



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-fourth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Thursday, 25 June 1959,
at 2.30 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (continued):	
(i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1957;	
(ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions	
Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the representative and special representative of the Administering Authority (continued) . .	155

President: Mr. Max H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (continued):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1957 (T/1406, T/1442, T/1452, T/1461, T/L.909);
- (ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/COM.3/L.23 to 25, T/PET.GEN/L.2, T/PET.GEN/L.3, T/PET.3/L.9)

[Agenda items 3 (a) and 4]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Reisdorff, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, took a place at the Council table.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (continued)

Social and educational advancement (continued)

1. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) noted with satisfaction that in 1958 the Administration had terminated the system of compulsory agricultural labour in Ruanda at the suggestion of the High Council of that State. He wished to know whether similar action was envisaged for Urundi or whether, in the special representative's opinion, the indigenous farmers of Urundi had not reached an adequate stage of maturity and experience in the cultivation of staple crops.

2. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that, in the Administration's view, compulsory agricultural labour could be abolished in Urundi also. The initiative

for such action would, however, have to come from the High Council of Urundi. That Council would probably submit a request when it was convinced that the abolition of compulsory labour would not adversely affect the production of staple crops. Such a request would be complied with immediately, for the Government of Ruanda-Urundi was in favour of abolishing the system of compulsory labour throughout the Trust Territory.

3. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the Administration proposed to introduce plans for the cultivation on an extensive scale of cash crops such as coffee, cotton, tea and rice in areas where they had not yet been grown.

4. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority proposed to extend the cultivation of tea wherever the climate and altitude permitted. That did not comprise a very large area, but the cultivation of tea had already been introduced and the first results were promising.

5. The main type of coffee produced in the Territory—the *arabica*—could be cultivated only at an altitude of 1,500 to 2,000 metres. Every African who lived at that altitude had his own coffee field which constituted the bulk of his income. A different type of coffee—the *robusta*—was being introduced at lower altitudes wherever the climate was favourable, particularly in the Ruzizi plain.

6. In the higher altitudes where tea could not be grown the Territory's agricultural services were encouraging the cultivation of barley and wheat and had themselves planted some black wattle. Bark for tanning was not, however, very much in demand and the indigenous farmers could not be asked to produce unprofitable crops.

7. From the social point of view, the farmers were encouraged to avail themselves of the technical facilities placed at their disposal, such as planters' co-operatives, educational courses and pamphlets published by the agricultural and information services.

8. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) noted that the family allowance scheme in Ruanda-Urundi, which was related to the minimum wage, had been adopted but had not yet been put into effect. He would like to know the reason for the delay. He also asked what was the minimum legal wage.

9. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the family allowance scheme could not be applied because it was not appropriate for the population situation in the Territory. The birth rate in Ruanda-Urundi was such that the operation of the scheme would lay too heavy a burden on the economy of the Territory. A more realistic plan was at present under consideration.

10. The minimum daily wage varied between 6.89 and 12.92 francs, depending upon the type of work performed, and had been increased by an average of one

franc in 1958. In addition to his wages, the worker received an adequate food ration and a housing allowance. Wages actually paid were far above the prescribed minimum rate. Employers also paid half the contribution to the pension fund for widows and orphans and the full cost of medical and disability insurance.

11. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether steps had been taken to improve the housing policies and construction methods of the Bureau for African Housing, which had been criticized in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa (1957) (T/1346), and whether its activities and accounts were closely supervised.

12. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the situation had improved considerably. The construction programme had been completed in 1957, with a total of 2,449 houses, and the Bureau, having finished its work, had left the Trust Territory. It had been criticized for objecting to the strict supervision of the Administering Authority and for demanding greater freedom of action. During the two last years, however, relations between the Bureau and the Administration had improved.

13. Another difficulty had been that the houses built were too dear for the Africans. The Government had decided to pay the difference to workers whose housing allowance had been lower than their rent. The present policy was to sell the houses to residents on an annual instalment plan based on a graduated scale. Now that trees had been planted and various social amenities introduced, the houses were much sought after and very few remained vacant.

14. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked the special representative to explain why the expenditure on medical and health services had dropped from 16.02 per cent in 1956 to 15.39 per cent in 1957.

15. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the actual expenditure in 1957 had amounted to 810 million francs as against 695 million in 1956. The total budget, however, had increased, to the benefit of other services, so that the percentage allocated to medical and health services had decreased.

16. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) noted that in 1957 there had been ninety-two European members of the medical and health services, thirty-nine of whom were doctors and fifteen nurses. He asked what were the functions and nationality of the remainder.

17. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there were now eighty-nine European doctors in the Territory, forty-seven nurses and thirty-seven medical assistants and health officers; some of those in the two last categories were Africans. He could not give details of the nationality of all the doctors, since the Administration did not concern itself with that question.

18. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) noted a significant trend towards the improvement of services manned by indigenous personnel. He asked whether the thirty-one indigenous doctors all held medical degrees and, if so, where they had obtained them.

19. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there were no fully qualified African doctors. Some Africans were studying medicine and it was

hoped that they would soon be qualified medical practitioners.

20. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) observed that only 21 per cent of the children in Ruanda-Urundi attended school; that figure had remained unchanged since 1955. He asked whether steps were being taken to combat the serious decrease in enrolment.

21. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that parents had for years been reluctant to send their children to school because they needed them for farm work. The situation had changed radically since the establishment of the ten-year plan, with the result that expenditure on education was expected to amount to 26 per cent of the total budget in 1960. School attendance would certainly improve in future years.

22. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the Administering Authority was planning to increase the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the shaping of educational policy by forming education committees in the sub-chiefdom and chiefdom councils.

23. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administration had considered the matter carefully but felt that it was necessary to proceed cautiously because of the opposition between lay and religious education. For example, the High Council of Urundi had objected to the establishment of lay schools, although it had subsequently revised its stand. The Administering Authority was reluctant to allow such sentiments to influence educational policy. It realized, however, that the chiefdoms and the States would have to play a greater role in the shaping of educational policy and it hoped to achieve results in the future.

24. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether family allowances were granted to government employees other than policemen. He was also interested in the reaction of the population and the indigenous authorities to the adoption of a family allowance scheme.

25. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that all government employees received family allowances, as did employees of the chiefdoms and State Councils. The population was in favour of such benefits, but more because they represented additional income than because they were family allowances.

26. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked if any steps had been taken to remove restrictions on freedom of movement in the Territory, including the urban area of Usumbura.

27. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there were no restrictions on freedom of movement anywhere in the Territory except at Usumbura, where the power to abolish the restrictions was in the hands of the Council of the extra-tribal centre, the members of which had been elected by universal suffrage. The 1957 Visiting Mission had been present when the members of the Council had debated the question and had heard them state that the restrictions could not safely be lifted until there was an adequate lighting system and sufficient police posts in the town. Those conditions were about to be fulfilled, but it was by no means certain that the Council was prepared to take the responsibility of abolishing the restrictions. The Administering Authority would do everything possible in the way of encouragement, but it was of the greatest importance that the decision to raise the curfew should be taken by the Council itself.

28. In reply to further questions from Mr. Salomon (Haiti), Mr. Reisdorff (Special Representative) said that whereas in 1949 there had been 150,734 new cases of yaws, the figure for 1958 was only 44,608. It was hoped that a special anti-yaws campaign would not be necessary and that the present method of treating the disease at dispensaries would suffice to reduce the incidence to occasional cases. He thought that trachoma, too, was treated at dispensaries, but there were no figures on that disease.

29. Although there were only four dentists in the Territory, elementary dental care was provided by all doctors. The Administering Authority would certainly bear in mind the suggestion made by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its observations (T/1461) that training in dentistry should be provided, but he pointed out that the eating habits of the Africans and the care they took of their own teeth usually resulted in their keeping all their teeth till the end of their lives.

30. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked what were the obstacles to the establishment of a common school system throughout the Territory, instead of the present division of the schools into a European and a non-European system.

31. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there was no form of discrimination in secondary education, the sole entrance examination being one in general knowledge. At the primary level, it was impossible to give the same education to children who had been brought up in a European atmosphere and to those with a purely African background, principally because of the difference in language but also for reasons of health and general conduct. A non-European child who wished to attend a government primary school therefore had to pass a medical examination and an examination relating to general conduct. It was possible that the situation might be modified in the future, but at present there did not appear to be any dissatisfaction with the division in primary education, since either type could lead to the same secondary school. It should also be remembered that the question of expenses entered into the picture and that an African living in a hut in the bush probably had not wish to send his child to the school attended by the children of Africans at a higher level of development.

32. In reply to a further question from Mr. Salomon (Haiti), Mr. Reisdorff (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority, acting on the recommendation contained in paragraph 279 of the 1957 Visiting Mission's report, had reconsidered the case of the interracial primary school run by the Bernadine Sisters at Kigali and had approved the school.

33. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked if a language other than French was used for teaching in the schools in the interior of the Territory.

34. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that, in order not to hold the children back, the rudiments of writing and arithmetic were taught in the African language in the first year. French was, however, taught at the same time and it was given a gradually increasing part until, during the last two years of primary education, it was the sole language used.

35. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked for some information about the Faculty of Agronomy and Animal Husbandry that had been opened in October 1958 at Astrida.

36. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that although the opening of the Faculty at Astrida had been welcomed by the people of the Territory, there were at present only four students enrolled there, one reason being that a number of students from Ruanda-Urundi were studying at Lovanium University (Léopoldville) and at the official University of the Belgian Congo and of Ruanda-Urundi (Elisabethville). On several occasions the Governor had stressed the need to encourage more students to attend the Faculty and it was hoped that the increase in attendance would be sufficient to enable many European agronomists and veterinarians to be replaced by indigenous staff.

37. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) referred to the Council's recommendation at its nineteenth session that real wages in the Territory should be substantially raised (A/3595 and Corr. 1, p.69), and to frequent recommendations by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that the minimum wage should be adequate to provide for stable family life without recourse to outside employment. He asked whether the labour force in the Territory was represented on the bodies responsible for wage-fixing, whether provision was made in the minimum wages fixed for the maintenance of a family, and if so, what was the size of the family provided for.

38. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there were three Commissions for Labour and Indigenous Social Progress, one for each Residence and one for Ruanda-Urundi as a whole. Each Commission in the Residences comprised three representatives of the Government, three to five representatives of the employers and three to five representatives of the workers. The Ruanda-Urundi Commission comprised five representatives of the Government, five representatives of the employers, and five representatives of the workers, in addition to the Bami and the advisers of the Bami, who attended in an advisory capacity. The Commissions proposed the minimum wage and the amount to be spent on the ration. The wages were not high, but investigations by the Labour Department showed that the wages actually paid were higher than the minimum wage. In 1957 the average daily wage of a worker had been 35.53 francs at Usumbura, 18.47 francs in the interior of Urundi and 18.17 francs in the interior of Ruanda. An inquiry conducted in October 1957 had shown the daily wage at Usumbura to vary from 30.72 francs to 145.44 francs, according to the work and qualifications. Nevertheless, the Administration was convinced that the purchasing power of the worker must be increased. The minimum wage was therefore increased every year; between 1957 and 1958 there had been an increase of almost one franc in the daily wages of all categories.

39. The minimum wages established were for single workers, because the economic situation of the Territory precluded the use of any other basis. Nevertheless, although family allowances were not yet generally paid throughout the Territory, certain categories of workers received them, and other groups, such as mine workers, received an additional ration for their wives and children.

40. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he was not convinced by the economic argument, since in other Territories and countries where the cost of labour and the cost of living was much higher it was still possible for employers to consider family requirements in establishing minimum wages. He noted with

regret that the minimum wage in Ruanda-Urundi did not take into account the recommendations of the ILO and the Trusteeship Council to which he had referred and he hoped that the Administering Authority and the others responsible for reviewing and fixing the minimum wage in the Territory would give more serious attention to those recommendations and make further efforts to raise the minimum wage.

41. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that the establishment of the minimum wage applied to the lowest paid workers only. The Government, which was a major employer, granted family allowances; it made every effort to persuade employers in industry to do likewise and had been successful with employers in the mining industry. Nevertheless, in Ruanda-Urundi, as in some sovereign States, the mass of the people was still dependent on an agricultural subsistence economy. At its nineteenth session, the Council had noted the fact that a large number of the inhabitants sought employment outside the Territory (A/3595 and Corr.1, p.69), but that was largely due to the fact that, as was inevitable in an agricultural subsistence economy, there was under-employment at certain periods and young agricultural workers sought to increase their incomes by working in adjacent Territories, not because the wages paid there were higher than in Ruanda-Urundi but because work was available there when it was not in Ruanda-Urundi.

42. There were a large number of small employers in the Territory, many of them Asians, who were not themselves prosperous. At certain times of the year they were besieged by workers offering to work for less than the minimum wage; as things stood, they paid the minimum wage rather than risk incurring the penalties for not doing so, but if they were asked in addition to provide for the workers' families, it was very likely that clandestine arrangements would be made to employ workers at less than the minimum wage. The Government of Ruanda-Urundi would maintain its policy of continually increasing wages, but it could not introduce arbitrary measures that ignored the economic and social conditions in which the people were living. For the most part, the workers who received a minimum wage without family allowances did so on a temporary basis; agriculture provided their main livelihood and the wages they received were no more than a supplement. The ILO recommendations referred to the very different category of workers who were wholly dependent on their wages to support themselves and their families; all such workers in Ruanda-Urundi did in fact receive family allowances.

43. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the basic issue was whether or not the minimum wage was an adequate one. He hoped that the Administering Authority would keep the matter under review.

44. In its observations on the annual report of the Administering Authority,^{1/} WHO had referred to the lack of accommodation for mental patients in the Territory. He asked whether there were many mental cases in Ruanda-Urundi and how far the project for the construction of a mental hospital had advanced.

^{1/} Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1957 (Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muysewinkel, 1958). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1406).

45. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there was a specialist in mental diseases on the staff of the Usumbura hospital; one or two pavilions were reserved for mental patients but excellent results had been obtained by permitting them to mingle freely with the other patients. Construction of the mental hospital provided for in the ten-year plan had been deferred in favour of more urgent projects, but the hospital would eventually be built. In general, the problem of mental illness was easier to deal with in Ruanda-Urundi than in European countries, because local custom required Africans to feed and house the mentally ill.

46. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said he endorsed WHO's recommendations that a pilot project should be set up with a view to introducing programmes of health promotions into existing curative services and that the participation of the people in the health programme should be encouraged. He asked for the special representative's views on the matter.

47. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi had always worked closely with WHO and would welcome any material the latter submitted which had a bearing on the activities of the promotion teams that were working to improve living conditions in the hills. At the same time, the work being done at the chiefdom level should not be underestimated. The Bami had imposed strict regulations with respect to home cleanliness and the maintenance of proper sanitary facilities, with the result that the annual typhus epidemics which at one time had afflicted the Territory no longer occurred.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

48. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that, of the 1,278 pupils attending the Territory's eleven primary schools with a European syllabus, only forty-seven were listed in the annual report as Africans. He wondered whether those figures justified the statement in the Secretariat working paper (T/L.909) that the provisions governing the admission of non-European children to such schools had been made progressively more flexible and he asked to what extent a policy of racial discrimination was applied.

49. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there was no question of racial discrimination. The only criteria applied with respect to primary school education were the results of the child's medical examination, his personal hygiene and his general behaviour; indeed, knowledge of the French language was not a requirement for admission to the first-year class. On the other hand, African fathers generally preferred to send their children to schools with an African syllabus, where they would be in contact with other children from their village, would receive an education suited to their particular environment and would be taught in their own language. The European and African types of education converged at the secondary school level, where any student who passed an entrance examination was admitted. The State and chiefdom councils supported the existing system of admission; indeed, the African members of school commissions were often stricter than the Europeans with respect to applicants' personal hygiene and behaviour. At all events, the number of African children attending primary schools was rising year by year.

50. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that the standards of behaviour by which African primary school applicants were judged related to their degree of adaptation to European ways of living; in the usual sense of the word, they were at least as well-behaved as European children.

51. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that African children would adapt themselves more readily to the European way of life if they were freely admitted to European schools. He found it curious that, in a Territory where the work accomplished in the health field had been of a high order, only forty-seven African children out of a total school-age population estimated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at over one million were able to meet the health standards required of European children.

52. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the European schools were few in number and that virtually the same education was provided by the African schools. There was no reason why African children should not attend schools in their own neighbourhoods and in point of fact few of them applied for admission to European schools and even fewer were rejected. The issue of admitting African children to European schools arose only in the case of children living in or near administrative centres like Usumbura and other cities where such schools existed.

53. Mr. RASGOTRA (India), noting that there had been 2,814 primary schools in Ruanda-Urundi in 1957, but only 5,764 classes in operation, asked how many of these schools had provided a full six or seven-year course and how many had offered only one year of instruction or a course of intermediate length.

54. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that, inasmuch as the mountainous character of the Territory made travel difficult, local schools had been set up where African children could generally obtain their first year or two of education. If they wished to continue their schooling, they could attend the regular primary schools, which were generally some distance from their homes and in some instances were boarding schools. He would try to secure the specific information requested by the Indian representative.

55. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the decline in attendance in the higher grades, which UNESCO noted in its observations (T/1442), evidently resulted in large measure from the fact that the regular primary schools were inaccessible to pupils who had completed their first one or two years of education at local schools. He asked how the Administering Authority intended to correct the present financially and educationally wasteful situation, in which children attended school for a year or two and then failed to pursue their education.

56. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the problem of distance was not as serious for an African child as it would be for a European, since the system of widely distributed clans made it possible for him to obtain lodging with relatives wherever he might find himself attending school. On the other hand, many parents tended to withdraw their children from school as soon as they were able to do useful work and the children themselves often left school in order to earn money. In spite of the various factors operating, the school wastage rate was declining from year to year and the Administration hoped that the situation would ultimately correct itself. The only alternative was to

increase the number of primary schools offering complete courses of instruction, which would impose a severe financial burden. The Administration was very much alive to the problem.

57. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that it would be generally agreed that the people of the Territory were enthusiastic on the subject of education. Yet in 1957 the number of pupils attending school in the second grade had been only 52,028, compared with 105,705 in the first grade. It was difficult to believe that such a reduction occurred merely because the pupils were anxious to earn a living. His delegation felt that it might well be due to the fact that the facilities provided in the second grade were inadequate, with the result that there were no schools for the children to attend. Whatever the reasons, he would be glad to know whether the whole question of the poor school attendance in the second and higher grades had been made the subject of an inquiry on the part of the Administering Authority or of the Education Commission of the General Council.

58. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that all such problems were examined by the Education Commission, which had been the first Commission set up by the General Council. He had not suggested that the sole explanation lay in the desire of young Africans to earn their living. It was his impression, however, that all the local schools had at least two classes, which meant that the decline in attendance between the first and second grades was not in fact due to reasons of distance.

59. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) observed that in 1957, according to the estimate made by UNESCO, there had been 1,183,000 children in the 5-14 age group. The number of classes in 1958 had been 6,033 and the number of teachers, many of them unqualified, 6,088. In other words, there had been one teacher for each class of about 45 pupils. His delegation calculated that, if primary educational facilities were to be provided for all children of school age, 25,000 primary classes would be required, necessitating an equal number of teachers. He therefore failed to see what justification there was for the statement made by the Administering Authority in the document containing additional information (T/1452) that the facilities established seemed almost sufficient to absorb the whole population of school age.

60. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the statement in question did not mean that the facilities were sufficient in themselves but that, if they were systematically developed, they might prove to be sufficient to meet the needs of the whole population of school age. On the assumption that first-grade pupils would number about 110,000, provision for the other grades would be made in proportion and some degree of balance would be achieved. That did not mean that every child would have the opportunity to attend primary school; that depended on the parents. The wide-spread desire for education had been a recent development; in the past, it had been necessary to urge the inhabitants in that direction.

61. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that, according to the annual report of the Administering Authority, investment expenditure on the seventeen schools of the metropolitan type had amounted to 41,808,000 francs, whereas in the case of the 2,855 schools of the African type it had been 14,366,000 francs. He asked the special representative to give the reasons for that disparity,

and to explain why the number of secondary schools, according to the observations submitted by UNESCO, had decreased from thirty-six to twenty-four.

62. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) explained that the difference in the rate of investment expenditure had been due to the fact that the buildings housing the government schools were wholly paid for by the Government, whereas those of the subsidized schools were paid for by the missions, with help from the Government. In many other ways, such as the salaries paid to the teachers, the subsidized schools were very much less costly than the government schools.

63. So far as he was aware, no secondary schools had been closed. Nevertheless, he would make inquiries.

64. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that not more than twenty out of 2,873 schools were government schools, all the remainder being subsidized mission schools. He asked what steps the Administering Authority took to ensure uniformity in the standard of education imparted in the mission schools. In the past, the Council had recommended that the Administering Authority should itself do more to ensure the spread of education in the Territory, but there was no evidence of any such efforts.

65. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that the matter had been considered by the Education Commission of the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi, which had urged that the general principle of State education should be progressively adopted. It had pointed out, however, that education in government schools would cost at least ten times as much as subsidized education.

66. The subsidy itself was never higher than 80 per cent and was granted only if the school in question observed the teaching programme laid down by the Government. There were government inspectors of schools and there were also missionary inspectors, two of whom were Africans.

67. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that his delegation had gained the impression that the Administering Authority placed more emphasis on the creation of an educational élite than on the spread of education among the masses. Was it intended that only the children of chiefs and sub-chiefs and of parents holding civic merit cards should proceed through all the stages of primary, secondary and higher education? He would be glad if the special representative would also explain the significance of the possession of a civic merit card.

68. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that the policy of the Administering Authority was certainly not designed to promote the education of a chosen few; its duty was to ensure that all the inhabitants of the Territory were given the same opportunity. No pupil had ever been favoured merely because he was the son of a chief or sub-chief or of the holder of a civic merit card. The Administration was alive to the social movements which were now taking shape and to the consequent need for providing educational opportunities for all. Moreover, the whole educational problem was again under review by an expert mission sent out by a Belgian university.

69. The purpose of the civic merit card was to give recognition to the fact that an indigenous inhabitant had rendered service to the community and had given evidence of his desire to progress towards a higher status. No discrimination was involved. The award of the civic merit card was decided by a committee comprising both African and European members, which took into account a number of factors; the most important consideration was whether the applicant was playing his part in promoting the advancement of his fellow-citizens. The card was never awarded to a young man who had just left school. It brought no privilege to the holder, apart from a few minor advantages granted to his children; what it did bring was the respect of his fellow-countrymen.

70. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) recalled that according to the report of the 1957 Visiting Mission, the inhabitants of the Trust Territory had displayed very little knowledge about the functioning of the United Nations. He asked the special representative whether, since then, any special measures had been taken by the Administering Authority to promote the spread of information concerning the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council and the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. Would the Administering Authority not consider the possibility of inviting the Secretary-General to set up a United Nations Information Centre in the Territory?

71. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administration had given proof of its good faith in disseminating information about the activities of the United Nations. Such knowledge, however, could be acquired rather through education than by reading a bulletin or listening to a brief broadcast statement. Nevertheless, the activities of the United Nations were well known to the chiefs and sub-chiefs, and documentation concerning the Organization was made available in the indigenous courts and to the African administrative officers. Time was specifically allowed for teaching the subject in the primary schools, from the third grade onwards, and the same was true of the secondary and vocational schools. Moreover, an exhibition had been held in several secondary schools on United Nations Day, at which attention had been drawn to the objectives of the United Nations by means of pictures and written statements.

72. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), replying to the second part of the Indian representative's question, said that he was unable to state whether or not it was the intention of his Government to invite the Secretary-General to set up a United Nations Information Centre in the Territory.

73. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the useful papers concerning the Trust Territory which had been placed before the Council by certain of the specialized agencies. His delegation hoped that in the following year the Council would also have the benefit of a thorough study by the ILO of labour conditions in Ruanda-Urundi such as had been provided in 1958.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.