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PETITION FROM THE RWANDESE ROYALIST DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
CONCERNING RUANDA-URUNDI

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Petition from the Rwandese Royalist Democratic Movement
"LE JEU.DU.ROY."

By Joseph Habyarimana GITERA
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Founding President of APROSOMA (RWANDA-UNION),
Leader of the Rwandese Royalist Democratic Movement "JEU.DE.ROY."

To the General Assembly of the United Nations
at its current 1961-1962 session

"EITHER UNION IN PEACE
"OR PEACE IN DISUNION,
"FOR, WITHOUT one or the other,
"We face mutual destruction
"Without distinction, an intolerable prospect."

The "JEU.DE.ROY." Movement

Quite apart from the total absence of freedom - first, to make propaganda,
and second, to vote freely and democratically - and the innumerable cases of
injustices, fraud and evil-doing which Belgó-Parmehitu neo-colonialism, in
league with Aprosoma-Gasamanyiga (alias Gasingwa), has inflicted on the
Rwandese people throughout this pre- and post-electoral period, the legislative
elections and the referendum on the institution of the Mwami in Rwanda and
Kigeri V personally, held in Rwanda on 25 September 1961, were sullied by
grave errors and ambiguities; worst of all, however, they were vitiated by
acts of barbarous terrorism against the opposition parties and by blatant
contempt for the solemn resolutions and decisions of the United Nations
General Assembly.

The entire population of Rwanda, and especially the alleged majority in the "overwhelming and massive victory" - a vast mass indeed, and a heavy load to propel in a Belgian Government go-cart - the entire population of Rwanda is waiting with curiosity to see how the United Nations General Assembly will react, whether nobly or not, to the injustices, falsehoods, dishonesty and barbarous terrorism of Parmehutu neo-colonialism and its black and white supporters in Rwanda, who engineered the allegedly overwhelming and massive Parmehutu victory.

It has become for us a fundamental truth that the General Assembly's concern is with justice, truth and clarity. What, then, will be the attitude of this United Nations General Assembly towards the complete absence of truth, justice and clarity in the conduct of the elections and referendum in Rwanda, in which the most solemn decisions and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly are flouted?

Will the United Nations General Assembly condone such proceedings, and extend its lofty protection and approval over present Rwandese iniquity? We think not.

* * *

An important United Nations Commission supervised the elections and referendum in Rwanda and Burundi. Whereas in Burundi the proceedings before, during and after the elections were all conducted in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, what a contrasting situation prevailed in Rwanda, where those same resolutions and decisions were debased, and what an ill-omened departure from the conciliatory spirit of those resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly!

Although the Commission has undoubtedly dealt with many aspects of this problem in its report on the referendum and elections in Rwanda, we nevertheless feel that we should also give our point of view on the subject, with the sole aim of making matters clearer to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

* * *

Errors and ambiguities regarding the questions put in the referendum.
Here are the two questions that were put in the referendum:

1. Do you wish to retain the institution of the Mwami in Rwanda?
2. If so, do you wish Kigeri V to continue as the Mwami of Rwanda?

Both these questions, which were to be answered YES or NO, without going into any details, cover a wide range of ambiguities which perplexed some and misled a great many others.

1. Regarding the phrase: "institution of the Mwami in Rwanda," used in the first question, it must be pointed out that "institution of the Mwami in Rwanda" has come to mean two things: institution of the Mwami in Rwanda means either the ancestral Tutsi feudal-colonialist regime of the former Bami, with their mythological trappings, or the monarchical or royalist regime of the kings of today.

2. Hence the second question - "Do you wish Kigeri V to continue as the Mwami of Rwanda?" - gives rise to the same errors and ambiguities. In the context just defined, the NAME: KIGERI V, which is reminiscent of KIGERI IV and others, and the word: "Mwami" in place of "UMWAMI" = "KING", or similarly fraught with ambiguity and dangerously misleading: in the eyes of some, the question related to Kigeri V as the former Mwami, sultan or Tutsi chief of caste; in the eyes of others Kigeri, or rather Mr. Jean Baptiste NDAHINDURWA is the first constitutional king of a democratic and royalist Rwanda.

We consider it extremely important that the Members of the United Nations General Assembly should be adequately informed on this subject.

We would state that we referred this problem to the Commission through Mr. Rahnama, the Commissioner for Rwanda who, we trust, took due note of it.

Moreover we appeal to him to testify, both from personal observations and from the wealth of information at his disposal, to the deliberately false and tendentious nature of the official information put out by the local Administration: IMVAHO. It was claimed that the referendum was a choice between the institution of the Mwami - "a feudal system", it was stressed - and the Republic - Parmehutu "democracy", they cried from the housetops, every way they could.

Do such interpretations and announcements reflect truth, justice and clarity?

It is of the utmost importance that the General Assembly should realize how seriously the ambiguities, errors, misinterpretations and false statements impaired the objectivity of the results of the referendum and elections.

The barbarous terrorism of the massacre, arson and destruction organized and promoted by forces armed with rifles and sub-machine guns should make it clear to the Assembly why these ambiguities, errors, misinterpretations and false statements, and this wide-spread terrorism, have benefited a single group - the republican group - in power in the ministries supposedly on holiday but transformed into general commissionerships in the prefectures and sub-prefectures and in all the communes, which have been fanatically Parmehutized.

Trickery and intrigue of the utmost dishonesty have not been lacking; a prime example is the case of Astrida, and the seat which was duly won by the nationalist Party, RWANDA-UNION-Rader, and whose holder, as officially announced and published in all the organs of information, is JOSEPH GITERA.

After the event - and we know by what trickery - the seat was taken from the nationalist Party, RWANDA-UNION, and given to Aprosona-Gasamunyiga (alias Gasingwa), allied to the Parmehutu because of the need for concealment.

Large-scale manoeuvres, often of a criminal nature, intimidations, acts of terrorism including even assault and battery, arson, massacre and destruction - there are countless instances throughout the length and breadth of the Territory.

Proclamation of a Republic, not of Rwanda, but a "REPUBLIC OF COMRADES", in the very words of Colonel BEM Logiest, then Resident of Rwanda (now appointed Senior Representative of Belgium for Rwanda) - again by a "COUP D'ETAT", confirming that of Gitarama and as it were, a challenge hurled by the neo-colonialist Parmehutu and henchmen at the declarations of the United Nations General Assembly, which has never recognized the republican institutions that stemmed from the Gitarama coup d'état - here is an entirely new form of Parmehutu democracy.

Will the General Assembly, by giving its international approval, confer its august patronage on such blatant malpractices?

We firmly believe that it will NOT.

We for our part, convinced that the majority of the Banyarwanda are hostile to all racism and injustice whatever its nature and origin, have taken the initiative of speaking on behalf of that majority, at present stifled by Rwandese colonialism or neo-colonialism, pending the happy day when that majority will be able freely to express its opposition to any police of caste or race deriving from the previous feudal system or from the present racial and dictatorial regime, both equally deserving of condemnation. We believe that that happy day is very close, and we already sense its blessings.

General Assembly resolution 1605 (XV) found the solution to Rwanda's problems: the establishment in Rwanda of a broad-based Government of national union. The Parmehutu and its advisers, by rejecting the establishment of such a broad-based government of national union in Rwanda, explicitly refused to contribute effectively to the solution of the Rwandese problem.

In pretending to suspend their Government, which they maliciously converted into a General Commissionership until such time as they might reinstate it in almost identical form through a new coup d'état - prepared at great length through the tragic events of June, July, August, September, October and November 1961, and pitifully crowned by the establishment of a "REPUBLIC OF COMRADES" - the Parmehutu and its henchment or supporters have shown great and grave duplicity towards the United Nations and the Rwandese nation.

We have faith and confidence both in the Commission appointed to supervise the elections and the referendum in Rwanda and, above all, in the United Nations General Assembly, on which we rely to apply the solution to the Rwandese problem.

UNION in PEACE: that is the formula with which to solve the problem of racial and social conflict between the Hutu, the Tutsi, the Twa, and even the Zungu of Rwanda. What is the sole agency which can now make such UNION in PEACE succeed in Rwanda?

ONLY THE UNITED NATIONS CAN DO IT NOW, for all other agencies have failed. The Tutsi feudal-colonialist regime, which had existed from time immemorial, did not bring about this union in peace; hence its downfall. The present racial and dictatorial Parmehutu regime preens itself on a "Republic of Comrades", not on a UNION in PEACE; hence its failure. Belgium, the Administering Authority,

is progressively shedding its powers, today by granting internal self-government and tomorrow by granting independence. It is withdrawing without having accomplished UNION in PEACE in Rwanda and Burundi under its trusteeship.

Today THE UNITED NATIONS ALONE can succeed in this operation, which must be carried out at all costs.

Today we have learned from events that nothing is impossible for the United Nations. However, if for reasons unknown to us "UNION in peace" should prove an impossible solution, we would advocate "PEACE in DISUNION" as a solution.

The republicans have their leader and President: Mr. Gregoire KAYIBANDA; we royalists want our KING: Mr. Jean Baptiste NDAHINDURWA. Let each group be free to merge, associate or federate with whomsoever it pleases.

(Signed) J.H. Gitera
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P.O. Box 99, Astrida

1 January 1962
