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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. AUGUSTINE S. MUTABARUKA CONCERNING RUANDA-RUANDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of
procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Mr. Augustine S. MUTABARUKA,
B.P. No. 30
K I G A L I,
Ruanda-Urundi.

28 January 1958

The Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories,
NEW YORK

Dear Sir,

Re: Your Ref. - T/PET.3/85.

Having informed me in your Communication of 1 August 1957 that discussion on my petition would be effected in January 1958, I humbly remind you to transmit to me as soon as possible, the decision adopted by the Council and a record of the views given by the different representatives.

Should the discussion have not yet started,^{1/} it should be added to my points that through the fifty years we have been under the Belgian Government my country has up to this day no University graduate save a number less than a dozen students now in Belgium. Even all of these are not there on Government bursaries but on the goodwill of some kind Benefactors.

If the Council is there to see that justice is done it should ask the British and perhaps the French Government, to give what exact number there is of University

1/ Note by the Secretariat: Mr. Mutabaruka's previous petitions T/PET.3/83 and 85 were examined by the Council at its XVII and XXIst sessions respectively. The texts of resolutions 1380 (XVII) and 1794 (XXI), together with relevant documents, were forwarded to him.

graduates or other holders of diplomas of higher education, in Tanganyika, Togo and other Trust Territories, and then invite the Belgian representative to give his own report thus enabling the Council to compare the efforts made by the Administering Authorities. Remember that all Trust territories should relatively be on the same footing in that they were all handed to the present rulers almost at the same epoch.

Further, the Council should inquire if all the highly educated people in other Trust territories were uniquely educated in the Metropole of their respective Administering Countries. When it is found that some were educated in outside countries the Council might well consider what Colonial policies we have over here.

If only the Council could secure for us we people of Ruanda-Urundi facilities and access to higher education in Overseas Countries it will have accomplished almost the whole of its duty towards us. Without this it will be serving others' interest and not ours.

After I had submitted my petition to you I made another advance to the Governor of our Territory asking him to allow me to persue my studies in Belgium instead of Elisabethville in the Belgian Congo as he had previously proposed me. He replied saying that he had no objection to that although, he went on, he had first to ask the accord of the Minister of Colonies. This was in September 1957 yet I have to this day never known the Minister's decision despite my repeated request for a reply. I particularly mention this as the Council might be told by the Representative that I was given the opportunity of going to Belgium and refused it. Moreover, I would accept to go to Belgium as an alternative measure but my original desire remains America where I would study in English. So if once again my petition fails and I am only accepted to go to Belgium I will accept without a murmur.

This time I did not fill new Application forms as I hoped that the previous ones I submitted through the American Consulate at Leopoldville had been shelved.

I am attaching hereto Copies of the Correspondance that passed between the Governor of our Territory and myself. In one of his letters you will note his misunderstanding of the conditions necessary for the award of these scholarships. He contends that the United Nations Bursaries are only reserved for University graduates who might wish to specialize in a certain field of study but in reality

/...

anyone who has completed a Secondary School education and who is fully conversant in the lingua franca of the country to which he intends to go, is readily acceptable. Such are the conditions stipulated by the United States Government.

With regard to Educational position, Ruanda is by far the most backward country in Africa; and it is up to you to remedy this.

Hoping that you will not fail to let me hear from you as soon as possible. I thank you in anticipation and beg to remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

...(Illegible)

AUGUSTINE S. MUTABARUKA

Note by the Secretariat:

The petitioner encloses copies of his letters to the Vice-Governor General of Ruanda-Urundi, dated 28 August and 7 November 1956, in which he applies for financial assistance from the Belgian Government to achieve higher education, and where he states in particular:

"My going to seek for higher education in another country other than my own country came about when after completing six years of Primary school in 1947 Catholic priests denied me the opportunity to go to Astrida for higher education, under the motive that my parents were not upright Catholics. Knowing the value of education, I went to a foreign country where I was accepted readily. So, you understand that I did not leave my country on my own accord but just as a last resort."

He also encloses a copy of another letter to the Vice-Governor General dated 20 November 1956, refusing, for reasons of language, the Resident's offer to assign him to the Pre-University Section at Elisabethville.

The petitioner further encloses the following two letters addressed to him by the Vice-Governor General in March and September 1957:

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Usumbura, 11 March 1957
No. 81/02000/603

TERRITORY OF RUANDA URUNDI

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Re: letter of 20 November 1956

To: Mr. Augustine Mutabaruka
P.O. Box 82, KIGALI

Sir,

I beg to refer to your letter of 20 November last in which you informed me of your desire to undertake higher studies in the United States of America.

I do not feel that I can encourage your plan. It seems to me that the scholarships for study abroad should be reserved for young people who have already successfully completed their university studies in their own country and to whom further studies in foreign institutions may be of real value.

Furthermore, it does not seem to me that your poor knowledge of French would effectively prevent your continuing your studies locally.

I have the honour to be etc.

Jean-Paul HARROY
...(illegible)
Vice-Governor General,
Governor of Ruanda-Urundi

N.B.

Kindly send these back to me after consultation. Thanks

/...

Usumbura, 13 September 1957

Mr. Augustine Matabaruka,
P.O. Box 30,
KIGALI

Sir,

On 22 August last I received your letter applying for a scholarship to continue your studies at the Institut Supérieur de Commerce at Antwerp.

I am favourably disposed towards your proposal and am supporting it with the Minister of Colonies at Brussels, whose agreement I am seeking, asking him also to look into the question of arrangements for your possible journey to Belgium, your stay there and your studies in Antwerp.

I shall not fail to inform you of his reply as soon as I receive it.

I have the honour to be etc.

Jean-Paul HARROY

...(illegible)

Vice-Governor General,

Governor of Ruanda-Urundi
