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PETITION FROM MR. NTIRYICA ZACHARIE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
"PARTI DE L'UNITE ET DU PROGRES NATIONAL DU BURUNDI" (UPRONA)
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 2, of
the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Bujumbura, 1 February 1961

The Resident-General at Usumbura

Copy to:

The Secretary-General of the
United Nations

The Mwami of Burundi at Gitega

The Resident of Burundi at Gitega

The President of the Belgian
Parliament at Brussels

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith a copy of the statement of the position adopted by the nationalist parties of Burundi and should be grateful if you would give it due consideration, since the situation is serious and you are more than ever responsible in this matter.

The Murundi people and UPRONA intend to do everything in their power to maintain peace and public and private calm.

The Belgian Government, of which you are the Representative, would approve your respect for the noble aspirations of this peace-loving people, according to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

I have the honour to be, etc.

For the Committee:

NTIRYICA ZACHARIE
Secretary-General of Uprona
(Signature illegible)

STATEMENT OF THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE NATIONALIST PARTIES WITH REGARD
TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND INTERIM COUNCILS IN BURUNDI

Considering the formation of the Provisional Government set up in defiance of the decision of the Belgian Administering Government, supporting the United Nations declaration which fixed the earliest date for the legislative elections under the principle of universal franchise, the only democratic procedure admitted by all nations, for about June at the earliest.

Whereas the nationalist parties decided in favour of these provisions laid down by the most competent authorities: (the U.N. and the Belgian Government) and intend to support them.

In view of the aloof attitude adopted by the local Administration, in defiance of the provisions laid down by the Metropolitan Government and by the United Nations.

Considering the hasty measures taken by the Administration to set up in Burundi a puppet Provisional Government which was tendentious and anti-democratic, because it was based on an unjust nomination and on rigged and contested communal elections.

Considering that the attitude of the Belgian Administration is the same as regards the creation of an Interim Council: resulting from second degree elections: i.e. without the participation of the whole of the Burundi people and unknown to it and to the nationalist parties.

Whereas only a few parties supported by the Administration were informed of these elections, and less than twenty-four hours before the date of the voting: i.e. from 28 to 29 January 1961 at 9 a.m: Sunday holiday;

Whereas the said Provisional Government, which was not the result of free elections with universal franchise, has just been formed in conditions of the utmost secrecy;

Whereas the Administration itself recognizes that it formed this Provisional Government under pressure from the militant members of the Common Front (Ngozi-Kayanza-Muhinga etc.);

Whereas the nationalist parties were morally unable in any circumstances to tolerate and participate in such affronts to the liberty of human rights and of the Burundi nation;

Whereas the phase of the question does not hold the attention of the population simply because pressure was exerted on the Administering Authority, it must finally be concluded that there was actual connivance;

FOR ALL THESE REASONS OF FORCE MAJEURE:

The nationalist parties categorically reject the so-called Provisional Government before free elections with universal franchise,

Have refused to take part in anti-democratic and hasty elections to form an Interim Council to work in connivance with the said anti-democratic Provisional Government.

Maintain their original position, in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations and of the Metropolitan Government,

Call for the immediate dissolution of this provisional and illegal Government,

Consider it their duty to inform the whole population of the country of these facts.

The nationalist Parties:

UPRONA V.P.M. P.D.J.T.B. D.N.B.
H.T.T. P.C.

(all signatures illegible)
