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PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BATUSI OF RUHAHE
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F
of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

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

HEARING GIVEN BY VISITING MISSION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BATUSI OF RUHAHE
on Monday, 26 July 1954 at 2.15 p.m. in the United Nations office, Usumbura.

Present: The Chairman, Mr. Aleksander (Principal Secretary), Representatives
of the Batusi of Ruhaha, Interpreter.

The petitioners stated through their interpreter that they wished to talk
about the land of Ruhaha and Bukarhi for the cows. In 1949 the government took
their land and now they have no other place where they can stay with their cows.
There were 300 men affected and the land had belonged to them since the German
administration. The government said it wanted to buy the land. The people
said they did not want to sell their land because if they did they would not
get any land for their cows, which number in all 7,000.

The government took their land to use for farms, and they do not like
the land which the government gave them in exchange. They know their cows will
die because the government gave them land near hills and they don't like to
stay near hills. It is not good grass or water and there are many tsetse flies.
A European named Mae has come from the Congo to dig sugar cane on their present
land and the government says they must go away.

The petitioners stated that they were very glad to see the Mission, but that when it goes back to New York, they will be in great difficulties with the Belgian government, which doesn't like them to converse with the Mission. They asked the Mission to arrange the question of their cows on the spot.

The petitioners added that they had had trouble before. Sekarhahu stayed in prison for seven days because he refused to change his place. Kigaga went to prison for four days, Kamanda for seven days and Misteya for seven days over the land question.

They also stated that one day the authorities had taken Mohigi of Kihangu by force and put ink on his finger and then put his finger on paper, but that he did not know the meaning of this. If it is about the land, the Belgian government will say that he said to sell and that he signed, but this is not so. The man did not like to be told to put ink on his finger and be told that he would have to go to the Belgian Congo. Some have fear and they have put their fingers on the paper, but others have refused to do so. However, nobody has yet been sent away to the Belgian Congo. They asked also that the Mission see Mr. Ntunguka who is in prison.

Representatives of the Batusi of Ruhahe: Mavungu, Segashaho, Rusharabika, Bukashi, Katoto, Johnson and Ruhara.

Interpreter:

Bigiranga.

Received at United Nations Headquarters on 24 August 1954 through the Visiting Mission.