

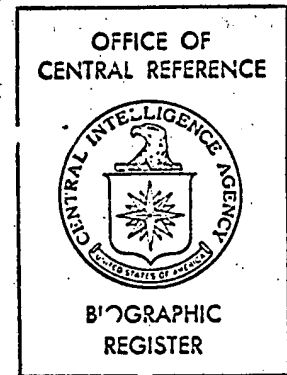
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[REDACTED]

BURUNDI

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(b) (3)

Joseph Mbazumutima

Minister of External Affairs and External Commerce



Joseph Mbazumutima, formerly grand marshal of the Burundi royal court, was named Minister of External Affairs and External Commerce on 6 April 1962. As early as October 1963, it was rumored that he was the choice of the Mwami (King) to fill the Foreign Ministership, which had been left vacant by the death of Lorgio Nimbona. He is a second cousin of Mwami Mwambutsa IV, and the Mwami reportedly places considerable confidence in him. Mbazumutima is considered a strong nationalist. His past record indicates that he has been a supporter of former Prime Minister Andre Muhirwa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Between July 1962 and May 1963, Mbazumutima was reported, at various times, as a candidate for Ambassador to the US or to the USSR. Although tribal and clan considerations may have prevented his appointment to either post, he probably was reluctant to accept any diplomatic post which would have removed him from the local political scene.

A Tutsi and a prince of the Bezi clan, Mbazumutima was born about 1936. He is the son of Chief Bakereke, a leading chief of the Karuzi arrondissement, who helped the Mwami defeat a usurper of the throne in 1920. Mbazumutima was educated at the Groupe Scolaire in Astrida. From 1955 to 1961 he acted as private secretary to the Mwami. In September of the latter year he was elected a deputy to the National Assembly on the Parti de l'Unite et du Progres National (UPRONA) ticket. In October 1962 the Assembly reportedly nominated him as the Mwami's chef de cabinet, but the Mwami rejected the nomination, allegedly because he did not wish to set a precedent of accepting the Assembly's nominees to his Cabinet. About July 1963 Mbazumutima was appointed grand marshal of the court.

Mbazumutima has the reputation of being discreet, calm, soft-spoken and courteous. [REDACTED]

FA:ms

28 April 1964

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAY 2005

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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NW 23640 Doc # 6