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PETITION FROM MR. JOSEPH GITERA, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
OF RUANDA, CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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

Astrida 22 January 1961

Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Having regard to decision of the Council of Ministers of the Belgian Government dated 20 January 1961 declaring legislative elections in Ruanda-Urundi postponed in accordance with United Nations resolution 1579 (XV) notwithstanding wishes and decisions absolute majority participants Ostend Conference thus plainly trampling underfoot the legitimate aspirations peoples Ruanda-Urundi officially and solemnly expressed to it by Ruanda Council at Kisenyi and Ostend through Ruanda majority parties APROSOMA and PARMEHUTU. State Ruanda through Joseph Gitera, its President elected absolute majority Council of Ruanda (41 to 3, with 4 absent), considers such machinations Belgian Government to be downright treason and serious dereliction Belgium of its duty of trusteeship in Ruanda-Urundi. State Ruanda through its President elected by Legislative Assembly considers such manifest treason and grave dereliction of duty incompatible with maintenance Belgian trusteeship in Ruanda. State Ruanda is able fully to understand extremely difficult situation Belgium vilified all sides. State Ruanda thanks Belgium distinguished services rendered during its presence Ruanda-Urundi. State Ruanda assures Belgium eternal gratitude and friendship. State Ruanda entreats Belgian Government to proceed without any delay to immediate and amicable termination its trusteeship in Ruanda. State Ruanda through its elected President declares that it has no wish to exchange

Belgian trusteeship for United Nations colonialism. State Ruanda through its President elected Legislative Assembly declares itself capable of taking over interests its country since it will have henceforth responsible Council and Government. State Ruanda through its President enjoins all sons and daughters of Ruanda to assume their responsibilities as proud children of independent Ruanda.

(Signed) Joseph Gitera, Elected President
Council Ruanda
