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Impressions On Pre-Genocide Rwanda Conflict

Not Available

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SUBJECT: HON. AGARD DIDI'S IMPRESSION OF THE RWANDA
CONFLICT AND PROPOSED REMEDIES.

1.1 HON. DIDI ACCOMPANIED THE 2ND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HON. SSEMOGERERE TO
RWANDA ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF
THE HOST GOVERNMENT. AFTER TOURING RWANDA HE
MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.:-

1.2 SINCE THE START OF THE WAR RWANDA HAS DEPLOYED
MASSIVE MANPOWER ON ALL THE STRATEGIC HILLS ALONG
THE RWANDA UGANDA BORDER. THE POPULATIONS ARE
WELL-DRUMMED WITH ANTI-RPF, ANTI-TUTSI AND ANTI-
UGANDA GOVERNMENT RHETORIC.

IT IS ALMOST SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE RPF CANNOT
WIN THE WAR GIVEN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BRAIN-WASHING
OF THE POPULATION.

1.3 MUCH CASE IS BEING MADE OF UGANDANS, AND IN
PARTICULAR THE BAHIMA TRIBE, OF SUPPORT AND
SYMPATHY FOR THEIR FELLOW PASTORALISTS, THE
BATUTSI.

1.4 THE ARGUMENT ABOUT LACK OF LAND TO RESETTLE THE
REFUGEES IS A PRETEXT TO DENY THE TUTSI ENTRY.

1.5 RWANDA ACCUSES UGANDA NOT ONLY FOR PROVIDING
MILITARY WARES TO THE RPF BUT ALSO FOOD AND
SANCTUARY, FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION INSIDE RWANDA
IS UNSUPPORTIVE OF THEM OR IF ANYTHING FEAR THE
ATROCITIES THEY COMMIT.

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1.6 THE MAJOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS APPEAR ALL TOO CONVINCED ABOUT UGANDA'S COMPLICITY IN SUPPORT OF THE RPF.

1.7 THE TUTSI LEADERSHIP IS BEING CALLED PROTESTANT LED AND THE CATHOLIC CLERGY SEEM TO BE USING THIS AS A RALLYING POINT OF THE PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC HUTUS.

1.8 IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, RWANDA NOW USES THE ROUTE THROUGH TANZANIA AND IS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO UGANDA BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE TUTSI LOBBY IN UGANDA MAY MAKE AN EARLY NORMALISATION DIFFICULT.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 THE TWO LEADERS SHOULD MEET PRIVATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY, WITHOUT THIRD PARTY INTERMEDIARIES, TO RE-ESTABLISH MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TACKLE ISSUES OF TENSION, REAL OR APPARENT.

2.2 UGANDA SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO SHOW HOW DIVERSE MILITARY AND POLITICAL FORCES CAN BE MADE TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP EASE THE RWANDA FEAR OF PROPING THE TUTSI FOR LEADERSHIP ONLY.

2.3 THE BORDER SHOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY OPENED AND ESCORTS PROVIDED FOR ALL TRANSIT CARGO SO AS TO FORSTER GREATER CONFIDENCE ON THE LIFE-LINE ROUTE.

2.4 UGANDA SHOULD SUPPORT THE KBO BY CLEARING ITS ARREARS NOW STANDING AT OVER US\$ 2 MILLION.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 IT IS THE BELIEF IN RWANDA THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY ALONE HAS THE STATURE AND CAPACITY TO EXERT THE GREATEST INFLUENCE OVER THE WAR AT THE BORDER AND THE BEST PLACED PERSON TO INFLUENCE THE RPF LEADERSHIP.

3.2 IF THE PAPER APPEARS PRO-RWANDA, HON. DIDI INTENDED IT TO BE SO THEREBY PIN-POINTING THE AREAS THAT IF ADDRESSED COULD NOT ONLY ANSWER THE RWANDA ACCUSATIONS BUT ALSO PRESENT UGANDA'S CASE TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A BIASED WORLD ASSESSMENT.

31/1/92.