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PETITION FROM MR. J.B. KIBIBIRO CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Nyanza, Ruanda 17 June 1960

Subject: Report of 23 May 1960

Copy transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the assurances of my gratitude and highest esteem

The General Chairman, Members of the United Nations,

With reference to the doings of the Belgian Government on 23 May 1960 in all the places of residence of the Royal Family of Ruanda, I have the honour respectfully to inform you that this behaviour obliges me in my capacity as a Munyarwanda to protest vigorously for the following reasons:

1. In violation of the colonial Charter and of the Charter of the United Nations, the Belgian Government, which is at present the trustee of Ruanda-Urundi, has without justification taken the liberty of searching the palace of the late Mwami Ch. L.P. Mutara Rudahigwa, all its various apartments, the present residence of the reigning Mwami J.B. Kigeri V Ndahindurwa, even searching his bed and not sparing the residences of the Queen Mothers, the one-time wives of King Yushi Musinga, and all their offspring. This demonstrates the Belgians' failure to understand and collaborate generously with the Banyarwanda.

2. Every Munyarwanda, whoever he may be, is outraged by these doings and cannot support a Government which so dishonours our King and our people.

On behalf of the people of Ruanda I forward to you this regrettable report, calling upon you to re-establish peace and to put a stop to the unceasing catastrophes of which this people is a victim.

3. In conclusion I should like to add that the day of 23 May 1960 demonstrated to me once more that the Belgian Government, which considered itself our protector and the guide of our destinies, was guilty of an injustice in taking away from me my files which I had recovered from Mr. Baltus, a Government attorney at Usumbura, as well as my work cards dating back to the time of the German Government in Ruanda-Urundi, the reason being that my attorney had plotted with the Belgian Government to refuse me the sum which I had claimed in the Higher Courts. All of this had been placed for safekeeping in the palace of Mwami Kigeri V, for fear, as always, of Belgian injustice and in the knowledge that the Mwami was exempt from any kind of search.

I hope to have a favourable response to my request, which I shall summarize as follows:

- (a) Who has the power to search the Mwami in his palace?
- (b) Please recover for me my files and my work cards, which I must turn over to a new attorney for study. The amount of the money which I am trying to recover is 5,680,000 francs.

Mr. General Chairman and Members of the United Nations, I should be grateful if you would find me an attorney who is not a Belgian.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Illegible
J.B. KIBIBIRO
Munyiginya Hill (Rwamagana)
Chefferie Buganza Sud
Kibungo District

The Secretary-General
The United Nations
New York
