THE RWANDAN AMBASSADOR HAD HIMSELF ALSO MADE ALL THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE FPR, NOT MENTIONING BELGIUM. A DEMAND FOR CONDEMNATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FPR WAS REJECTED BY THE CONFERENCE.