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## Description of Gatsinzi's Role, Posts Since April 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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UNCLASSIFIED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*Rw  
p60v*

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ACTION INR-00

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MASSACRING OPPOSITION HUTUS AND ALL THE TUTSIS, COLONEL GATSINZI WAS

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BY-01 IV-01 RW-01 XW2-01 RCS-01 RWF-01 /014 A1 RS

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R 301431Z JAN 95  
FM FBIS BRUSSELS BE  
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FBIS RESTON VA//MIL//  
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FAISA FT BRAGG NC  
DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC  
STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA  
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WARNING: ATTN C1FM

SERIAL: BR3001143195

COUNTRY: RWANDA  
SUBJ: DESCRIPTION OF GATSINZI'S ROLE, POSTS SINCE APR 1994

REF: EA25012132395 KIGALI RADIO RWANDA FRENCH 251800 -- FORMER  
GOVERNMENT ARMY OFFICER APPOINTED GENDARMERIE CHIEF

SOURCE: BRUSSELS LA LIBRE BELGIQUE IN FRENCH 27 JAN 95 P 5  
TEXT:

/// (REPORT BY MARIE-FRANCE CROS: "NEW ARMY ACCEPTS HABYARIMANA'S  
TROOPS")

(FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT) IT IS "AN IMPORTANT STAGE ON THE ROAD TO  
RECONCILIATION," BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER FAUSTIN TWAGIRAMUNGU. ON  
WEDNESDAY, A CEREMONY BROADCAST BY RADIO MARKED THE INCLUSION IN THE  
NEW RWANDAN ARMY OF 011 SOLDIERS FROM PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S  
FORMER FORCE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE OF THEM, COLONEL GATSINZI,  
AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

MODERATE (SUBHEAD)

COLONEL MARCEL GATSINZI WAS KNOWN AS A POLITICALLY MODERATE  
OFFICER AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S DEATH ON 6 APRIL  
LAST. SUBSEQUENTLY, AT A TIME WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD HAD BEGUN

PROMOTED TO GENERAL AND APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF, UNDER THE  
AUTHORITY OF THE DE FACTO GOVERNMENT INSTALLED IN OFFICE BY THE  
MILITARY. BUT HE ONLY REMAINED 10 DAYS IN THE POST.

THE REASON WAS NO DOUBT HIS REPUTATION AS A MODERATE AND HIS  
REGIONAL ORIGINS. HE COMES FROM KIGALI IN THE CENTER-SOUTH OF THE  
COUNTRY, WHICH DENIED HIM THE CONFIDENCE OF THE NORTHERN EXTREMISTS  
OF HABYARIMANA'S ENTOURAGE. ALSO, SHORTLY AFTER BEING APPOINTED  
GENERAL, HE APPARENTLY DREW UP A REPORT EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES  
FOR A SOLUTION IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT  
(RPF) WHICH WENT ON THE MILITARY OFFENSIVE WHEN THE MASSACRES  
BEGAN.

HARDENING (SUBHEAD)

WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT ON 17 APRIL, MARCEL GATSINZI WAS  
SIDELINED. IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR, THIS GENERAL WAS APPOINTED  
DIRECTOR OF A SCHOOL FOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE SOUTH OF  
THE COUNTRY. HE WAS REPLACED AS CHIEF OF STAFF BY COLONEL AUGUSTIN  
BIZIMUNGU, A NORTHERN "HAWK" PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL FOR THE  
OCCASTON. COLONEL BIZIMUNGU GOVERNED THE MILITARY REGION OF  
RUHENGURI AT THE TIME OF THE MASSACRE OF THE BABOGWES TUTSI PASTORS,  
IN EARLY 1991, IN WHICH THE RWANDAN ARMY WAS INVOLVED.

THIS HARDENING WAS GENERALLY APPARENT. THE SAME DAY, THEODORE  
SINDIKUGWABO, THE DE FACTO "PRESIDENT" WHO WAS NOT RECOGNIZED BY  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, RETURNED TO HIS REGION OF ORIGIN -- THE  
SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD SO FAR BEEN SPOOLED OF THE WAR AND THE  
MASSACRES -- TO LAUNCH THE GENOCIDE. RWANDA THEN BECAME AN IMMENSE  
SLAUGHTERHOUSE. THERE WAS NO QUESTION HERE OF ONE GROUP FIGHTING  
AGAINST ANOTHER. THE UNARMED VICTIMS HAD NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

NEGOTIATIONS (SUBHEAD)

THE RPF WAS ABLE TO GET TO KNOW GENERAL GATSINZI WHEN, IN THE  
COURSE OF THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, HE WAS CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING WITH  
THE GUERRILLAS, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THESE  
NEGOTIATIONS FAILED AND HABYARIMANA'S ROUTED ARMY FLED TO ZAIRE.

WHEN GATSINZI DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY LAST FALL WITH  
OTHER OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS THEY WERE SENT TO MILITARY CAMPS FOR  
TRAINING BY THE RPF WHICH REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RANK OF GENERAL  
BESTOWED UPON GATSINZI BY THE (ILLEGAL) AUTHORITIES OF THE GENOCIDE.  
THIS TRAINING IS NOW COMPLETE, BUT NOT WITHOUT HAVING CAUSED SOME  
CONCERN AMONG THE RPF'S GOVERNMENT PARTNERS WHO HAD RECEIVED NO NEWS  
OF THESE SOLDIERS.

IT WAS ALSO LEARNED DURING WEDNESDAY'S CEREMONY THAT ANOTHER  
OFFICER FROM HABYARIMANA'S FORMER FORCE, COLONEL DEGRATIAS  
NDIBVAMI, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENDARMERIE. HE  
IS SECONDED BY AN OFFICER FROM THE RPF, COLONEL KAYUMBA NYAMAWASA.  
COLONEL GATSINZI HIMSELF SECONDS AN OFFER OF THE RPF, COLONEL SAM  
KAKA. THIS "CROSSED" DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE  
ARUSHA ACCORDS SIGNED BETWEEN THE HABYARIMANA REGIME AND THE RPF  
BEFORE THE GENOCIDE. THE DECISIONS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK ARE  
THEREFORE UNDOUBTEDLY A MOVE TOWARD RECONCILIATION.

JUST UNDER A THOUSAND OTHER SOLDIERS OF HABYARIMANA'S FORMER  
FORCE ARE AT PRESENT BEING TRAINED FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE NEW  
RWANDAN ARMY, WHILE SOME 200 OF HABYARIMANA'S SOLDIERS HAVE  
"RECENTLY" LEFT ZAIRE TO RETURN TO RWANDA, ACCORDING TO KIGALI, AND  
HAVE ALSO JUST BEGAN THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE  
NEW ARMY. THERE ARE SOME 30,000 REFUGEE RWANDAN SOLDIERS IN ZAIRE.

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