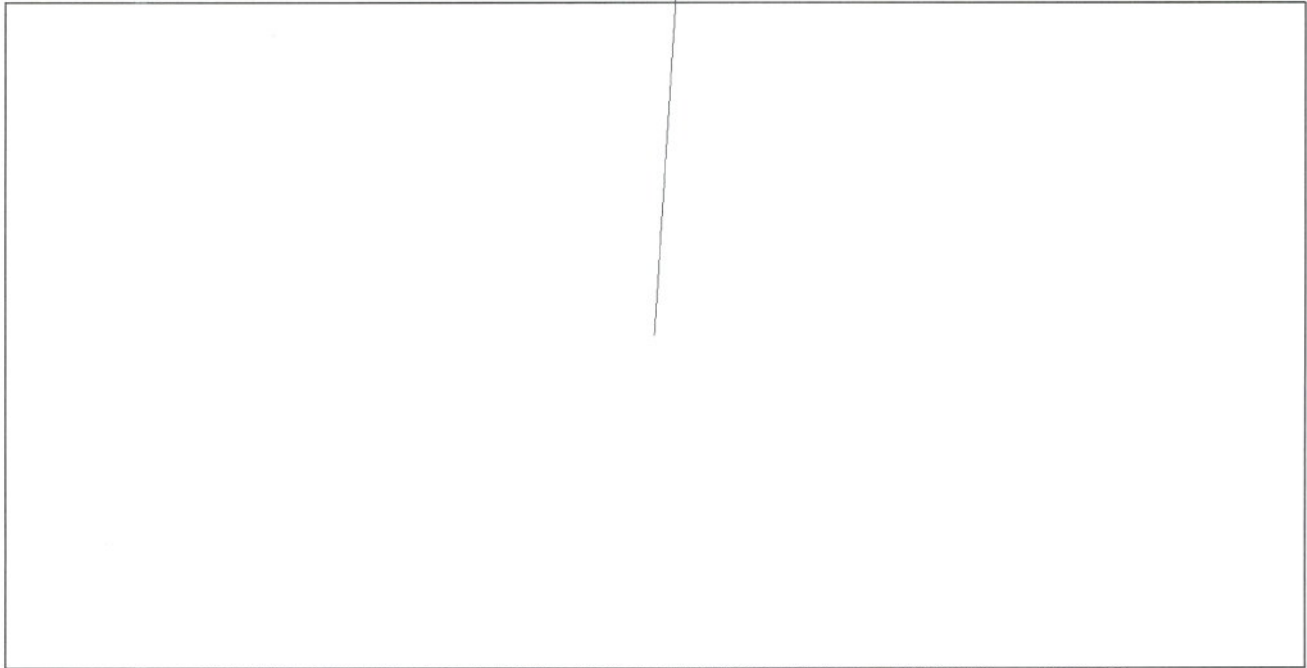


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SERIAL: (U)
COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF); BURUNDI (BY).

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SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN ADVANCE PARTY

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ARRIVES IN BURUNDI FOR PEACE KEEPING DUTIES (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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DOI: (U) 20011029.

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "PRETORIA NEWS", PRETORIA,
SOUTH AFRICA, 011029 (U), ENGLISH, VIEWED AS POLITICALLY
MODERATE, HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST.

SUMMARY: (U) THE FIRST UNITS OF SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF) TROOPS ARRIVED IN BURUNDI ON SUNDAY 28
OCTOBER. THEIR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR
RETURNING POLITICAL EXILES.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

2. (U) OUT OF THE TOTAL OF 701 TROOPS THAT WILL BE SENT TO
BURUNDI TO PROTECT ABOUT 150 RETURNING POLITICAL LEADERS, 240
LEFT YESTERDAY, ANOTHER 240 WILL LEAVE ON THE 30TH, AND THE
REST ON THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER. THE TROOPS WILL PLAY A
PEACEKEEPING ROLE AND ENFORCE THE DEAL BROKERED BY NELSON
((MANDELA)), WHICH WILL ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR POWER SHARING
GOVERNMENT STARTING IN NOVEMBER.

3. (U) SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT WATERKLOOF AFB IN PRETORIA,
REAR ADMIRAL DENNIS ((FORREST)) SAID THAT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE
THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD AVOID USING FORCE, BUT WOULD DEFEND
THEMSELVES IF THE NEED AROSE. "WE WILL PLAY A SUPPORT AND
PROTECTION ROLE AND USE NO FORCE." "WE ARE IN DIRECT SUPPORT
OF MANDELA'S CALL FOR PEACE." THE FIRST UNITS TO BE DEPLOYED
WILL SPEND A MAXIMUM OF SIX MONTHS IN THE CAPITAL, BUJUMBURA,
AND ARE COMMANDED BY GENERAL STEVEN ((KOB)).

4. (U) ONE OF THE DEPLOYING OFFICERS, LTC BONGANI
((MBATHA)), A FORMER MK SOLDIER AND NOW A "PEACE SOLDIER",
SAID THAT DURING HIS YEARS AS A FREEDOM FIGHTER HE NEVER
THOUGHT THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD BE HELPING OTHER COUNTRIES
ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY. "WHEN I THINK BACK, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE
HAVE DONE IT (DEMOCRACY) AND TODAY I AM GOING TO HELP ANOTHER
ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY; I AM PROUD OF DOING THIS." "I WANT TO
HELP OTHER COUNTRIES AVOID GOING THROUGH WHAT WE WENT
THROUGH
DURING APARTHEID."

5. (U) THE TROOPS THAT ARRIVED IN BURUNDI YESTERDAY WILL BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR FOLLOW-ON ARRIVALS
- BUYING PROVISIONS, ARRANGING KITCHENS, SHOWERS AND TENTS
AHEAD OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE REST OF THE BATTALION.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

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