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PETITION FROM THE "PARTI DE L'UNITE ET DU PROGRES NATIONAL (UPRONA)"
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2 of the rules
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KIRARANGANYA, Boniface
c/o ORGANISING SECRETARY GENERAL
T.A.N.U. - H.Q.
P.O. Box 5191
DAR ES SALAAM

Tabora, 18 August 1960.

Copies sent for information to:

- H.M. the King of Burundi, Kitega.
- The Minister for African Affairs,
Brussels.
- The Resident-General of Ruanda-Urundi,
Usumbura.
- The Resident of Burundi, Kitega.

To the President of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, New York.

Sir,

I must inform you, with great respect, that the threat to the peace of Burundi continues to increase.

The Belgian Government is no longer there to maintain peace and order. It is resolved rather to provoke brawling and disorder, to bring every conceivable trouble upon the country.

The Belgians are very upset and angry because of the Congo, their former colony which they have just lost, and because of the complete failure of their intrigues in Katanga.

Now they have turned their anger against the whole world, against even the United Nations, against all countries which were not willing to support them when they stole the Congolese province of Katanga. Woe betide Ruanda-Urundi which remains under their rule! We shall have to pay dearly, instead of the Congolese leaders who would not leave the Congo in their hands; instead of the United Nations,

which sent its army into Katanga against the wishes of the Belgian Government; and instead of the Soviet Government, which kindly showed itself willing to go to the help of the Congo in order to keep the peace there. We shall pay, instead of the whole world.

In any case, you, Sir, are well aware that the Belgian Government has at present no desire to do anything for the good of Africa... Is the United Nations really not prepared to do anything to help us in this situation? The United Nations, which has so far rendered nothing but the greatest and most numerous services to the world? No, it is impossible, we cannot expect such a disappointment!

Ruanda is now a "hell on earth". First, there was the fratricidal war provoked by the Belgian Government to silence the party which had demanded the country's independence (too harsh and savage a way in which to reply when people ask for their rights!). What is more, there have just been laid the first foundations of the democratic institutions which have been planned in an atmosphere of injustice and tyranny on the part of the Belgian Government, and of distrust on the part of the people of Ruanda. I say plainly that the Barundi of UPRONA, the majority party in Burundi, would prefer to die rather than see elections held in Burundi in the same atmosphere as that surrounding those just held in Ruanda. This is why I sent you my cable of 17 August 1960,^{1/} once again asking you, on behalf of UPRONA, to send to us United Nations agents who would act as observers during the electoral campaign.

UPRONA is of course the majority party in Burundi, but if the elections are held under the control of agents of the Belgian Government the latter will undoubtedly see to it that, by fraud, only the parties opposing independence win; the elections will lead to nothing good, or possibly, even, the Government itself will provoke violence between the parties. Incidentally, even if there is a fight, I hope that Mr. HARROY, the Resident-General, will refrain from telling his usual lie - "It was the BAHUTU and the BATUTSI who were fighting each other" - because the Bahutu and the Batutsi of Burundi will never fight! We understand each other too well to fight.

One day the political parties of Burundi, too, will come to an understanding. For the moment, such brotherly understanding is not possible, because of the presence among us of our enemy who is concerned to keep us apart, to his substantial profit.

The six political parties of Burundi (including UPRONA) which signed the resolution^{2/} asking for independence on 27 December 1960, also, at the same time, asked the United Nations to send observers and a small United Nations army. I repeat this request, and I should be very grateful if you would let me know the attitude of the United Nations regarding it, so that we can have time in which to reconcile ourselves to the position should the United Nations disappoint us. One should not be caught unawares... even when it is a question of resigning oneself.

All the Belgian soldiers driven out of Katanga have established themselves in Ruanda-Urundi. It is almost as if they would find no roof over their heads if they went home to Belgium.

They live at the expense of the country's Treasury, although they are useless and dangerous. They are always raping the country's women and girls. Burundi is really under military occupation, for no possible reason except the spiteful whims of the Belgians.

There are political parties in Burundi - such as the U.D.P., the P.D.C., the P.D.R., the P.E.P., the P.P. and the M.P.B. - which put forward programmes full of flattering promises, but it is also certain that they do not really want to fulfil any of these promises. What they are concerned to do, the only major plan upon which they are resolved, is to reject independence for Burundi, as the Belgian Government desires. **THEY ARE WASTING THEIR TIME.** We, the rest of us, are determined to achieve the independence of Burundi, for the beginning of 1961. All reasonable people are with us! GOD Himself is with us, for He has given to no nation the privilege of eternally ruling over others.

The Belgian Government takes no article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into account. We insist that freedom of opinion and expression should be given to everyone, not merely to those parties which support the designs of the Belgian Government and which are allowed to say anything - even to lie - while

those who seek the good and the honour of the Murundi nation are not permitted even to defend themselves.

We hope that the United Nations will be good enough to intervene in time, before the Barundi patriots are forced to buy the independence of the country with their own blood. Lastly, I beg the Belgian government authorities not to begin the elections in Burundi until the final decision of the United Nations has been communicated to the majority party.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed : KIRARANGANYA, Boniface
illegible)
Leader of UPRONA
