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COMMUNICATION FROM MR. A. JEAN-B. SIMBAVIMBERE  
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI.

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UPRONA COALITION-D.N.B.

PDJTB - Parti Conservateur

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Central Prison, Usumbura, 17/11/60.

Copies sent for information to:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, United Nations, NEW YORK.

The Minister for African Affairs, BRUSSELS.

The Procureur du Roi responsible for Burundi affairs, USUMBURA.

To the legal profession of Ruanda-Urundi, through the courtesy of Mr. F. JAMAR, Lawyer at the Court of Appeal of Ruanda-Urundi, USUMBURA.

The Burundi settlers, through Mr. F. DELCROIX, USUMBURA.

Mr. BOSSAERTS, USUMBURA.

LA CHRONIQUE CONGOLAISE, USUMBURA.

To: The Resident-General,  
USUMBURA  
c/o the District Administrator,  
USUMBURA

OBJECTION TO THE DECISION OF 14/11/60 taken by Mr. DEFAYS, Deputy Resident of Burundi.

"Detention in supervised residence SIMBAVIMBERE"

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I, the undersigned, SIMBAVIMBERE Arthur Jean-Baptiste, a member of the above-mentioned coalition and Chairman of the "DEMOCRATIE NATIONALE DU BURUNDI" - "ARATUHURANA" party, hereby declare my categorical objection to the decision taken by Mr. Defays, which was reached without my having been heard and I continue:

- the reason for this decision is just the same as that in the case of Prince RWAGASORE Louis and all the political leaders of the coalition, and its few propagandists are suffering the same sort of persecution more or less throughout the Burundi districts and for the same reasons or suspicions.

The state of emergency or the administrative measure to which certain members of the aforesaid coalition are subject is only disguised dictatorship or despotism. And I think that in no legal system of any nation whatever could there be any conceivable legal justification for such cases. Justice is one and it is international. If, in this context, justice existed, or was independent, in Ruanda-Urundi, we should ask to be heard and to have justice applied to us, as is our right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The question of Prince RWAGASORE L. is the most disgraceful case, both for the dynasty and for the whole of Burundi, a country with a monarchical system; it is the only means of sabotaging the peace, calm and prestige of the State perhaps in order to achieve the same result as in present-day Ruanda. I know that the Brussels talks were only consultative and not representative in character. I would add, however, that even the few members of the opposition who represented nothing at the time never thought that the result of their voting would be supervised residence for the Prince. I even think that these same voting members, whatever their party affiliation, would not hesitate to retract their votes, in a

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spirit of pure patriotism, in order to safeguard national calm and prestige and their country's ruling dynasty; at least the majority of them would do so in order to ensure the Prince's complete freedom throughout his Burundi.

In our press conferences at Brussels, directed to the Belgian people, and at Geneva, in which we made an appeal to the free world, we spoke of the intrigues of a clique of some highly placed officials with all the appearance of dictators, whose number was cited by Mr. Bossaerts in his article in the Chronique Congolaise on the attitude of these individuals to Ruanda-Urundi and to the case of the Prince. Is this terrorism, as we have said? ...

Ruanda's experience provides an example of what we have been saying. Every monarchist party which favours independence is within a short time automatically accused of feudalism and communism. And I should also say that, on the other hand, any party in the pay of a colonialist, imperialist and terrorist Administration is Freemason. From all this my only conclusion can be "give a dog a bad name and hang him".

I shall never believe that feudalism is on a par with communism!!! Two parallel lines never meet. In the end "QUID QUID LATET APAREBIT".

It is just now, when the elections are approaching, that the majority of the influential members of our coalition are either in prison or under supervised residence, or have escaped in terror; perhaps this is to demoralize our members in order to ensure that the same thing may happen in Urundi as happened in the neighbouring State of Ruanda? On the other hand, any member of a party in the pay of the Administration, whatever his position, is considered by those same high officials to be guileless or infallible.

- What have we not tried to do to show our spirit of understanding and our good will in our country's normal advancement towards independence? ... To prove that we are for democracy and against feudalism, and to safeguard the freedom of the electoral campaign and the elections, we were the most eager to hold discussions and to arrange for the elimination of the office of chief and sub-chief. But the result has not seemed any more encouraging ... They told us that the Provincial commissioners, administrators and secretaries who were to be appointed would be non-political, which is not at all the case:

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- (1) Contrary to the decision reached at the talks, they were appointed and imposed on the population, without even the Mwami's advice or consent;
- (2) It is they who attend not only to the registration of candidates but also to the publicity for the opposition parties paid from the same purse, especially the P.D.C., possibly on the orders of the high authorities, because these very authorities do nothing to stop this despite the many complaints - see the files at the disposal of Mr. Jamar and the Chairman of the mission for the supervision of the elections. They conduct the registrations with P.D.C. cards on the table in order to compel the members of UPRONA and the coalition to exchange them for the cards of their respective party.

I make all the most strict reservations about recognizing the legality and freedom of the foregoing electoral campaign and its outcome. For there is no limit on registrations for the P.D.C. but only for the other parties, especially UPRONA and the COALITION. That same party can hold political rallies with loudspeakers, but the others cannot.

We urge that a more equitable election campaign, with the assistance of a United Nations and Belgian mission to supervise it, should be recommended, because the present campaign has been falsified by abuse and pressure tactics.

I conclude by begging all the authorities concerned to consider the question raised in the foregoing and to take equitable and wholly impartial action as quickly as possible or at their best convenience.

RESPECTS  
(Signed) (Illegible)

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SIMBAVIMBERE A. Jean-B.

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