

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

UN LIBRARY

NOV 8 1960

UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
LIMITED

T/COM.3/L.46
13 October 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. E. KANYABASHI, MR. L. MUNYANGEYO, MR. E. AHORUKOMEYE
AND MR. M. NDAYI CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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

Ruhengeri,
10 August 1960

The President of the Belgian Parliament,
Brussels

Copies for information to: the Secretary-General of the United Nations
the Resident-General of Ruanda-Urundi
H.M. Mwami Kigeri V of Ruanda

Sir,

We have the honour to enclose a petition concerning the policy of the Belgian Government in Ruanda-Urundi, with which policy it has become truly impossible for us to co-operate.

It seems evident to us that if it is the desire of the United Nations to establish lasting peace and tranquillity, which are absent in our country, the Administering Authority has disregarded, not to say dismissed with scorn, the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. Or, alternatively, the latter is in agreement with the metropolitan country to crush our cause, leaving us without recourse.

If neither of these hypotheses is correct, we do not think it possible that we should be left plunged in misery without any improvement of our plight.

That is why, in order to obtain more favourable results, we finally determined to forward to you the enclosed proposals for effective measures to be immediately adopted, failing which we shall ourselves take extreme action, using

every means of national defence, and shall do so before September 1960, our patience being at an end.

We have the honour to be, etc.

(All signatures: illegible)

E. KANYABASHI, L. MUNYANGEYO, E. AHORUKOMEYE, M. NDAYI

Ruandese patriots independent
of political parties.

Ruhengeri,
10 August 1960

The Belgian Parliament,
Brussels

Copies for information: the Secretary-General of the United Nations
the Resident-General of Ruanda-Urundi
H.M. the Mwami Kigeri V of Ruanda

In view of the indisputably destructive policy followed by Belgium in Ruanda since the events of November 1959;

In view of the protests, more numerous than vigorous, made by certain nationalist parties (in particular the UNAR) to the competent Belgian authorities against this deadly policy;

Whereas the competent Belgian authorities close their eyes to the facts quite clearly laid before them in the petitions of the above-mentioned parties or of Ruandese patriots belonging to no political party;

Whereas these authorities, instead of solving the most urgent political problems posed by the catastrophic situation in which the Ruandese people are plunged, find nothing better to do than to lead Ruanda-Urundi more dangerously into endless troubles and to rely still further on the notorious policy of paternalism;

Whereas the trustee Government, led by Mr. Harroy, the Resident-General, wishing to sow discord among the Ruandese people in order to maintain Belgian trusteeship as long as possible, created the "Parmehutu-Aprosoma" political parties, paying very large sums of money to the leaders of these parties and favouring them to the utmost in the political and social spheres;

/...

Whereas this exaggerated favouritism has led to the burning down of countless houses belonging to the Banyarwanda, the plundering of property, massacres, the summary judgement of UNAR members or sympathizers and infliction of excessive penalties upon them, and has caused thousands to abandon their property and take refuge;

In view of the military occupation by which the Government led by the Special Resident holds special powers, institutes a policy of intimidation, allows military abuses to be committed by the Belgian paratroopers, who rape women and girls, wipe out human lives for no reason by gunfire, almost with regularity, orders compulsory communal elections, takes into consideration the decisions of the Special Interim Council, supposedly representative of the Ruandese people whereas it is made up of some four leaders of the "Parmehutu-Aprosoma" government parties;

In view of the establishment of currency of its own for Ruanda-Urundi planned by Mr. Harroy, the Resident-General of Ruanda-Urundi, without previous consultation of the indigenous representatives of Ruanda-Urundi, whose unanimous desire in this regard is to maintain the currency union with the Republic of the Congo;

In view of the conclusions and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council at its last session, held in June 1960, urging, among other things, national reconciliation by means of a general amnesty for acts committed in November 1959 at the time of the disturbances in Ruanda, the restoration of refugees to their places of origin and, where necessary, compensation for their property, a round-table political conference to be organized before October 1960, and the immediate dissolution of the Ruanda military Government - which recommendations have unfortunately not been followed in any respect;

Whereas the Government of Mr. Deschryder and Mr. Harroy is as usual closing its eyes to this praiseworthy solution, which could restore real tranquillity and order in the Trust Territory.

In view of the statements made by Mr. Harroy on his recent return from Belgium, which instead of bringing encouragement to the people of Ruanda-Urundi seemed to dismiss the hope of independence in the near future, showing the resolutions of the political parties on this subject to have been false rumours;

Whereas the trustee Government, determined by its hostile policy to put an end to the trusteeship, after sowing incurable disorder in Ruanda-Urundi, observing that the German colonialists had been cowardly to leave their colony without having done it any appreciable damage (a well-known fact, which is evident today);

Whereas the sober policy of the Ruandese people in the face of intense difficulties, constant bloodshed, the persistent burning down of thousands of houses, arbitrary arrests carried out all too frequently, the frequent raping of the aforesaid women and girls, the military Government's attempt at intimidation, leading inevitably to famine, the thousands of Banyarwanda perishing in the notorious receiving home at Nayamata or taking refuge abroad, has shown it to be the most extraordinarily patient of all nations, avoiding shedding the blood of Belgians at all costs;

Whereas the Belgian Government stubbornly pursues its political programme under which the events of November 1959 in Ruanda are to end by conferring all public responsibilities on the aforementioned government parties exclusively, in order to delay as long as possible the independence of Ruanda-Urundi yet falsely proclaiming that this is a struggle against Tutsi feudalism;

Whereas the Government parties which, in agreement with the trustee Government, are taking the necessary steps towards creating a republican Ruanda, being well aware that their members are loyal to the Mwami, do not dare to declare publicly their anti-royalist views for fear of losing the majority, if not all, of their supporters;

Whereas the fact that human rights in Ruanda have been not only ignored but progressively disregarded during the nation's years of minority will lead later, at the time of its full manhood, to a reciprocal attitude towards Belgium, the neighbouring Republic of the Congo being a striking example of this;

Whereas it is not too late to restrain in every form the hostile Belgian policy in Ruanda-Urundi the facts of which are outlined in the present declaration we venture to state the following conclusions:

I. The first essential is a general amnesty, which is destined to play a very important part in national reconciliation provided that it is brought about as soon as possible.

/...

II. The organization of a political conference, immediately after the general amnesty, composed of all the representatives of the political parties in Ruanda-Urundi, representatives of the Belgium Government and of the UN Commission, preferably to be held on the spot, before October 1960.

III. Refugees should be restored to their places of origin as soon as possible and security of life and property guaranteed to them.

IV. Evacuation of the Belgian commando is essential in order to set the peoples' fears at rest and restore law and order and above all to avoid the inhuman destruction of lives.

We again draw attention to, and voice our vigorous protests against, the fact that fire was opened on a number of unarmed Banyarwanda, who were innocent with regard to the disturbances these having been stirred up rather by the government parties and by the government officials themselves (the district administrators are the first to burn down houses, to shoot and terrorize the people).

V. We consider it a matter of urgency to prevent the creation of a currency for Ruanda-Urundi, for we are unanimously in favour of maintaining the currency union with the Republic of the Congo.

We venture to hope that the Belgian Parliament will examine the present statements more carefully than heretofore and will strive to rectify the policy of the Belgian trustee Government, thus enabling Belgium to enjoy friendly relations with Ruanda-Urundi on its accession to independence; failing this, we consider that the consequences which will ensue will be dangerous and most unfortunate both for us and for Belgium.

We end by expressing in advance our most cordial thanks for the attention that we feel sure you will give to these statements.

(all signatures illegible)

E. KANYABASHI

L. MUNYANGEYO

F. AHORUKOMEYE

M. NDAYI

Ruandese patriots independent of
political parties.