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Premier Kengo on Elections, Refugee Situation

US Embassy Rwanda

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AFRICAN AFFAIRS

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-00

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INFO AFP-01 AS-01 XYA-01 XW-01 KE-01 PMA-01 ZF-01 CG-01
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INFO LOG-00 AF-00 TEDE-00 /001W
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R 072234Z FEB 95
FM FBIS ABIDJAN IV
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CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
FBIS RESTON VA//POLCH//
CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
FBIS BRUSSELS BE
FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//
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FAISA FT BRAGG NC
DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC
VOA WASHINGTON DC
AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS//DAO//
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS//POL//
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/WECA//
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
FBIS VIENNA AU
MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECJ35-PSYOP//
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//D9AM//
US SURVEY SEC SHAPE BE

NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//TAI//
ACCT FBAB-EWDK

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WARNING: ATTN C1FM

SERIAL: AB0702223495

COUNTRY: ZAIRE

SUBJ: PREMIER KENGO ON ELECTIONS, REFUGEE SITUATION

SOURCE: DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH 1828 GMT 7 FEB 95
TEXT:

//((BY RENE LAKE))

((FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT)) PARIS, FRANCE ((PANA)) -- THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR NEXT JULY IN ZAIRE MIGHT BE
STRONGLY HAMPERED BECAUSE OF THE MASSIVE PRESENCE OF RWANDAN AND
BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN THE COUNTRY, ZAIRIAN PRIME MINISTER KENGO WA
DONDO HAS STATED "HOW CAN WE HOLD ELECTIONS WHEN NEARLY 2.5
MILLION REFUGEES ARE LIVING ON OUR TERRITORY," KENGO WA DONDO
WONDERED.

MR. KENGO STATED THIS IN AN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO PANA DURING THE
"AFRICA CONFERENCE" WHICH OPENED IN PARIS YESTERDAY. "HOW CAN WE
REGISTER VOTERS? HOW CAN WE IDENTIFY VOTERS?" HE ASKED, STRESSING
THAT "ALL THESE WILL POSE A PROBLEM OF ACCURACY OF THE ELECTIONS."

"THE SITUATION IN NORD AND SUD KIVU COULD GENERATE AN ELECTION
DISPUTE. WE MUST AVOID HOLDING THE ELECTIONS WHILE THERE ARE
REFUGEES IN THE COUNTRY," HE FURTHER STATED.

HOWEVER, THE ZAIRIAN PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT IT IS NOT UP TO
HIM TO SAY WHETHER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COULD BE HELD WITHIN
THE TIME LIMIT STIPULATED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSITIONAL ACT,
THAT IS BETWEEN 3 AND 9 JULY. "I HAVE SUBMITTED A BILL ESTABLISHING
AND ORGANIZING THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION. IT WILL BE THE
DUTY OF THIS COMMISSION TO SAY WHETHER IT CAN MEET THIS DEADLINE FOR
HOLDING THE ELECTIONS," HE EXPLAINED.

MR. KENGO RECALLED THE PRECONDITIONS SET BY THE ZAIRIAN POLITICAL
CLASS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS, NAMELY "RESTORING THE
AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, REORGANIZING THE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND
MONETARY SITUATION, AND REVIVING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE." OTHER
PRECONDITIONS ARE, "REGISTERING AND IDENTIFYING VOTERS, AND ENSURING
THE SAFETY OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY SO THAT DEMOCRATIC, FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD."

CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE KIVU
REGION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE REGISTRATION OF THESE
REFUGEES IS OVER IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THAT AREA, AND THAT THIS
EXERCISE WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THAT
ZAIRIAN REGION. HE ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS COUNTRY'S WILLINGNESS TO
MAINTAIN SAFETY WITHIN THE CAMPS. "ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN
PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE UHCR. THEY ARE HELPING REFUGEES WHO
WANT TO RETURN HOME TO DO SO," HE SAID. "OUR SOLDIERS WILL FORM A
SAFETY CORRIDOR TO ENSURE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THE SAFETY ZONES
SET UP IN RWANDA," SAID KENGO WA DONDO WHO IS ATTENDING THE "AFRICA
CONFERENCE" BEING ORGANIZED IN PARIS BY UNESCO.

"THESE RWANDAN SAFETY ZONES SHOULD ENABLE THE REFUGEES TO BECOME
USED TO THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENT, AND TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE IN
THEMSELVES BEFORE SETTLING DOWN COMPLETELY," HE SAID. ACCORDING TO
THE ZAIRIAN PRIME MINISTER, IT IS URGENT TODAY FOR "THE REFUGEES TO
BE REASSURED BY THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN." "IT IS ONLY BY SO DOING
THAT THEIR RETURN CAN BE DONE EFFECTIVELY AND IN GOOD CONDITIONS, IN

PEACE AND DIGNITY," HE CONCLUDED.

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