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Note by the Secretariat: Individual members of the Council have informed the Secretariat regarding the final text of statements which they wish to include in Part III of the Report. The following revised text replaces Part III as contained in document T/L.31.

PART III

OBSERVATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
REPRESENTING THEIR INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ONLY

I. GENERAL

Miscellaneous

The Representative of China congratulated the Administering Authority for Ruanda-Urundi for the comprehensive and informative report it had submitted to

the Council for the year 1948.

The representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated the Belgian Administration on its constructive work in 1948 and expressed his confidence that the few remaining gaps would be filled without difficulty.

The representative of Belgium thanked the Trusteeship Council for the generally conscientious and impartial manner in which it had studied the Administering Authority's report. He assured the Council that any observations that it might make would receive the latter's most serious consideration.

Ten-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development

The representative of the United States of America noted that a ten-year plan for the economic and social development of Ruanda-Urundi was to be worked out. He looked forward with interest to the publication of the systematic and detailed plan.

The representative of China was gratified to note that the Administering Authority had decided to prepare a separate ten year plan for the economic and social development of the Territory. He hoped that the relevant recommendations and observations of the Council and its Visiting Mission would be taken into careful consideration by the Administering Authority, either in connection with this ten year plan or independently of it. In particular, he referred to the recommendations and observations relating to the discouragement of European colonization, the improvement of the wage level, the prevention of famine and the introduction of a co-operative system in agriculture, trade and industry.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

General observations

The representative of Iraq noted that the Africans were still very much

attached to traditional institutions. He believed that these institutions should be gradually modified towards modern government. Such an evolution could be brought about by education and persuasion, but antiquated methods should not be allowed to hamper the march of progress, and traditional institutions should in no way arrest the development of the Territory, or its advancement toward self-government or independence. He noted that the Administering Authority was pursuing a policy of steady evolution towards modern political institutions which should be followed steadily and vigorously. He felt sure that the Council would want to recommend this policy.

The representative of the Philippines noted that as a whole the political progress of the Trust Territories had lagged behind that attained in the economic and social fields. He expressed the wish that, while praising the Administering Authorities, the members of the Trusteeship Council would not forget the paramount objectives of the Trusteeship System of preparing the people for self-government or independence.

The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed the opinion that it was time to abandon tribal feudalism and to start making use of the ballot box and teaching the indigenous inhabitants how to exercise the right of vote. The pace of political development was too slow and at the present rate it would take generations, if not centuries, before Ruanda-Urundi became capable of self-government. Great results could be achieved in a generation, given the necessary faith and provided that the preparation of the people for self-government was kept in mind as the basic aim of the Trusteeship System.

The representative of Belgium maintained that the training of indigenous medical assistants and agriculturalists, the provision of facilities for a large number of children to attend school, and the improvement of health and nutrition standards were just as important as political progress in leading the indigenous inhabitants along the road to self-government. He did not however deny that the pace of political development might be accelerated.

The special representative pointed out that with the exception of the still numerically small elite, the mass of the population of Ruanda-Urundi lived for the present and was not interested in politics. So far as they were concerned, the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council, the Belgian Government, even the Government of Ruanda-Urundi were merely remote abstractions. To awaken a political conscience and transform the indigenous inhabitants' purely familial conception of life into a more social, more universal understanding of human relationship was a task for the future. Furthermore, it must be remembered that the indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi were divided into three very distinct groups, the Batutsia, the Bahutus and the Batwas. It was the duty of the Belgian administration to protect the Bahutus and the Batwas against themselves and to dissipate their political and social apathy.

The representative of Iraq expressed the opinion that the Council should look to the Administering Authority to broaden African representation on governmental organs. As many Africans as possible should be seated on legislative, executive and local Councils.

Relations between chiefs and people

The representative of Iraq stated that political communion between a government and its public was of the utmost help, and that communion could not be achieved without an affinity of thought between the two. It would be a tragedy if an awakened and enlightened public were to be presided over by ignorant and reactionary chiefs, who would thwart progress and development at every turn.

The representative of Belgium stated that in Ruanda, the Mwami, forty-nine chiefs out of fifty-two, and five hundred and fifty-eight sub-chiefs out of six hundred and thirty-three were literate. In Urundi, the Mwami and thirty-two chiefs out of thirty-six were literate, as were three hundred and forty-four out of five hundred and sixteen of the sub-chiefs. It followed that the standard of education of the chiefs and sub-chiefs was certainly higher than the average for the population.

Council of Vice-Government General

The representative of the Philippines was surprised by the statement of the special representative to the effect that a measure granting legislative power to the Council of Vice Government General would constitute a negation of the Trusteeship System. In support this view, the special representative stated that according to the terms of the Trusteeship agreement the legislative power was vested in Belgium as the Administering Authority and this power could not be transferred to a local Council. The Philippines delegation on the contrary, felt that the progressive transfer of legislative powers to a local body would constitute an implementation of the Charter's obligation in respect of progressive development towards self-government or independence. It would seem that giving some legislative powers to a central mixed body, at present advisory, would not only be in order but highly desirable and quite in keeping with the practice in other African Trust Territories.

Plans to reform the indigenous political structure

The representative of Iraq stated that the Administering Authority was to be congratulated for its intention to bring about constitutional reforms. He believed that the Council would want concrete information on these plans at the earliest opportunity, which should not only ensure the consolidation of a solid system of government but also accelerate, within measures of practicability, the political advancement of the Territory.

The representative of the Philippines expressed regret that, although the Annual Report stated that modifications might take place in 1949 in the indigenous political structure, no further information could be obtained from the special representative.

The representative of Belgium stated that it was quite impossible for the special representative, who was a subordinate of the Minister for the Colonies, to furnish details of schemes which were actually under consideration by the Administration. The necessary information would be provided in the Report for the following year.

Electoral system

The representative of Iraq observed that some sort of an electoral system must be introduced in the Territory. The people should be trained in order to obtain the benefits of modern political institutions, particularly in respect of parliamentary methods.

Bami's visit to Europe

The representative of the Philippines commended the Administering Authority for having enabled the Mwami of Ruanda and four of his notables to pay a visit to Belgium in 1949, and for planning to do the same for the Mwami of Urundi.

Invitation of the Bami to the Trusteeship Council

The representative of the Philippines wondered whether the Administering Authority would have any objection if the two important African rulers of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, or one of them, were invited to attend a future session of the Trusteeship Council and were asked, if desirable, to express their views to the Council on matters relating to

the Trust Territory. It might be desirable for the Trusteeship Council to make an appropriate suggestion or recommendation along these lines.

Administrative Union with the Belgian Congo

The representative of China was gratified to find that although an administrative union existed between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, the separate identity of the former as a Trust Territory was maintained. He hoped that the Administering Authority would take into careful consideration the suggestion of the Visiting Mission that "the administering authority should envisage a modification of the system of administrative union on the basis of partnership rather than subordination."

The representative of the Philippines noted the statement of the special representative to the effect that there was no link of subordination between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo. He was not, however, entirely satisfied with the explanation as to the situation really obtaining in this administrative union, and recalled that the Visiting Mission suggested some modifications in the present status of this union. He associated himself with the relevant observations of the Visiting Mission, but thought that it might be wise to make further observations on this question when the general problem of administrative unions came before the Council.

The representative of France said that it was clear that Ruanda-Urundi had an individuality and a character of its own which assured its future independence from both a moral and political point of view, but it was no less true that the Territory could not in any way hope for economic independence. It was economically dependent on collaboration with the Belgian Congo, without which it would relapse into economic distress. The Administering Authority's present policy was therefore the best.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Agriculture

The representative of China was pleased to note the efforts made by the Administering Authority in the spheres of agriculture and reforestation

The representative of the United States of America stated that the efforts of the Administering Authority to increase coffee cultivation should be noted with approval. He noted with some concern the concentration on this one export crop and expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to diversify the Territory's economy to the fullest extent practicable, in order to reduce the Territory's dependence upon a single cash crop.

The representative of the United Kingdom was impressed by the successful achievement on the part of the Administering Authority in teaching and encouraging the indigenous farmers to cultivate their land effectively by scientific contouring of the steep slopes.

Non-indigenous settlement

The representative of the Philippines considered that even uninhabited areas should be reserved for the African population and no European settlers should be given lands in these areas. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's recommendation that the Trusteeship Council should maintain constant vigilance in this matter and support the Administration against the ever-present possibility of pressure being brought to bear upon it by a European colonization centre in full progress of expansion.

Budget

The representative of China was pleased to note the determination of the Administering Authority to meet the deficit in the budget by loans from Belgium rather than by curtailing the expenditure on steps to accelerate the economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants.

The representative of the United States of America observed that in consequence of efforts on behalf of the indigenous inhabitants there had resulted a deficit in the budget and that the Administering Authority had decided to cover the deficit by means of a loan. Noting that this deficit was likely to increase as a result of a comprehensive Ten-Year Plan for

economic and social development, he observed that this presented a serious problem and expressed the hope that these expenditures would have the effect of stimulating effectively new economic activity in the Territory, so that eventually Ruanda-Urundi would be able to stand on its own feet.

The representative of Belgium said that the financial effects of the Ten-Year Plan were being carefully watched. Considerable financial assistance on the part of the metropolitan country was provided for, as a free gift and without the payment of interest.

Imprisonment for non-payment of taxes

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against the penalty of imprisonment for non-payment of taxes because there were other methods of enforcing the collection of taxes, such as the retention of salaries. Imprisonment was a hard sanction which, in any case, did not secure the payment of the tax.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that in the great majority of cases, civil proceedings would be completely futile and even when successful, would involve the taxpayer in legal costs quite disproportionate to the amount of tax to be recovered. He pointed out that wage-earners were only a very small proportion of the taxpayers, and in their case, seizure of wages could be practised. He stated that statistics proved that there had been no abuse of this form of punishment; in 1948 sentences of imprisonment had been pronounced against 633 taxpayers out of 745,750, about 0.08 per cent.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Immigration

The representative of China noted the provision of the immigration decree which included among the undesirables not admissible to the Territory as immigrants, persons who were unable to read and write a European language. Language, like race, was one of the criteria for determining the existence of discrimination and the restriction was clearly a discrimination against persons familiar with languages other than European. He requested the Council to recommend that the Administering Authority abolish this law.

Discrimination

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against the practice of racial discrimination. He pointed out that there were in Ruanda-Urundi many cases of different regulations for indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants. The explanations given did not justify this practice.

The representative of China observed that it was incumbent upon the Council to take appropriate action as regards racial discrimination in terms of Resolution 49 (IV) of the Trusteeship Council, with particular reference to Ruanda-Urundi and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Resolution 323 (IV) of the General Assembly. He believed that regulations on traffic in alcoholic beverages and arms should not be based on racial discrimination. He observed that considerations of public health and hygiene underlying regulations on housing and prison life should not be utilized as a cloak for the actual practice of racial discrimination. He was of the opinion that definite steps could be taken to improve the situation in consequence of the increasing contact and association between the European and non-European population.

Freedom of the Press

The representative of Iraq stated that the Administering Authority should, whenever possible, encourage freedom of the Press which should be looked upon from the point of view of the people of the Territory and their welfare.

The representative of the Philippines pointed out the danger to freedom which exists in the legislation relative to the requirements for previous authorization by the Government for the publication of a newspaper or a periodical.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that, as regards prior authorization for the publication of a newspaper or periodical, since the war a law had been in force in Ruanda-Urundi and in Belgium prohibiting any person convicted of collaboration with the enemy from taking any part in the publication of a newspaper. Furthermore, certain international conventions to which Belgium was a party, prohibited the introduction and distribution of obscene literature and the government had to be in a position to confiscate such literature.

Wages

The representative of the Dominican Republic observed that wages were too low to provide the indispensable necessities of life and that there was no minimum wage law in the Territory.

The representative of the Philippines thought that higher wages and technical education were two of the most practicable and effective antidotes to low-grade labour.

He recalled that an investigation mission of the Belgian Senate to the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi in 1947 had found the wages and their relation to the standard of living to be extremely low. He fully supported the observations and suggestions made by the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council on the matter of wages.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that the observations in the Report published by the 1947 Belgian Senate Commission showed the interest taken by the Belgian Parliament in the treatment of the indigenous inhabitants.

The special representative stated that the Mwami of Ruanda, on his return from Belgium, declared that he had been particularly impressed by the contrast between the productive effort of Belgian workmen and the low output of indigenous workers in Ruanda-Urundi.

Penal Sanctions for Breach of Labour Contracts

The representative of the Philippines could not approve of the continuation of penal sanctions for breaches of labour legislation, and did not believe, as was stated in the Annual Report, that their removal would result in social troubles.

The representative of Belgium re-affirmed the impossibility of applying civil sanctions to the indigenous worker in Ruanda-Urundi, who regarded his wages merely as a kind of extra income. He was not in the position of the European worker who was compelled to work by the iron law which obliged him to work or starve.

Housing

The representative of the United States of America noted with gratification the programme for building houses for Africans throughout Ruanda-Urundi in 1948.

Public Health

The representative of the United States of America noted with satisfaction that the medical corps in Ruanda-Urundi increased nearly 50 per cent in 1948 and that medical expenditure rose from 24 million francs in 1947 to about 42 million francs in 1948.

Prison System

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against racial discrimination in prisons. He noted that the disciplinary punishment of whipping was applied to indigenous inhabitants only. He was unconvinced by the reasons given by the special representative, and asked that the punishment should be abolished. He made a similar remark with regard to the disciplinary punishment of chaining, likewise applied to indigenous prisoners only.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The representative of China commended the Administering Authority on the progress which has been achieved in the field of education and on the impressive programme which has been adopted by the Administering Authority for the increase of subsidized schools.

The representative of Iraq noted that the Administering Authority had made great progress in education, for which it deserved commendation. He recommended that, within the means of practicability, the Administering Authority should consider always the increase of educational facilities.

The representative of the Dominican Republic noted the highly praiseworthy achievement of the Administering Authority in the field of education, and the no less meritorious work of the religious missions. He pointed out, however, certain weak points; primary education came to a stop at a relatively low level; secondary education was confined to a small minority; there were no official, secular schools, and higher education was non-existent.

Government Secular Schools

The representative of Iraq noted that with one exception all schools in the Territory were run by missionaries. While cognizant of the great work done by the missions in the Territory, he recommended that the Administering Authority consider the possibility of establishing at least one secular school.

The representative of China noted that education, especially primary education, was a de facto monopoly of the missions. He wondered whether in view of the absence of a single secular school in the Territory, religion classes were not in fact compulsory for African children who wished to receive instruction. He recalled that petitioners had requested government secular schools. He stated that the views expressed on this subject by the Visiting Mission should be included in the observations of the Trusteeship Council and that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority consider establishing a few official secular schools, without prejudice to the help given to religious institutions engaged in educational activities.

The representative of Belgium made the point that if the 146 Christian missionaries at present devoting their lives to teaching in Ruanda-Urundi were replaced by officers of the administration the salaries of the latter alone would total twenty million francs, that was to say, three-quarters of the education budget for 1948.

The special representative stated that, at a school for European and Mulatto children run by a Catholic mission at Usumbura, 15 pupils out of 100 were excused religious instruction.

Use of the Vernacular

The representative of Iraq stated that the Administering Authority should be commended for teaching the national language. His delegation would recommend that this effort be intensified as much as practicable.

The representative of the Dominican Republic considered that the practice of teaching vernacular languages was a very good one.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that teaching of the vernacular began in the very first year at school. The innovation lay in the fact that, whereas formerly, once French became the teaching language, the teaching of the vernacular was discontinued, at the present time, in intermediate schools, the vernacular continued to be systematically taught, although French was the actual teaching language.

Library Facilities

The representative of Iraq noted with approval and appreciation the efforts of the Administering Authority in respect to the establishment of four libraries and recommended that more libraries be opened wherever possible. He suggested that the Administering Authority could include in the next Annual Report some statistics as to the attendance rate at these libraries and that some measures could be devised to stimulate their use.

Dissemination of Information on the United Nations

The representative of China stated that according to the reply of the special representative, dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System was obviously inadequate in the Territory.

The special representative stated that in the new compendium on legislation relating to Ruanda-Urundi, which had been published recently and was being purchased by many indigenous inhabitants of the Territory, Articles 75-91 of the United Nations Charter and the text of the Trusteeship Agreement for Ruanda-Urundi were reproduced.