

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

NOV 7 1960

UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
LIMITED

T/PET.3/L.57

12 October 1960

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PETITION FROM HIS HIGHNESS KIGELI V, MWAMI OF RUANDA
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
BY HIS HIGHNESS KIGELI V, MWAMI OF RUANDA

When Belgium received from the League of Nations, and later the United Nations, the mandate to exercise trusteeship over Ruanda under the supervision of the international organization, that Power was fully capable of carrying out the international mission entrusted to it.

Such is not the case today. As a result of the events which have occurred in the Congo, Belgium has neither the means nor even the qualifications required for the successful accomplishment of that mission.

(1) The decision of the Security Council to entrust to the Secretary-General the responsibility of ensuring order and public safety in the Congo and the replacement of Belgian troops by United Nations Forces has had several consequences for Belgium:

(a) Since the United Nations considered the policy of Belgium to be likely to endanger world peace, it is hardly conceivable that Belgium will be able to retain the confidence of the United Nations in Ruanda and to pursue there a policy in conformity with United Nations instructions.

(b) The wave of disapproval and even hostility towards Belgium which is spreading in all parts of the Congo is in the eyes of the African continent a major factor which deprives that Power of the unquestioned moral authority necessary for the exercise of a United Nations mandate.

(c) The loss of prestige and the reduction in material strength sustained by Belgium as a result of the events in the Congo are so extensive that Belgium no longer has the power to discharge effectively the international obligations entrusted to it in Ruanda.

(2) The breaking off of diplomatic relations between the Congo and Belgium has had the effect of completely isolating Belgium from the African continent. Its own interests in the Congo have had to be entrusted to a third Power, France. It is difficult to see how a country which no longer has even the means to defend its own interests in Africa could continue to exercise responsibility for foreign interests in a part of the African continent. It could only do so in future on its own behalf, since it is no longer able to maintain normal diplomatic relations with a State bordering on Ruanda.

(3) The confidence which African peoples might have had in the capacity of Belgium to lead an African nation to independence in an orderly manner has definitely been shaken. The peoples of Ruanda are justly perturbed by such incapacity and are afraid of seeing their country plunged into the same chaos as the Congo, since the methods employed in Ruanda are no better than those chosen for the Congo.

In the circumstances His Highness KIGELI V, the Mwami of Ruanda, feels compelled to request the United Nations to take immediately the necessary steps:

- (a) to withdraw from Belgium the mandate entrusted to it and to take direct action to lead Ruanda to independence in order and security;
- (b) to replace the Belgian troops stationed in Ruanda by United Nations Forces;
- (c) to organize under United Nations supervision the necessary free and democratic elections for the setting up of new institutions.

Done at Leopoldville on 10 August 1960

(Signed): KIGELI V
