

COMMUNICATION FROM BARUNDI STUDENTS AT LEOPOLDVILLE
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Leopoldville, 9 November 1960

Impassioned appeal to the Belgian Government and to all
men of good will

Is it not our duty, as Barundi, in this troubled period of the history of our country, to give Belgian opinion and international opinion clear and precise information on the origin of the evil which is ravaging our beloved country, and to propose concrete solutions to mitigate the DISASTER and CATASTROPHE which are imminent?

We appeal first to the Belgian Government, since we are sure that some of its representatives in Ruanda-Urundi, and not the least important of them, have failed in their task and betrayed their mission and cannot be approved by the metropolitan country, unless the latter has been misinformed. We refuse to believe that the valiant Belgian people, a peace-loving people, a Christian people, can endorse the shameful policy of Mr. Jean-Paul Harroy, the Resident General. The confidence of the Murundi people in the Belgian Government should continue and increase, and would continue and increase if this Government solemnly condemned the iniquitous actions of Mr. Harroy and his associates.

The following are the principal grievances against the trusteeship Administration:

1. Mr. Harroy has committed the serious error of believing that the only method of persuading the Negro is to confront him with brute force. He is totally ignorant of the value of discussion and considers it pointless to consult the people under his administration, upon whom he purely and simply imposes his decisions, which are sometimes confusing, without taking the trouble to adapt his methods to the true interests of the indigenous inhabitants.

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2. A typical example is the establishment of the Provincial Administrators. This institution, by its non-political character, at least according to the Declaration of 10 November 1959, corresponds to a real administrative need, and as such, can only be welcomed. In practice, however, this institution immediately ceases to be non-political. The new Administrators are the POLITICAL tools of Mr. Harroy. To be convinced of this, it is sufficient to examine closely the list of Provincial Administrators. The method of recruitment has all the appearance of fairness, but only the appearance. The candidates should have been selected by examination. Strange to say, however, only three of the seventeen successful Uprondists (members of UPRONA, the party of UNION and NATIONAL PROGRESS) were appointed Administrators, and they were intentionally sent to Usumbura, where they will have little influence, since the interior is the preserve of the P.D.C. (Parti Démocratique Chrétien), which is in league with Mr. Harroy. Thanks to these new Administrators, Mr. Harroy hopes to reach future electors more easily, or rather to humble the recalcitrants in accordance with his notorious policy of firmness. This firmness, however, no longer deceives anyone; its outline can already be traced and its direction is obvious. The recalcitrants, the trouble-makers, the COMMUNISTS, those who endanger public order, always happen to be those who are most vigorously defending the interests of the Nation, those who are revealing to the eyes of the public the injustices, unfortunately all too numerous, of the trusteeship Administration.

3. What are we to think of the arbitrary arrest of Prince Louis RWAGASORE, who is at present under house arrest? By this extreme and provocative step, taken on the eve of the communal elections, Mr. Harroy hoped to bring the progress of UPRONA to an abrupt halt and if possible to annihilate it, for the benefit of his friends the P.D.C. The prestige and popularity of the Prince are such that Mr. Harroy's action would normally have provoked a large-scale uprising of the population, especially at Usumbura. Mr. Harroy had laid his plans and was ready to take advantage of the NEW SITUATION. The Burundi reacted to this satanic policy of force with traditional Murundi wisdom: "WAMANYAMA ARASARA NTASABA, LET US KEEP CALM". Unbelievable.

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All this shows sufficiently how little the trusteeship Administration, or rather certain individuals in this Administration, headed by the Resident General, Jean-Paul Harroy, are concerned about the well-being of the population for whose interests they are responsible.

Consequently we suggest, as solutions to this unhappy situation:

1. The immediate REPATRIATION of the Resident General of Ruanda-Urundi, his militia and his guilty advisors, though this does not preclude more suitable replacements. In making those replacements the Belgian Government should consider the interests of the indigenous population as well as those of the Belgians in Ruanda-Urundi, and perhaps even before these interests. This would be the only firm guarantee of collaboration between Belgians and Barundi.

2. Regular CONSULTATION of the Barundi people, whenever the future of the country is at issue. This means that the Administration should henceforth refrain from imposing assumptions or speculations concerning the future CONSTITUTION of the country, since this is within the sole competence of the legally constituted Assemblies. Only the CONSTITUTION, the expression of the people's will is competent to decide on questions such as the exclusion of the Royal Princes from political life. Meanwhile, their exclusion constitutes SHAMEFUL FRAUD against democracy.

3. The ESTABLISHMENT by the Belgian Government, in the same spirit, of an INTEGRAL COMMISSION, composed of a certain number of Barundi and of representatives of Belgium, to follow closely the political evolution of Barundi with a view to guiding the country towards independence with as few disturbances and as much harmony as possible. In this Commission we should need persons of established competence and recognized integrity. To use a term which has become well known, we should need TECHNICIANS.

In conclusion, we would point out to the Belgian leaders that the best antidote to COMMUNISM, which is so feared and so decried, is not HATRED or DIVISION, but PROGRESS in ORDER, HARMONY and PEACE.

(Signed): Barundi Students at Leopoldville
