



GENERAL

T/PET.3/42
10 August 1951ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCHPETITION FROM EX-CHIEF NTUNGUKA
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, an undated communication from ex-chief Ntunguka concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

C O P Y

To the representatives of the
United Nations

Sirs,

I respectfully beg to inform you that I have served this country as Chief of a Chiefdom for thirty years (30). My father and my grandfather before me were also chiefs. On their arrival, the Belgians despoiled me of one hundred and ninety-three cows (193). In these thirty years they have given me nothing, not even fifty centimes.

I would request you not to leave me in this country but to take me elsewhere, and ^{to} send a European or some other person to count all my cows and list all my property, for if I am left here I am hardly likely to survive for very long.

My cows and those of the cowherds number six hundred. I have others scattered throughout the country totalling more than one thousand. But these need not be counted, for I shall make a detailed declaration of them should I return.

I wish to point out that I myself turned over the government of my Chiefdom of my own free will and on my own initiative without having committed any fault and without having been removed from office by the Administration.

At the time I had no child to succeed me in the Chiefdom but now I have a grown son who is sufficiently educated. I think that it should be possible for my son to succeed me in preference to a stranger.

My six hundred cows belong to me, but they have in fact been given to my subjects who benefit from them as much as they wish. I have documents for them, however. I have constantly complained to the Administration about this matter, but I would ask you to note that I have received no reply.

/The fact

The fact is that the power of our Mwami Mwambutsa no longer exists. All the power is in the hands of the Resident of Urundi, Mr. Schmidt. The persons favoured by the Resident have everything, while those whom he does not like fare ill in everything. All the chiefs were subject to the Mwami but they are not any longer because of the Resident.

I shall tell you the whole story in detail and submit documentary evidence at Kigali. Would you let me know what day you will go to Kigali.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Ex-Chief NTUNGUKA

Received by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa on 25 July 1951.