

Pourriez-vous NDIRUMBATSE

li. annexé pour info
la copie du dossier
que nous venons de
envoyer à N.Y. pour
la présentation de
la candidature de
notre Président au
Prix "Hunger Project".

C.R.S./N.Y. nous tiendra
sûrement au courant de
l'évolution de ce dossier.

KABILI 61 Juvénal
7.6.89 E. B. B.



Catholic Relief Services
Rwanda Program
B.P. 65, Kigali, Rwanda

Tél. : 8 4777, 8 4988, 8 4983, 8 5740
Télex : 561 HOMER RW, (CABPUB) 04 KGL RW
Cable Address : CATHWEL Kigali (Rwanda)

302/89-0394

June 6, 1989.

TO : Holdridge/D'Adamo
CRS/NY - Africa Region

FROM : Nelson Bindariye
CRS/Rwanda.

N Bindariye

SUBJECT : CRS/Rwanda Nominee for the Annual Africa Prize
for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger.

REF. : Your memo of May 30, 1989.

Please find attached herewith information on the nomination of Major General Juvénal HABYARIMANA for the "Africa Prize for Leadership".

In the opinion of CRS/Rwanda, His Excellency Major General Juvénal HABYARIMANA, President of the Republic of Rwanda, fully deserves this award in recognition of his courageous initiatives and firm stand in favor of socio-economic development and food self-sufficiency both for Rwanda and the whole African continent.

Two important speeches President HABYARIMANA made in Bujumbura in 1984 on food self-sufficiency in Africa and in Addis Ababa in 1987 on African Debt, as well as the document containing the objectives and programs of action for food strategy are sent to you today through Express Mail Service.

We remain at your disposal for further clarification where necessary.

Kind regards.

NB/KJ/in

The Africa Prize for Leadership

For the Sustainable End of Hunger

Nomination Form

*(Please fill out the following
information as fully as possible.
Please print or type.)*

Name of Nominee Juvénal HABYARIMANA

Title President of the Republic of RWANDA

Address The Office of the President
P.O. Box 15 RWANDA - AFRICA

Telephone/Telex 75958 - 75432 - 75940

Telex 22517

I. IN WHAT WAYS HAS THE NOMINEE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA ?

His Excellency Major-General Juvenal HABYARIMANA is President of the Republic of Rwanda since July 1973.

Since 1978, he was democratically reelected for three terms of five years each and set up democratic institutions such as the Political Movement (Party), the National Development Council (National Assembly), etc...

President HABYARIMANA's cabinet presently comprises 18 ministers and only 3 of them belong to the military. The National Assembly comprises 72 members and 12 of them are women.

Ever since he assumed power in 1973, President HABYARIMANA restored peace and internal unity both between regions of the country and the three ethnic groups (Hutu, Tutsi, Twa) which had been divided for centuries.

He also succeeded in his policy of good understanding with neighboring countries (Burundi, Zaïre, Uganda, Tanzania) with emphasis on peace and mutual respect. This policy is hailed as a model within such regional organizations as the CEPGL, K.B.O., P.T.A, etc... or in the Organization of African Unity. Owing to its President, Rwanda is regarded as a haven of peace and stability in Central Africa.

In President HABYARIMANA's economic policy, priority is given to rural development, with a view to mobilizing all healthy forces in the country and increasing the purchasing power of small producers.

With respect to the educational sector, a system of free and compulsory schooling was introduced for all children up to the age of fifteen, leading to a sharp increase in the literacy rate particularly for this category of youth which makes up more than half of the Rwandan population.

Regarding health, an extensive campaign was launched for the general use of clean water, for immunization of all young children and for the promotion of primary health care in rural areas. The Government set for itself the objective of universal vaccination in 1991 and of meeting the challenge of the Decade of Water.

With regard to population matters, a National Population Office (ONAPO) was set up to deal with various issues concerning the rapid growth of the Rwandan population (family planning and family fertility education) in relation to the national policy of socio-economic self-sufficiency

2. HOW HAS THE NOMINEE DEMONSTRATED HIS OR HER LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE END OF THE PERSISTENCE OF HUNGER ?

Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa with an area of 26,000 Km² and a population already approaching 7,000,000 inhabitants, which gives a density of 270 inhabitants per km².

- Population growth rate : 3.7 %
- Average size of an agricultural holding = 1 ha (2.5 acres) per household.
- Conclusion : arable land is scarce and agricultural production insufficient to provide enough food to this rapidly growing population.

Which explains why President HABYARIMANA has steadily favored various actions aimed at increasing food production and income particularly for farmers in rural areas, and at insuring food self-sufficiency.

Rwandan agriculture modernization began in 1974 through various yearly mobilization themes he advocated, the majority of which relate to the introduction of new methods in traditional agriculture. Thus, yearly themes went from the Year of Agriculture (1974) to the Year of Peasant Income Defense (1988) and the Year of Rural Self-Organization (1989) through the Years of Production Increase (1975), Animal Husbandry (1978), Soil Conservation and Protection (1980), Erosion Control (1982), the Tree (1983), Food Production Increase (1984), Manure (1985), Agricultural Intensification (1986) and Food Self-Sufficiency (1987)

In addition to this popular mobilization with respect to agricultural production and animal husbandry, President HABYARIMANA advocated reliance on domestic efforts for food self-sufficiency and the Government has already taken drastic measures for food aid phase out leaving only emergency or relief aid.

A special department for the defense of producer's income has just been set up within the Ministry of Trade and Consumption.

Thanks to this priority accorded to agriculture development, agricultural production has increased at the same rate as the population has enough food when weather conditions are favorable.

This policy of food self-sufficiency for small farmers was explained and defended on various occasions by President HABYARIMANA at important gatherings of African Heads of State or Government such as the Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa in Bujumbura, Burundi, in 1984 on the theme of food strategy, or at the Special Session of the OAU on African Debt, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on November 30, 1987.

With regard to sectorial planning, food strategy is for President HABYARIMANA the center to which other strategies (infrastructure, health, education....) should converge. Owing to this strategic approach, the provisional needs of the Rwandan population in the Year 2000 were already assessed. To meet them and struggle effectively against hunger in the long run, President HABYARIMANA has set up a series of sub-sectorial policies with a view to increasing and improving agricultural production :

- Soil protection against erosion.

Owing to constant mobilization, the Rwandan population has managed to install erosion control facilities on 82 % of the national territory, which represents a unique realization in Africa.

- Food production intensification

Food production rests upon the use of organic manure and fertilizers, improved seeds and plant protection products in doses consistent with environmental protection.

- Promotion of import substitution crops.

Thanks to the encouragement of import substitution crops such as wheat and rice domestic production meets more than 50 % of local needs for these commodities.

- Market regulation.

A national office (OPROVIA) was set up to regulate the market of the most commercialized agricultural and animal products.

- The creation of a food security bumper stock at a national level is being studied.
- Agribusiness processing (simple or compound flour, vegetable and fruit canneries, food oils, etc...) also ranks high among food strategy priorities advocated and supported by President HABYARIMANA.
- The objective with respect to animal production is to ensure milk self-sufficiency through cattle-genetic improvement and meet domestic demand for meat through small livestock development (goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, poultry)
- In order to protect the environment and ensure wood self-sufficiency, President HABYARIMANA instituted as from 1976 a National Day of the Tree to support mountain reforestation, agro-forestry promotion and natural forest protection.

More or less 10 million trees are planted on that day on an area covering some 10,000 ha. This has already markedly improved weather and environmental conditions in Rwanda

3. PUBLICATIONS THAT DESCRIBE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NOMINEE.

President HABYARIMANA has made numerous important speeches in favor of the struggle against hunger, of food self-sufficiency and of reduction of financial dependence of african countries on rich countries or international organizations for funds.

Suffice it to mention only two speeches he made :

- at the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 11 to 12 December 1984, where he stressed the importance of a long-term food strategy for african populations; and
- at the Special Session of the OAU on African Debt, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 November 1987, where he urged his colleagues to build domestic economies by relying first and foremost on domestic efforts.

Copies of both speeches are sent through Express Mail Service.

4. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE NOMINEE.

Major-General Juvénal HABYARIMANA was born on March 8, 1937 in Rambura, Gisenyi Prefecture, Rwanda, from deeply Christian parents.

After primary and secondary (Latin & Greek) schools from 1945 to 1958, he attended in 1959 the School of Medicine of Lovanium University in Zaïre (which would become later on University of Kinshasa). The studies were interrupted as a result of bloody events the country went through at that time.

He attended the Military Academy in Rwanda and became the Chief of Staff of Rwandan Army immediately after independence and Head of State in 1973 through a bloodless military coup that restored peace and national unity.

Président HABYARIMANA is very well known in Africa and the world for his policy of peace and unity as basis for development. His motto is : Peace, Unity and Development.

He has illustrated himself by his active participation in international fora, for example in meetings of african and international organizations such as :

- The Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) which comprises Zaïre, Burundi and Rwanda;
- The Organization for Management and Development of the Akagera River Basin (K.B.O) whose members are Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda;
- The Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African Countries (PTA);
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);
- The Economic Community for Central African States (CEEAC);
- The Organization of African Unity (OAU), etc...