Print Message(s)

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(U) BURUNDI: BUYOYA TRYING TO REASSURE TUTSI AS OF 0500Z 9 MAR 00

1. (C) PRESIDENT BUYOYA IS STRUGGLING TO CALM TUTSI REACTION TO FACILITATOR NELSON MANDELA'S RECOMMENDATION LAST MONTH AT THE PEACE TALKS IN ARUSHA THAT BUYOYA ALLOW A 50-50 SPLIT BETWEEN HUTU AND TUTSI IN THE ARMY. CONCERN IN THE TUTSI-DOMINATED MILITARY ABOUT

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
LOSING JOBS TO HUTU REBELS COULD DERAIL THE TALKS AND THREATEN THE STABILITY OF BUYOYA'S GOVERNMENT.

- -- MANDELA ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT BUYOYA CRAFT AN AMNESTY POLICY AND CONSIDER ABDICATING POWER.
- -- TUTSI EXTREMIST GROUPS LAST WEEK RAILED AGAINST MANDELA'S REMARKS IN THE LARGEST ANTI-ARUSHA PROTEST TO DATE.

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4. A MANDELA VISIT TO BURUNDI IS CRITICAL TO CONTINUING THE
PEACE
PROCESS ANOTHER ARUSHA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH.
MANDELA COULD BRING ON BOARD TUTSI EXTREMISTS FROM THE SMALLER

PARTIES AND MILITIAS THAT ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT

COULD SPOIL IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ACCORD. (DERIVED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES; DECLASSIFY ON X1)

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