



The Right Honourable Charles Clarke MP
The Home Secretary
The Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AT

17 January 2005

Dear Charles Clarke,

We are writing with profound concern about the imminent deportation of M. Jean-Louis Ntadi, a Congo Brazzaville Playwright held at Campsfield House immigration detention centre. Our deputy chair, Trevor Mostyn, has been regularly visiting him since last November.

The Writers in Prison Committee of English PEN, the international association of writers, shares his conviction that Mr Ntadi is a bona fide playwright who faces the most severe dangers should he return to Brazzaville. We have read his principal play *Le Chef d'Etat* which is an extremely critical parable about the regime in Congo Brazzaville.

Although the Home Office lawyers claim inconsistencies in M. Ntadi's arguments for asylum, we are of the opinion that these are largely the result of misunderstandings or clerical errors.

We have no hesitation in supporting M. Ntadi's defence and respectfully urge you do all in your power to ensure that a safe refuge in the UK is granted as a matter of urgency, until he deems it safe to return to his wife and six children in Congo-Brazzaville.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Seymour Jones
Chair, Writers in Prison Committee, English PEN

Trevor Mostyn, Deputy Chair, WiPC, English PEN

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