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COMMUNICATION FROM THE "MOUVEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE REPUBLICAIN (PARMEHUTU)" CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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MOUVEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE REPUBLICAIN
(Parmehutu)
GITARAMA, RUANDA

STATEMENT BY THE M.D.R. (PARMEHUTU)

During its special Assembly held at Ruhengeri on 5 and 6 June 1960, the Mouvement Démocratique Républicain (Parmehutu) defined its position with regard to the form of government it considers likely to promote peace and progress in Ruanda, to the country's independence and to its relations with Central Africa and the countries of the West.

I. Form of government

With regard to Ruanda's form of government, the M.D.R. statement declares that a republic is the form which will best guarantee the liberty of citizens and their equality before the Law and the representatives of supreme power in the country.

For recent experience has proved to the country that it is impossible to convert a colonial and racialist feudal monarchy into a constitutional monarchy: the tears of the widows and orphans of the innocent men murdered in November 1959, the torturing of victims by the feudal Court which had just sworn to reign constitutionally, the terrorism which the Tutsi feudal group, strong in the support of its tribal chief, the Mwami, has imposed on the country since October 1959, all bear melancholy but irrefutable witness to the bankruptcy of the Mwami form of government, even when it claims to be constitutional.

Moreover, the political liberation of the Bantu-Hutu group, comprising over 85 per cent of the population of Ruanda, from Tutsi colonialism, necessitates the abolition of the Mwami form of government and of all the feudal and racialist ideas which go with it. The equality of citizens requires a democratic system which will in no way permit one race in Ruanda to hold sway over the others.

It is for this reason that the M.D.R. (PARMEHUTU) advocates the republican form of government for Ruanda. It will be the task of those in authority to adapt the republican form to the country's needs and aspirations, as also to the external requirements which Ruanda will have to meet.

II. The independence of Ruanda

With regard to Ruanda's independence, the M.D.R. has the following to say:

(1) We declare the independence of the HUTU people from TUTSI feudal colonialism an accomplished fact from the date of signature of the Trusteeship Agreement, which conferred all executive power, including the functions formerly discharged by the Chief of the TUTSI tribe, on the special civil Resident and the Executive College.

This fact of the independence of the HUTU people from TUTSI colonialism will be finally and solemnly confirmed by the total abolition of the triple feudal colonialist Tutsi myth - "Kalinga-abiru-Mwami" - following the election by the people or their deputies of the President of the Republic of Ruanda.

(2) As regards independence from European trusteeship, the M.D.R. (Parmehutu) advocates a formula of accession to gradual independence, for only that will ensure the peace and continuity necessary for the progress and socio-political equilibrium without which the country's future will not be sound.

Our party also draws the attention of those in authority to the special character and significance which the independence of Ruanda should have.

In consequence of the successive invasions of different races which for historical reasons came to live together in the country, in consequence of the liberal outlook which the people have acquired as a result of this cohabitation of different races for more than three centuries, in consequence of the human wealth which this situation has produced, Ruanda could not conceive of its independence on the outmoded and superficial basis of the COLOUR BAR. As we have

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already said in our "Appeal to the Anti-colonialists", Ruanda is the country of the Bahutu and of all people, white or black, Tutsi, European or other, who can free themselves of feudal and imperialist aims. We would repeat this with regard to the attainment of independence.

The termination of Trusteeship should certainly not, therefore, be understood to mean the withdrawal of the whites either from private business or from Administration if they are prepared to settle permanently in Ruanda, to become part of its population and to work in accordance with the principles of equality and legality for the general good of the country.

Our attitude is in no way inimical to the provision of technical and financial assistance, of which countries in all continents, even advanced countries, take advantage.

The independence of Ruanda would thus mean:

1. The abolition of the dual administration, white and Tutsi black, and its replacement by a single democratic administration representing the fusion and co-operation in equality of all the races inhabiting Ruanda. We should like to see this fusion carried out on a democratic and non-racialist, non-colonialist basis in all spheres, the executive and the administrative, the judicial and the legislative.
2. In consequence of the above, the appointment of sons of the people to positions of real authority and thus the abolition, as speedily as possible, of the traditional socio-political and racialist ladder - Twa-Hutu-Tutsi-European. This means that at all levels of the country's social life the authorities must take the necessary measures to bring out the skills and capacities of all classes and races in the population.
3. The final termination of the Trusteeship will therefore mean the emancipation of the highest Power in Ruanda and in Burundi from the trusteeship of the central Government at Usumbura, and the metropolitan Government at Brussels and from the supervision of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

The final details should be left to a round-table conference of Ruanda, Burundi and Belgium, to be held after the legislative elections.

Our party also asks that "the elections in the communes should be followed immediately by legislative elections, in August, in order to endow the country

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with democratic institutions which are truly representative of the people of Ruanda and empowered to deal with the question of independence and the country's future".

III. External relations

The M.D.R. (Parmehutu) then defines its position regarding Ruanda's relations with neighbouring African countries. The declaration states: Our party will welcome with joy and enthusiasm the possibility of a Central African Confederation consisting of the Republics of Ruanda, the Congo and Burundi. Historical, humanitarian, political and economic reasons all militate strongly in favour of such a "United States" of this part of Africa.

Constitutional provisions would guarantee the real and constructive autonomy of each republic in the Confederation.

The central power of the Congo-Ruanda-Burundi Confederation would maintain with other African, and Western, countries the political and economic relations prompted by needs and circumstances, by means of pacts and alliances.

The fact that the Congo happened to acquire its independence before Ruanda and Burundi is no obstacle to the creation of the Congo-Ruanda-Burundi Confederation which we favour. A reasonable period of negotiations and preliminary steps will be necessary to ensure that proper preparations are made and that the sovereignty of each country is respected.

The M.D.R. (PARMEHUTU) proposes here and now a conference of representatives both of the political parties and of the Governments of the Congo, Burundi and Ruanda to prepare a preliminary plan of the Congo-Burundi-Ruanda Confederation.

Our party addresses an urgent appeal to our brothers in the Congo, in Burundi and in Ruanda to give serious attention to the possibility of such a confederation, bearing in mind the need for solidarity among the African States.

We would also urge the Trusteeship Authority not to take or to maintain measures which would be detrimental to the sound and speedy realization of a Congo-Ruanda-Burundi Confederation.

Done at Ruhengeri on 6 June 1960.

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For the National Committee of the Mouvement Démocratique Républicain
(Parmehutu)

(Signed) Gr. KAYIBANDA President	B. BICAMUMPAKA Vice-President	Cl. NDAHAYO Secretary	L. MPAKANIYE Secretary
J.B. SAGAHUTU Vice-President	J. HAKIZIMANA Counsellor	Jos. SIBOMANA Treasurer	C. MULINDAHABI Secretary

Note by the Secretariat: A pamphlet entitled, "Moving appeal from Ruanda", published by the PARMEHUTU on 8 May 1960, was attached to this communication. It has been placed in the archives of the Secretariat and may be consulted by members of the Trusteeship Council upon request.