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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 15 March 1955, at 2 p.m.

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|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>President:</u> | Mr. URQUIA                   | (El Salvador) |
| <u>later:</u>     | Mr. BARGUES (Vice-President) | (France)      |

Examination of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi [Agenda item 3 b]  
(continued)

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55-06662

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN RUANDA-URUNDI (T/L.546): (continued)

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1134, 1150, 1159)

[Agenda item 3 b](b) REPORT OF THE VISITING MISSION (T/1141, 1164) [Agenda item 5 b](c) PETITION CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/COM.3/L.15) [Agenda item 4]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative for Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, took a place at the Council table.

Economic advancement (continued)

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): My first question relates to the production of coffee. I gather from the very complete report of the Administering Authority, and also from the Visiting Mission's report, that the high prices of coffee led the indigenous inhabitants to abandon the production of certain other crops. My delegation would be very happy to know how the Administration is attempting to avoid the dangers of mono-culture, and we should like to know what action is being taken to diversify agricultural production. Has the Administration any plans along this line?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It must be remembered that, before the Belgian Administration came into Ruanda-Urundi, no crops for export were grown. It was the Belgian authorities, in seeking to obtain resources for the natives, who introduced the cultivation of coffee. This brings the Territory an income of approximately \$10,000,000 a year. The Administration also anticipated the danger that would occur if mono-culture were enforced in Ruanda-Urundi. That is why it was able in some cases to introduce new types of culture -- for instance, the culture of cotton, which is possible only in the lower reaches of the Territory and which now produces approximately \$1,000,000 worth of fibre.

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Special representative)

Although these studies are not very well advanced, some businessmen are at present studying the possibilities of growing cotton in the Mosso area. As the representative of France has pointed out, the Administration has also encouraged the growing of castor-oil plants, but the natives did not seem to take much interest in it because the growing of coffee is far more profitable.

As regards the growing of coffee, I must point out that in the report of the Visiting Mission one figure seems to be inaccurate. The Visiting Mission states somewhere in its report that there had been 13,000 tons grown in 1952, and the Visiting Mission wondered what would be the production for 1954. The 1954 production was 13,600 tons and the production for 1953, which the Visiting Mission believed to be 11,000 tons, was in reality 14,535 tons. That is why the importance of growing coffee has not in any way fallen off in the Territory. The growing of coffee has been maintained at a steady level, with the exception of the large figure of 17,000 tons which was grown in 1951.

The Administration has also encouraged the growing of quinine trees, but there seemed to be some difficulty in selling the bark at this stage and therefore this culture has not been greatly encouraged. The attempts that were made to replace food crops by export crops have been pursued, and in the Ruzizi area, in the north of Tanganyika, the growing of sugar cane has begun. These are the present achievements and the future programme of the Administration as regards these export crops.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): In reading the report, I noticed that the production of coffee had increased in the Territory, as well as the production of cotton, which had reached 5,300 tons. However, I was struck by one of the observations of the report and I should like to have some supplementary information.

It seems that for non-indigenous crops production has remained at about the same level but that the area under cultivation has decreased. I realize that in the case of quinine, the slump was caused by a reduction of the cultivated area but I should like to know if it is the same for aleurites, for example, in which the indigenous inhabitants are interested. What, in general, is the cause for the decrease in the cultivated area for aleurites?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I have no precise information with respect to aleurites. I think that the diminution of crops grown by non-indigenous inhabitants refers especially to the decrease in quinine and perhaps also in a certain measure to another crop. I do not have any information with respect to aleurites, but we must always consider that the problem of exporting agricultural produce from Ruanda-Urundi is extremely complicated because of the considerable distance that separates the frontiers from the ocean.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to put a question which also refers to the measures taken by the Administration to improve methods of agriculture and native productivity either in the individual holdings or in the community plantations. Of course, an increase in the density of the population should prompt the Administration to improve the productivity of native holdings, be they individual or community holdings. I should like to have some information, if possible, regarding the measures that have been taken in this regard.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administration has always devoted attention to improved methods of agriculture and to increased productivity. In addition to the regulations which impose on natives the obligation to carry out certain projects, the Administration has required them to carry out certain land improvement projects and projects designed to prevent land erosion. Wherever it was possible, the Administration attempted to introduce the use of the plow in place of the hoe. In community holdings, land clearing work has been done by agricultural machinery.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): My next question relates to cattle breeding. In a country where mining was introduced recently cattle breeding must certainly be one of the most important activities in the Territory. Paragraph 216 of the report of the Visiting Mission states that a draft decree to establish associations of cattle owners was being examined. I should like to know whether these cattle owners are native owners exclusively.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I am not familiar with the exact text of the draft decree. In practice, however, these would certainly be associations of native owners. The non-native owners constitute a very small percentage. The non-native owned cattle herds constitute only two and a half or three out of one thousand. The owners are mostly natives.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): Can the special representative tell me as accurately as possible -- I know that he may not have an absolutely accurate figure with him -- the number of taxpayers, both native and European, who pay taxes on professional income.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I would prefer to answer that question after the recess, as it will be necessary for me to look it up.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): My last question relates to cattle breeding and the problems of the rural population. As the Visiting Mission notes in paragraph 221 of its report, the Administering Authority is interested in introducing indigenous enterprises among the peasants. We see, for example, that in certain areas attempts have already been made to develop such indigenous enterprises, that is to say, basket-weaving, pottery and brick and tile works. Can the special representative tell us something more about this subject?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administration always has in mind a desire to introduce more diversity into the activities of the indigenous inhabitants and to guide them, as far as possible, in the direction of industrial or artisan activities. However, this effort has encountered a number of obstacles. In its comments, the Administration has pointed out that, as regards the weaving of cotton textiles, the natives can obtain more by importing them than he can weave himself and, therefore, the use of looms seems to be condemned beforehand.

As regards the pottery industry, as I said yesterday, the natives are unwilling to work in the earth. Besides, various kinds of aluminium or enamel utensils are available on the market which are more useful than those they could make themselves.

As far as the basket weaving industry is concerned, some activity has been shown, but here, again, it must be admitted that imported goods will supplant the locally manufactured goods. It might be possible, in the future, to maintain basket weaving of the artistic type which would be appreciated by the tourists, when tourism has become more developed.

I think that this is all I can say about the rudimentary enterprises, not only in the valley of the Ruzizi, but in the whole of the Territory.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): We note that one of the problems engaging the attention of the Government is the resettlement of populations in certain areas. I have myself seen some very good work done in this direction, but, as far as we could see it, the Ruzizi plan was being developed to settle about 20,000 persons there, and when the other areas are developed, in all they will absorb only 100,000 persons. The impression which we gathered was that the progress of resettlement was slow for various reasons and, meanwhile, the population growth is relatively large.

We should like to know whether the Government is taking any special measures for inducing resettlement on a larger scale than hitherto. For instance, has this question been actively discussed in the Higher Councils of the two States, in the Conseils de chefferies, etc., and has the assistance of the Chiefs and Sub-chiefs been enlisted in this matter?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not believe that the question was discussed in the two conseils superieurs because this is a question of general importance of concern to the higher authorities; that is to say, the European Administration rather than the two conseils. However, if the two conseils have not had this question before them, nevertheless the Bami and the Chiefs know that the situation calls for the closest attention, and they are convinced that this question of resettlement is a vital one.

The Administration has not only attempted to solve this problem of resettlement, but has decided that one means of dealing with it is industrialization; sugar-cane production, for example, is a factor to be taken into account. We hope that we can accelerate the movement in the Mosso region, where preparatory work has been undertaken. On the other hand, in our ten-year-plan we have said that we should like to obviate the danger of a considerable increase in the population by increasing the agricultural resources considerably.

In 1949 the Administration thought that there would be some 31 per cent increase in agricultural production within the following ten years. That increase, as one can see from the reports of 1949, 1953, etc., was even greater than we had hoped. Therefore, we think that, although the question of resettlement is moving rather slowly, nevertheless the situation is by no means tragic.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): The special representative referred to industrialization as one of the solutions envisaged by the Administration. When we discussed this ten-year-plan with the Chamber of Commerce in Usumbura, the Chairman -- Mr. Midner, I think -- was not sure how private enterprise could participate in the implementation of the plan, although it was anxious to do so. We should like to know whether the Government has any scheme to encourage private investment in the implementation of certain projects provided for in the plan.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The question put by the representative of India is one which is very general indeed. I know, for example, that the Administration has given much encouragement to the construction of the Ruzizi central plant to provide electricity and power for a reasonable price throughout the whole Territory. This is one of the great efforts which we are now making towards industrialization in general. During its visit, the Visiting Mission realized that industrialization was being pursued throughout the whole Territory. The next two large projects are the meat industry, which was mentioned a few moments ago, and the sugar industry, which will go along with the sugar-cane plantations in the Ruzizi. I do not believe that I can give any further details on these matters at the moment.

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Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to refer to a question put by the representative of France concerning the establishment of cottage, or handicrafts, industries. It seems that the Administration is of the view that there is not much of a prospect for the development of these industries. We did see a fairly well developed basketry industry, and possibly there is also a pottery industry on a very small scale.

We appreciate the reasons why such industries cannot be developed on a large scale. Nevertheless, we wonder whether a fundamental educational project cannot be invited to explore the possibilities of developing the native genius of the people in these directions.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administering Authority has been principally interested in training the population for professional work -- for example, wood-working. We think that it will be possible to develop a cabinet-making industry, a furniture industry, and so forth. Actually, the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi do not have much furniture, and, therefore, the possibilities in that field are considerable.

As regards pottery, there is this difficulty: the imported products are more durable and are very cheap, and they therefore are bought in preference to the domestic products.

The representative of India referred to the native genius of the people. In that respect, I would say that that genius has scarcely come to the surface, except in the field of metal working, and so forth. Also, the women in the Territory are very good at fancy basket weaving. Unfortunately, there are not many outlets for those fancy baskets. It takes many, many hours of work to make them, and it is hard to obtain a price that would adequately recompense the women basket weavers. The men in the Territory are not very much interested in forging, because, in general, knives and other metal instruments which are needed are easy to obtain.

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representative)

The Administering Authority and the Visiting Missions have strongly encouraged the development of certain special arts. The last Visiting Mission perhaps saw some examples of this at Kabgaye, where the indigenous inhabitants are modelling in clay, and so forth. That is about all the information that I can give on this point.

Mr. REID (New Zealand): In answer to a question put by the representative of France, the special representative undertook to gather some information on the payment of income tax by indigenous and other inhabitants. I wonder whether he could, at the same time, verify the other taxes and headings of revenue shown in the figures for 1953 and the estimates for 1954 and give us a rough indication of the proportion of those payments that is made by indigenous inhabitants and other inhabitants of the Territory. That would include figures for customs duties, head taxes, and so on.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Since the general question has been asked, I may perhaps be able to reply to the representative of New Zealand and the representative of France at the same time.

I have before me a summary of the receipts in the budget for 1953.

Taxes represent 2.37 per cent of the total revenue, or 14,113,900 francs. Personal taxes are for the large part paid only by non-indigenous inhabitants. Indigenous inhabitants pay personal taxes in so few cases that there is no effect on the total picture. Income taxes represent 13.97 per cent, or 80,130,000 francs. Head taxes and taxes on polygamy represent 18.79 per cent, or 111,000,000 francs. The tax on cattle -- which in almost all cases is paid by the indigenous inhabitants, since they are almost the only persons who own cattle in the Territory -- represents 40,000,000 francs. There remains a total of 197,000,000 francs -- or 33 per cent -- which is obtained from customs duties and excise duties; and 16,000,000 francs -- or 2.70 per cent -- which is obtained from various other taxes.

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representative)

It is difficult to determine which part of these customs and excise duties and taxes is paid by the indigenous inhabitants and which part by the non-indigenous inhabitants. It can, however, be stated that a rather large part is paid by the indigenous inhabitants. Apart from that, I could not establish a more precise distinction in this respect.

Mr. REID (New Zealand) : The general answers just given by the special representative were the ones that I wanted. I quite appreciate that it is not possible to give any exact figures in this regard.

In one of his questions, the representative of India made some mention of the cattle or meat industry. In this connexion, I should like to ask the special representative to refer to the following statement made by the Visiting Mission in its report:

"The Mission inquired whether any progress has been achieved in setting up the co-operatives and marketing organizations to deal with the excess cattle which would come on the market, and was informed that no such organizations had been established up to the present, although certain technical inquiries had been carried out, notably by a Mission headed by an official of FAO."

(T/1141, para. 215)

It is now about six months since that answer was given, and I should be grateful if the special representative could bring us up to date on this subject.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): When the Visiting Mission put the question to the Colonial Minister in Brussels, the Minister said that a draft decree concerning these co-operatives, etc., was being studied, and that that would be supplemented by the establishment of a

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State-financed enterprise which would deal with the cattle problem. That is a very important enterprise, and the Trusteeship Council will therefore understand that the studies are taking rather a long time. The Administering Authority is very anxious that the studies should be completed and that the enterprise should be established. Of course, a great deal of capital is required. Furthermore, this is a step which may meet opposition from the indigenous inhabitants. Thus, as in the case of the ubuhake contracts, we must proceed with extreme caution. However, when I left Usumbura three weeks ago, the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi had designated a European official whose sole task it will be to carry out propaganda throughout the Territory in favour of the project and to follow up the implementation of the scheme.

Mr. REID (New Zealand): We notice that the budget of the Territory is in two parts, the ordinary budget and the extraordinary budget, and that the extraordinary budget, by and large, is concerned with capital expenditure. I should like to know from the special representative whether any of the capital expenditure on such items as social development, education, health, and so on, is included in the ordinary budget, or whether the ordinary budget carries nothing but current expenses.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I think that all this information can be found in the annex dealing with the budget of the Territory. Usually, the extraordinary budget is devoted to so-called establishment expenditures -- the building of new edifices--and the ordinary budget is devoted to what the representative of New Zealand referred to as the current expenditures, such as salaries, upkeep, operations -- all those expenses which come up regularly every year. I think that further details can be found on page 316 of the report of the Administering Authority. For example, as regards public health and health facilities, it can be seen that the extraordinary budget includes such items as the building of laboratories and hospitals, the purchase of furniture for nursing schools, and the building of such schools, and so on and so forth.

Mr. REID (New Zealand): I was not asking for details. I was mainly concerned with having my impression confirmed that the ordinary budget of the Territory, which is dependent on the revenue obtained from the Territory, is sufficient only to cover current expenses, and that the whole of capital expenses is dependent upon the Belgian taxpayer.

My next question is somewhat related to this. I should like to know, in a general way, to what extent the expenditures for health, education and other services falls on local treasuries, as distinct from the ordinary budget of the central government.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): While the special representative is searching for the detailed information, I might say that information of a general nature bearing on this question is to be found on page 331 of the report. In principle the local treasuries pay only their administrative

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expenses, and in the social field they pay for the salaries of the lower personnel. The food of the patients is paid for by the circonscription, as are the salaries of the subaltern personnel in the infirmaries and dispensaries, and so forth.

Mr. REID (New Zealand): That is the general answer that I requested. I know that the details will be found in the report. My point was that the local treasuries are not yet bearing any substantial proportion of the cost of the social services out of their treasuries.

My final question relates to the matter of co-operatives. I am sure that the members of the Council share the Administering Authority's disappointment that further progress or faster progress has not been possible. I would be glad if the special representative were to indicate to the Council the major difficulties in the establishment of co-operatives, particularly in the last two or three years.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The principal difficulties met with in this question of the development of co-operatives are of several sorts. First of all -- and, in my opinion, this is the principal difficulty encountered -- the commercial education of the indigenous inhabitants has not been sufficiently attended to. When we installed these co-operatives, they worked as long as a European was constantly looking out for them. Another point had to do with the economic situation, especially the drop in coffee prices, which caused the co-operatives dealing in coffee to see that they were not making the profits that they had hoped for. A third difficulty was a certain resistance on the part of local commerce, which was made known to the Visiting Mission. Local business sees competition in these co-operatives. However, the Administration will continue its efforts. We have already achieved rather satisfactory results. At the present time, we have eight co-operatives, and seven of them at least are still operating normally and satisfactorily.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My first question deals with the last reference made by the representative of New Zealand concerning co-operatives. There appear to be certain contradictions in paragraphs 208 and 209 of the Visiting Mission's report. In the explanations of the Administering Authority certain contradictions are indicated. To judge by the last remark of the special representative, the Administering Authority feels that it must continue to develop the co-operatives. That at least is what I seem to understand.

The Administering Authority seems to be operating under a sort of protectionist policy. I would like to have some additional information. Who exactly are these local businessmen? Do they deal in coffee or are they the better organized groups? How numerous are these groups? Must they really be taken into account in dealing with the co-operative problem? Must these co-operatives be sacrificed to the local businessmen?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union is not a very acute one. The Administration has always said that it is not a question of sacrificing the four million native inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi to the profits which a few non-indigenous businessmen might obtain there. All of our past record shows that this is not the case. It is a country where, at every moment, the indigenous inhabitant needs, for his commercial training, to obtain extra training from the non-indigenous inhabitant. The indigenous inhabitant does not want to have every non-indigenous person ruined and practically forced to leave the country. Therefore, the Administration has to keep some balance and equilibrium between the interests of one party and the interests of the other party, because whether we like it or not, the non-indigenous inhabitant is necessary.

That is why the Administration intends to continue developing co-operatives. But we must do it cautiously, taking into account the conflicting interests there.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to add that it is not a question here of sacrificing indigenous interests to European interests. From their point of view, the businessmen say -- I would not say that I share it; I am simply stating it here -- that they pay taxes, that they pay for licences and that they have great fiscal responsibilities. The Administration gives all sorts of fiscal exemptions to these co-operatives, which is quite nominal at the beginning. But the Administration also provides these co-operatives with free assistance in the form of administration officials. These co-operatives do not have to pay for their managers, as would be the case of a European co-operative, for example. We know that a European co-operative would have to pay for its manager. These local businessmen say that they could compete with a co-operative which had normal expenses to meet. But here in Ruanda-Urundi, these co-operatives do not have to meet the normal expenditures. They do not have to pay a salary to their managers, and so forth. The Administration has to help these natives who do not know how to set up a co-operative by themselves. The Administration must also be careful not to set up co-operatives on a footing which would not be a healthy one. The day when the Administration would withdraw this assistance and these co-operatives would have to pay salaries to their managers, and so on, the co-operatives would close immediately. This is a very difficult problem.

It is not a question of sacrificing the native interests to certain business interests.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I wish to thank the special representative and the representative of Belgium for the explanations which they have given. I have another question. Is it possible to depict the following scheme: In case there were no co-operatives, there are at least coffee producers, namely the farmers, the peasants and the natives. An agent or intermediary buys this coffee. This is mentioned in the report of the Visiting Mission. There seems to be a middleman or agent who buys this coffee and sells it to an export company, or exports it himself if he is part of such an export company.

In the case of the co-operatives, I have the following picture: The producers get together -- and they are the producers and the middlemen themselves -- and they sell this coffee directly to the export company. In fact, the co-operative might even be a member of the export company. Therefore, in the case of the co-operatives we can skip one of these stages. They do not need the middleman. These are the two overall pictures to which I wish to draw attention. Could the special representative tell me whether I am correct in this understanding. If I am correct, we would arrive at the result that the middleman, who simply buys and resells, is superfluous. He is an obstacle standing between the producer and the export company. These middlemen of course receive a profit. They pay less to the producer than the exporters pay the middleman. If this is correct, then I would have a final question. But if I am not correct, I would still have an additional question. First of all, however, I would like to have a reply from the special representative.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French):

I must say that in a general way this overall presentation seems correct to me. This is so in a very general way, bearing in mind that these middlemen go out to the farms and fields themselves, buy the coffee on the spot and so forth. It seems that the Soviet representative has given a real picture of the situation.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In those circumstances, I have one final question concerning co-operatives. Could the special representative tell us how, in practice, all of this influences the farmer producer? In the first case, how much does a farmer receive for a kilo of coffee from the middleman or agent? I would like to have some average price per kilo. In the second case, when the farmer sells his coffee to a co-operative, how much does he receive when his coffee does not have to go through the hands of a middleman? What does the producer receive from the co-operatives and what does he receive from the agents or middlemen?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The answer would be somewhat discouraging for the representative of the Soviet Union.

The natives receive a very considerable amount for their coffee. It is something like 38 francs a kilogramme. The exporters sold it at something like 25 francs. In many cases, the exporters who did not sell their coffee immediately after buying it suffered very considerable losses, about 15 francs a kilogramme. Others who did sell their coffee immediately after buying it managed to come out even.

In preceding years, the profits were a bit larger for the exporters and the middlemen as well. However, the native producers have always been paid the normal price for their coffee, and the Administration has always established a minimum purchase price to be paid to the native producers.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the special representative and I assure him that I am not discouraged or disillusioned. I am very happy to see that the middlemen and so forth suffered losses.

My next question refers to taxes. In the second column on page 49 of the report we see that there is a personal tax for each employee of the white race and of the black race. What does this mean? Does it mean that employees of the same rank pay different taxes because they are of different races? Or does this apply to something else?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): No, it is not a tax paid by an employee but by the employer because of his employee. An employer who has an African employee pays 150 francs and the employer who has employees of some other race pays 300 francs per employee.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With regard to this same subject, domestic employees, for example, are mentioned. If the domestic employee is black, the amount is 100 francs; if he is of some other race, it is 500 francs. It seems to be very expensive to have white servants because their salaries must also be higher.

I should like to know why there are such differences even with regard to black or white servants. Why must employers pay a tax which is different for black servants than the tax for white servants? We must realize that, according to the work they do, they are equal. They are just domestic servants. The revenue they represent for the employer is the same, so why should there be a different tax paid? This leaves a sort of bad taste in our mouths with respect to black and white and all that sort of thing.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): What we have there is a tax based on a presumptive payment capacity. The employer, who is European as a rule, plays a sufficiently important part in the Territory. You pay more because you are assumed to earn more. I do not think that anybody paid the taxes that figure on page 50. However, if a movie star, for instance, were to come to Ruanda-Urundi with a European or an American maid, she would have to pay 500 francs. If she had a black maid for her children, she would pay only 100 francs. If a European comes with a maid or a personal valet, he would pay 750 francs merely because he is presumed to have more money than the others and therefore he can contribute more extensively to the payment of these taxes.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question refers to page 100 of the report. I see here that there are certain services which the natives have to perform for the chiefs. I should like to know what the services are and how they are assessed. On the other hand, do these services depend upon the appetites of the chief in question or are there any set rules or rates?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The situation which is mentioned on page 100 and to which the representative of the Soviet Union referred no longer exists. It is outdated. In the past, the natives had to perform certain services -- and I believe that I mentioned this in my introductory remarks -- which could sometimes reach the figure of three days of work a week. This is one of the old practices which the Belgian Administration has attempted to do away with altogether and has succeeded.

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representative)

These services have been replaced by a money payment. The representative of the Soviet Union can find this information on page 24. Besides the salaries, it is said that the chiefs and sub-chiefs receive money in payment for the services that used to be due to them by their natives. Therefore, there are no longer any corvée duties in effect in the Territory.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I understand that to mean, in addition to what is pointed out on page 24, which I had read, that the local population is not called upon to perform any corvée duties or to give any assistance to the chiefs, as was the case in other Territories. In other words, the population has no other duties or economic obligations -- sometimes they are called moral obligations -- as regards these chiefs.

I should now like to ask for one additional point of information. Are the chiefs, starting from the top chief, supposed to pay an income tax or, in exchange for the services rendered to the Administration, are they exempt in part or in total? This may be a minor detail, but it would be useful in formulating a general picture of the situation.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The two Bami pay taxes on the cattle they own and make the other contributions. The only tax which they do not pay is the head tax in their personal capacity. This can also be said of the other chiefs. However, if they were polygamists, they would have to pay the polygamy tax; they would also have to pay the native tax on the cattle which they own.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I come now to my last question, which is perhaps of a more general nature. In both the report of the Visiting Mission and the report of the Administering Authority, quite a few pages are devoted to the problem of erosion. In examining the available information on the agricultural situation, we find that land cultivation is carried out by very primitive methods. For example, the main agricultural implement is the hoe. How does the Administering Authority explain this situation? Is it a question of tradition or is it due to the fact that the purchasing power of the population is so low that they cannot afford more modern agricultural implements? By using more modern implements, they would certainly improve the condition of the soil. If the reason for this is the low purchasing power of the population, does the Administering Authority propose to do something in order to encourage and promote the purchase of modern equipment?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

The population resorts to the use of such primitive implements as the hoe because it cannot afford more modern agricultural implements. However, in many parts of the country, owing to the mountainous nature of Ruanda-Urundi, it is difficult to use other types of equipment. I know, for example, that in other parts of Africa the introduction of ploughs led to such slipping of the soil surface that it was necessary to revert back to the hoe. I believe this was mentioned in the Trusteeship Council a few years ago. However, where it is possible, for example in the Ruzizi area, where the land is fairly flat, the Administration has introduced some agricultural machinery, such as tractors. This equipment was supplied by the Government to the natives. Agriculture is generally being developed, but we cannot proceed more rapidly.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): It was one of the functions of INEAC to study the various possibilities of using more modern equipment. However, generally speaking, it can be said that the conclusions arrived at by INEAC are rather disappointing. For example, when tractors are used, if the soil is exposed to the sun for a few days, the soil will become quite sterile. That is why some of the scientists who are working for INEAC believe that the only way to do something about the soil of Africa is to cultivate it as the natives do with their experience of many centuries. The natives, for example, cultivate corn, palm trees, manioc and bananas. This would be absurd for a European farmer. However, one may note that when the palm trees have been harvested, the corn starts to grow; when the corn has been harvested, the manioc starts to grow; when the manioc has been harvested, the bananas begin to grow; and when the bananas have been harvested, then the land once again reverts to virgin soil. That is the only way in which to enrich the soil.

The scientists of INEAC have arrived at the conclusion that one should study the native methods very closely; there should be attempts to improve them,

but it should be remembered that basically these methods are not wrong. The large-scale production methods which are used in Europe and in America cannot be applied there. For example, the use of chemical fertilizer gives rise to many difficulties. This problem must be studied very closely. It is not enough to throw a sack of chemical fertilizer upon a given plot of land for it to produce a bigger harvest.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): My first question is in relation to the budget. On page 38 of the annual report mention is made of the budget of the pays and the chefferies. I should like to know whether the budget of Ruanda and Urundi are separate from the over-all budget of the Territory. For instance, is the situation comparable to that of a provincial budget in Belgium?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Yes, these budgets are quite autonomous in both countries and there is indeed a resemblance to the so-called provincial budgets in Belgium. The chefferies and the pays enjoy what might be called a civil status in certain cases.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): In other words, the chefferie budgets are not included in the pays budgets. If the budget of a pays is insufficient during a given budgetary year, can the Territorial budget make up the deficit?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): These budgets are independent of one another, but if the budget of a certain pays is insufficient, nothing, in principle, can prevent the pays from contracting a loan from the Territorial Administration.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Page 332, chapter 5 of the annual report gives the figures of the subsidies; the general budget can subsidize the pays budgets.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I have a few questions in regard to the land tenure system, reference to which is made on pages 96 and the following, paragraphs 55 and 56. In sub-paragraph a) it is stated that there is co-existence of two land tenure systems: the customary system concerning native holdings, and the system of written law concerning non-indigenous land holdings, and it is said that this goes back to the time of German occupation. However, in sub-paragraph b) it is stated that these two systems continue to co-exist under the Belgian administration.

(Mr. Tarazi, Syria)

My question is, with regard to the land reserved for the native, whether the regulation of these reserves is stringent, or whether it is flexible. Does the Administering Authority define these reserves according to the needs of the population, or according to the need to give certain concessions? Or does the assessment of these reserves constitute a final decision?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): When we say that the earlier system is continued under the Belgian administration, this means only that, under the Belgian administration, as under the earlier German administration, there are two systems, one governed by custom, and the other set down in written legislation. In the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi there is no land which has been reserved for the use of the natives or for any other use. The natives have all the land which, in the view of the Administration, is required by them in order to carry on their work. Some land must be set aside to be left fallow during the cultivation of other areas.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): In the German days there were three types of land: the land owned and occupied by natives, land which was registered, and land which was neither registered nor occupied by natives, and this land belonged to the German Reich. We maintained this system at first. There was no limitation of native land and, therefore, if there was any vacant land it was merged with the native land and placed at the disposal of the indigenous inhabitants. The only lands not freely disposed of by the indigenous inhabitants are those which were registered under the Tocrans Act, land which is therefore specified as not being native-owned. All those lands that are not native-owned are freely disposed of by the natives. There are no reserves; they can go where they want -- that is, except for the forests, which is another matter.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): In that case, I should like to draw the Administering Authority's attention to the fact that, in such circumstances, sub-paragraph b) should be amended, because it leads to ambiguity. The explanation which has just been given is counter to the wording of sub-paragraph b). The situation has now been clarified, and I am very grateful to the representative of Belgium for his explanation.

(Mr. Tarazi, Syria)

In view of the comments which have just been made, I should like to ask another question. Since there are two systems -- the customary system and the written law system -- can a native who owns land ask to have his plot of land registered without its being alienated? Judging by the report, the written law land tenure system applies exclusively to land under concession or belonging to religious organizations, or land held by non-natives.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The customary system continues to exist in the Territory. There has, however, been considerable improvement of the system. In the past, the Mwami and, under him, the chiefs could distribute land more or less as they pleased. Before the country was occupied by the Belgians, there was a system of favouritism. The chiefs could do anything they wished. The Mwami could even distribute land held by private individuals. Under the pressure of the Belgian administration, a change has been brought about in that system. Native rights have been re-asserted and, now, no native can be deprived of his land, whether he is building on it, planting it or leaving it fallow under the crop rotation system.

It is not as yet possible for an indigenous inhabitant to register his land under the written law system. The problem is being studied, but there are many difficulties. The written law system deals with the organization of individual holdings; and in that respect, there are questions of alienation, mortgaging the land, and so forth. Hence, in order to protect the indigenous inhabitants, one must give very careful study to the question of how these land holdings may be consolidated, if necessary -- that does not seem to be necessary at the moment -- without impinging on the non-indigenous inhabitants who may wish to purchase the land.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): On page 100 of the Administering Authority's annual report, we read that, in the densely populated areas where a large proportion of the land is held, officers of the native tribunals undertake the customary registration of land when the latter is sold or exchanged among indigenous inhabitants.

I should like to know how that procedure fits in with the system carried out under the so-called Torrens Act. Does this native registration provide for similar protective measures?

My last question in this connexion is the following: Does the Administering Authority propose to extend the abovementioned system to all parts of the country?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The formalities which are referred to in the section of the report quoted by the representative of Syria are not similar to the legal formalities under the Torrens Act. The officers of the native tribunals actually register the arrangements made between indigenous inhabitants, for purposes of proof. The land, however, continues to be regarded, in general, as customary land. There is no question of tracing boundaries, and, in any case, the native registration by these officers of the native tribunals is not the strict registration carried out in the advanced countries under up-to-date methods. The Administering Authority does not intend -- simply because it is useless -- to extend this system to the unpopulated part of the Territory. The system is in force simply as a practical way of avoiding conflicts. The Administering Authority's aim is to organize as soon as possible -- we do not know when it will be possible -- a complete land registration system, but there will not be sufficient staff to do that for many years to come.

Mr. TARAIZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): On the subject of industrial and commercial activity, I should like to refer to paragraph 219 and the following paragraphs of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1141). In paragraph 226, the Mission states that the Service of Indigenous Affairs and Labour seems to be concerned solely with co-operatives and with the protection of indigenous interests. Nevertheless, according to the Visiting Mission, there is no Government service directly responsible for stimulating and promoting African participation in the Territory's economic development. Of course, the Administering Authority has presented its observations on that statement by the Visiting Mission. In my opinion, however, those observations are not complete. I should thus like to ask the special representative a question in this respect.

In its observations, the Administering Authority states that:

"... in addition, the Service of Indigenous Affairs and Labour is concerned with all questions relating to labour regulations, labour inspection, information, welfare, etc." (T/1164, page 26)

Do the activities of the Service of Indigenous Affairs cover other fields? How does the Service attempt to interest the population in the economic development of the country?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The listing of the questions that come within the purview of the Service of Indigenous Affairs would be a very long one and, I must say, rather wearisome. In the observations, I outlined this information.

Their main contribution to the co-operatives is that one of their officials travels around the Territory continuously, visits the co-operatives, supervises their operations, and sees how they can be developed or improved.

The question of the economic development of the Territory proper and the training of native personnel are matters which have to be dealt with on a level that is closer to the native. The Service of Indigenous Affairs is to some extent an advisory body for the Governor, and it is rather the Territorial Administrators, the agents of the Territorial Service, which carry out this work -- the chiefs, the sub-chiefs, and so on, who share in this training. The agricultural services, the agents of the Public Works Department, also contribute to the training of native personnel. It would be a mistake to think that the Native Affairs Service is the only one concerned with the immediate interests of the natives in this field.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): Referring to paragraph 194 of the Visiting Mission's report, where it is recommended that the Administration should take steps to organize a system of passenger services by roads, I note that the Administering Authority, commenting on this paragraph, stated that it agreed with the Visiting Mission. However, it stated that it does not believe that this need take the place of private enterprise. I should like to know whether there are any individuals or firms that have organized such passenger services. As the Visiting Mission pointed out and as the Administering Authority reasserted, the Territory is vast and it is only by means of roads that it will be possible to promote the economic development of the Territory. Are there any beginnings in private enterprise in this field? Would not the Administering Authority perhaps consider intervening in this matter?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There are no road transport services in the Territory, but there are many transporters. Indeed, this is a type of activity toward which the native seems to incline very easily: the native likes to drive a truck. That is one of the great hobbies of the natives.

The representative of Syria will find on page 131 of the report a listing of the road-transport services for the transportation of mail. They also serve for the transportation of persons -- and, indeed, both services operate simultaneously. But, besides these services, which are semi-official, there is quite a large number of private persons -- natives or Arabs or Indians -- who are acquiring a growing importance in the Territory in this respect. However, much still has to be done because the number of transporters is not sufficient to take care of all the needs.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): On page 96 of the report, in connexion with imports, we find that these imports were limited by quotas in respect to the countries from which the imports came, and that these quotas were set by the various Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union authorities. I should like to know whether Ruanda-Urundi is tied in with the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Territory is not linked to this Economic Union.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): In answer to a previous question, I should like to say that I do not see how, in the near future, one can arrange school bus systems, for instance, in Ruanda-Urundi. I think that the Visiting Mission is paying us a great tribute -- but it would be unduly optimistic to expect that this could be done. In how many countries do children still go to school on foot? Even in this country, school bus systems do not exist throughout the country.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have one or two questions to put to the special representative. We find in the Visiting Mission's report that the Administration has decided to give its financial support to the development of the Ruzizi and other sections so as to create peasant centres there. But in paragraph 201 the Visiting Mission says that it is necessary to estimate the size of the problem. I would like to ask the special representative whether he has any comment with regard to this observation appearing in the Visiting Mission's report. I think that the Administration wants to develop certain regions of the Territory by transferring parts of the population which at the present time are located in certain sections of the country where there is not a great deal of economic production. Does the Administration have any idea of the magnitude of this problem and the manpower that will have to be transferred to the regions it wishes to develop, and are there any precise plans with regard to these regions? Does the Administration know the exact number of persons who would have to be distributed in each of these regions?

According to the statement appearing in the Visiting Mission's report, it would seem that there is not yet any precise census of the population and the places which are at present affected by a worsening economic situation; nor is the exact number of persons known which would be needed in the various regions the Administration wishes to develop economically. Could the special representative comment on this situation?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administering Authority does not intend at the present time to conduct a per capita census. This was discussed in the 1952 report at great length, and the procedures which were followed in order to determine the number of the population, and so forth, were stated. Sampling and other procedures were used.

(Mr. Leroy, Special  
representative)

We obtained an estimate which we believe will provide good results, almost as good as would be forthcoming from an actual census that would take several years. In the Ten-Year Plan an estimate was given of the number of families which it would be necessary to move. I do not have the figure in mind at present, because up to the present time the land which we were able to recover in the Kuzizi area was not sufficient to receive all the families we would like to move there. The Administration has carried out very serious studies, especially in the Mosso region, regarding certain irrigation projects and health programmes. This is about all I can say at the present time.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Taking into account the information just given by the special representative, I wonder whether the Administration has really been able to form an idea of the total financial amount involved in this transfer of the population to the Ruzizi. It would seem that that is the region that the Administration has in mind rather than other regions. Does the Administration really have an idea of the scope of the expenditure involved in colonizing and settling the Ruzizi region? That reply might give us an idea of what results can be expected from the resettlement programme of the Administration.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I cannot give the exact sum that this transfer will cost the Administration and I also cannot say what the over-all cost will be. The ten-year-plan and the other works appearing in the extraordinary budget of Ruanda-Urundi are financed by an advance without interest from Belgium which goes up to 400 million francs each year. At the present time, it involves a very large sum, something like \$80 million. This is all based on an economic development programme for Ruanda-Urundi. I cannot give all the details here. I think, however, that they can be found in the volume dealing with the ten-year-plan. If the representative of Haiti wishes, I can look this up and report on it tomorrow.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I think that other representatives will be interested in having this information. I thank him for the supplementary information which he may bring to us.

In paragraph 207, a stabilization fund which was established in 1948 is mentioned. We are told that this fund had reached the sum of nearly 300 million francs by the end of 1953 and must have considerably increased since then. I should like to ask the special representative what he thinks of the observation of the Visiting Mission with regard to the use of this stabilization fund. The report states that a certain part of this fund is set aside for social and economic projects of benefit to the producers. But it adds: "The Mission is of the opinion that a somewhat bolder use might be made of part of this reserve fund, if necessary in the form of loans for equipment, improvement of land and other projects of benefit to coffee producers". What does the Administration think of this observation of the Visiting Mission?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

In principle, the stabilization fund was established so as to stabilize Arabica coffee prices for the native producers. This was its principal goal. We wanted to keep the native producers from becoming very discouraged by low prices and from giving up coffee cultivation. We therefore set up this fund and kept it in existence. On the other hand, this fund might indeed assist in promoting the economic and social development of the indigenous inhabitants, especially those that grow coffee. Therefore, there is nothing to keep a part of this fund from being used for the benefit of these native coffee producers. Up to the present time, this has not been done because the Administration was aware that the increase in coffee prices was somewhat artificial and it feared that, later, it would have to face up to a very difficult situation, a situation which did not occur because the drop in coffee prices happened after the native producers had marketed their crop.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My next question concerns the cattle problem. We know that excessive livestock constitutes a serious problem there. More than once, the Administering Authority has spoken to us of the Ubuake contracts which link the owners of cattle with those in the processing industry.

But the Administering Authority is attempting to make the indigenous inhabitants understand that all this excessive livestock is a problem and that they should attempt to reduce the number of this cattle. The native chiefs seem to understand the problem. However, there is a certain resistance, and the Visiting Mission has made an observation which seems quite pertinent. The Visiting Mission states that we should know the manner in which the surplus is going to be disposed of. The Visiting Mission does not believe that any marked reduction in the number of cattle will take place until some adequate system has been put into operation. I should like to ask the special representative whether the observations set out in paragraph 217 of the report of the Visiting Mission is fair and correct.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French):

The livestock problem is a very complex one; it is a twofold problem. On the one hand, there is the very serious problem of the suppression of the Ubugake contracts. The present situation makes this cattle unavailable. This is the most serious aspect of the livestock problem. The other problem is more or less closely linked to the first problem. The surplus cattle in Ruanda-Urundi exist because they have a social value rather than an economic value. There are approximately one million head of cattle in the Territory, and it is estimated that this is approximately 120,000 too many. If each person ate one hundred grams of meat per week, in six months this would bring the meat surplus down to zero. If we could suppress the Ubugake contracts by rounding up the cattle belonging to certain large cattle owners and persuading them to sell them, it would be possible to reduce the surplus.

This, however, would set up many secondary problems. For example, to whom would they sell the cattle, and at what prices? What would be done with the pasture land which the cattle had been using? That is why the reforms envisaged by the ten-year plan have been very difficult to implement. We must study this matter at great length to see exactly how we can handle this problem. It seems to be dragging on a bit, but we are proceeding as well as we can.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I gather that the Administration feels that this is a difficult problem but not an insoluble one. I believe that the Administration will bear the problem constantly in mind and will find some way of reducing this cattle surplus. I believe that energetic measures are in order. Indeed, the very future of the Territory may be at stake.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I recall some talk last summer that evidence of butane gas had been found in Lake Kivu and that there might be a possibility of harnessing its potential energy into some sort of power plant. Can the special representative give us any information on this?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I have no recent information on the discovery of butane gas. On the other hand, the fact that the companies which were engaged in the construction of the Ruzizi Dam have decided to resume operations and continue their work, leads me to believe that the discovery of butane gas was not up to expectations.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): My next question goes into the realm of theory. Would it be an exaggeration to say that if relatively cheap power could be developed in Ruanda-Urundi, it could revolutionize the Territory's economy and greatly improve the standard of living?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Any discovery of sources of energy in Ruanda-Urundi would of course be of primary interest and importance.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I hate to say this before the representative of Belgium, but I live in great optimism. I have asked that question because I always have the hope that within twenty-five or thirty years atomic energy may be available for use in countries like Ruanda-Urundi. In that case, of course, I assume that the progress of its people would be very much accelerated and the whole prospect of the future may change almost overnight.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): That is more than a sixty-four dollar question. I would merely point out to the representative of the United States that it is not sufficient to have sources of energy in order to harness its distribution. Frequently, in order to harness it at a profit -- and when I say at a profit I mean a profit not for the exploiters but for the consumers -- it is necessary to have a market. In order to have a market, it is necessary to have a certain amount of wealth. There are countries which have sources of energy, such as hydro-electric energy, which could be harnessed under very good conditions, and yet this is not done because there is no market. The question is far more complex than it might appear offhand. Therefore, I do not think that I could give any definite answer to the question of the exploitation of atomic energy. I think that primarily the developed countries would derive the most benefit and that the under-developed countries would benefit from it only at a later date. This is in the realm of conjecture. I do not think that any answer can be given at this time to such a question.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I wish to thank the representative of Belgium. I am still going to live in hope. I think that there are big days ahead.

Social advancement

Mr. REID (New Zealand): I should like to refer the special representative to the recommendation of the Visiting Mission in regard to the movement by night of the indigenous population in urban or more settled areas. I should like also to refer him to the observations of the Administering Authority on this point, which did not include a reference to the desires of the population. The Mission was informed, and reported, that the Administering Authority considered that the restrictions were in accordance with the desires of the population, and I should be glad if the special representative would amplify that statement as to the attitude of the population towards those restrictions.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not quite see what I could add to what has been said already on the subject. I am rather perplexed by the importance that seems to be attached to this question. As I have already said, all the Africans with whom I have been associated during the past seventeen or eighteen years consider that a person who travels by night is a possible criminal, and the natural instinct, if one finds somebody prowling near a kraal or a house, is to shoot him down unless he gives some sign of recognition. The advisers in the Territory urge that this obligation to give a sign of recognition should be retained and, although I do not see any drawback in abolishing the rule, I do wonder whether one should go against the practice of the population and encourage a measure which might give rise to a sense of insecurity among the people.

Mr. REID (New Zealand): I should like to refer the special representative to the decrees which cover benefits to workers, in particular the decree of 16 March 1922 with regard to a lodging allowance, which was amended in 1954. I think that the effect of the amendment was to make this lodging allowance compulsory in all cases -- that is, applicable to all workers. I should like to know whether that is the case at the present time.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): For the time being we are faced with a sort of half-way situation. The decree of 16 March 1922 did not make it compulsory to house the workers, and that is why the administrative regulations have made such housing compulsory in some cases, but not in all. Those natives who lived in their customary environment in the neighbourhood of the plants were not housed, but remained in their homes. But in December 1954 a change was made in this decree which made housing obligatory on the part of the employer unless the wages reached the high rate set by the Governor-General of Ruanda-Urundi, which would mean that the worker had the means to provide his own housing. When I left Usumbura this rate had not been fixed.

Mr. PEID (New Zealand): I should like to ask a similar question with regard to the provision for family allowances. Those are already in force in the Belgian Congo and were to come into force in the Territory but were postponed until 1 January 1955. I should be glad to know whether they have been again postponed, or whether they are now in operation in the Territory.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not think that there was any further postponement; I think that these allowances have been made compulsory beginning 1 January 1955. I do not have with me the exact information and I should like to supply it later. However, as far as I know, the allowances have been compulsory since 1 January 1955.

Mr. PEID (New Zealand): I should like to ask a question in the medical field. Referring to the matter of staff in the medical department, it is noticeable that there has been some slight reduction in the staff between 1952 and 1953. The number of European doctors has been reduced from sixty-three to sixty-one. In medical assistants there has been a reduction from sixty to forty-five and, in the indigenous staff, a slight reduction in the number of male nurses, from seventy-five to seventy-one. At the same time, we notice that a substantial amount of building has been going ahead in the Territory and, consequently, there is a considerable demand for more staff. I should be glad if the special representative could give us an idea of the provisions that are being made to catch up with these shortages and to provide the additional staff.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The figure with regard to the reduction in the number of doctors is not quite accurate. The figures in the report are always dated 31 December. It is possible, therefore, that some of these doctors were on home leave and, therefore, they are not listed, but I think that, at the end of December 1954 there were sixty-four doctors, plus one radiologist and one biologist.

(Mr. Leroy,  
Special representative)

As regards personnel in public health work, the figures are: 106 non-indigenous persons, and 210 indigenous persons, including 14 clerks, 141 medical assistants and nurses, and 55 trainee medical assistants and nurses. There were also 63 auxiliary workers in the health services.

It is possible that the apparent reduction mentioned by the representative of New Zealand results from the promotion of trainees to full-fledged medical assistants or nurses.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Before putting my questions to the special representative, I should like briefly to refer to the reply which he gave to the question put to him by the representative of New Zealand concerning the circulation by night of indigenous inhabitants in urban areas.

I was aware that the people of the Territory were not very much in favour of removing these restrictions, and I therefore asked an elderly chief in Ruanda-Urundi about the situation, putting the blame squarely on his shoulders. This was his reply: "A man prefers his own set of teeth to an artificial set, even though artificial teeth may be better. It is up to the doctor to enforce measures that are good for sick persons, but the trouble is that doctors themselves do not like artificial teeth." I do not know what the chief meant by that. I thought, however, that I should mention his reply at this stage.

My first question is the following. There are at present two monthly publications issued by Catholic missions in Kinyaruanda and two in Kirundi issued by a Protestant mission. We note that two Visiting Missions have suggested that the Government should establish a publication in which indigenous people could participate and which would provide experience in journalism.

Could the special representative give us the Government's views on that recommendation? Have any attempts been made to develop an indigenous press? In Tanganyika, for example, there are, I believe, Government-run publications in which Africans participate.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): So far, there has been no effort by the Government to establish an indigenous press. We have always considered that that is a field of endeavour which should be left to private initiative.

(Mr. Leroy,  
Special representative)

I think that the following information would be of interest to the representative of India. The Mission of the White Fathers started, on 1 December, publishing a newspaper called "Temps Nouveau". That is a weekly publication designed for all elements of the population, no matter what their race or origin. The Mission asks for contributions from all representatives of the population. The newspaper is not aimed at an audience of only Europeans or so-called civilized persons as against so-called natives.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Is there a broadcasting station in Ruanda-Urundi, and, if not, is the Government considering establishing a station?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There is no broadcasting station properly speaking. We have public-address stations in the extra-customary centres at Usumbura, Astrida and Kigali. These stations give information of a documentary nature. They transmit music, statements by missionaries or by qualified people who assist in educating the indigenous masses, and so forth. There is some information on these public-address stations in the annual report. On page 178, there is reference to the four public-address stations at Usumbura, Astrida and Kigali, and to a fifth which is to be set up in Ngagara: an extension of the extra-customary centre at Usumbura. The report also states that each station has an amplifier, a microphone, record players, and so forth. The station at Usumbura also has a tape recorder. I am particularly well acquainted with the Usumbura station because I live nearby.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to give some additional information on the question of publications raised by the representative of India.

The Government is in favour of the establishment of an indigenous press, in which the indigenous inhabitants could publish whatever they wished. That would be the beginning of a real indigenous press. The proof that the Government is in favour of such a press is the fact that "La Voix Congolaise" -- an indigenous review in Léopoldville -- has just celebrated its tenth anniversary.

(Mr. Ryckmans, Belgium)

That review was established with the financial assistance of the Government, but it is now self-sufficient. Indigenous inhabitants contribute freely to the review; they publish what they wish.

The Government has not undertaken such a publication in Ruanda-Urundi because the various reviews published by the missions operate on the same principle as "La Voix Congolaise". Anything that the indigenous inhabitants wish to send in to the publications is welcomed -- subject, of course, to the rules of public order and morality. Hence, the same purpose is achieved as that achieved by "La Voix Congolaise".

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

All those who know how to read in Ruanda-Urundi have studied in the mission schools, and therefore they agree with the trend of these papers. But, as I said, they welcome any contribution on the part of their readers, and those who have to do with these papers get as good training as if they were on a paper published under the auspices of the Administration.

As regards radio, we would certainly be glad to submit this suggestion to the authorities. One can hear the broadcasts of the Leopoldville station, but it would be very useful if there were in Usumbura a broadcasting station that could broadcast in both native languages.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): In paragraph 245 of the Visiting Mission's report, reference is made to the fact that the Minister of Colonies told the Mission that the Government was considering the replacement of the documents now used by a system of declarations, and the paragraph goes on to say:

"It is not clear whether the new system will remove the restrictions involved in the present system of transfer passports." (T/1141, p. 89)

I wonder whether the special representative can elucidate the point.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The objective of the Administration in bringing about this change was to replace the passport and have in its place the simple declaration, so as to change the requirement to obtain an authorization and have rather the obligation to make a declaration. This is very similar to the system prevailing in many parts of the world. Up to the present time, this change has not been implemented. However, I should like to draw the Council's attention to one matter: When we speak of transfer passports, there is a tendency always to think of them as a hindrance or an obstacle to human rights and freedom. I think we are losing sight of the fact that these transfer passports have to be obtained only for a movement involving 30 days' time. If one's trip is going to take only 29 days, then he need not have one of these transfer passports. In other words, the requirement is not so rigorous.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): In paragraph 295 of the Visiting Mission's report, reference is made to the overcrowding in the prisons. I wonder whether the Administration has considered the question of instituting a number of prison camps to relieve the congestion in the prisons. Similar camps were established in various Territories administered by the British in West Africa and they proved very successful. I feel that this may be a way of avoiding the present congestion.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): A prison camp was set up, at the end of 1953, at Kayanza, in the eastern portion of Urundi. Unfortunately, that camp has not been able to relieve the congestion resulting from the Usumbura prison. It does not have enough room to handle all the overflow from the Usumbura prison. That is about all that I can say on the matter.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I should like to stress that these prison camps have been very successful in other places. They are much cheaper and easier to set up than is a prison and, in my opinion, they have a very marked effect on those persons who are serving sentences of imprisonment.

Mr. GRUBIAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My first question refers to health services. The WHO gives us information which we find also in the report of the Visiting Mission. We do not find any African doctors. My question is: Is the Administration training native medical personnel? My next question is: How can the Administration explain that up to the present time there has not been a single licensed African doctor?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administration has no objection to the training of African medical personnel. Indeed, we propose to do that. But medical studies require quite a number of years and no African has yet been able to complete them. We have medical auxiliary personnel which were already advanced, and they are already performing minor operations, but we do not have full-fledged African doctors as yet.

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

We hope to have them within a few years.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The special representative says that the Administration has no objection to the training of these doctors. In our opinion, however, the obligation of the Administering Authority cannot be confined simply to not objecting. It should entail positive measures, such as the granting of scholarships and fellowships. There has to be primary school education, then high school education, then university education. I should like to ask the special representative whether any positive step has been taken by the Administering Authority or whether it is confining itself to not objecting. Are scholarships being granted? Are students being selected for training, so that they may become doctors?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I would reply once again to the representative of the Soviet Union by saying that in all these fields the Administering Authority did not simply confine itself to not objecting, and I think that all the other members of the Council will have realized this. The Administration has elaborated a large-scale and costly programme. I would remind the Council that the item of education accounts for 16 per cent of our ordinary expenditures. We have two students who are following courses in Belgium and who have been helped by the Administration. Their trips were paid for and some other expenses have been provided. One of these students wanted to follow a medical course, but when he came to Belgium he changed his mind.

We do not feel that it would be desirable, as regards the whole of the population, to send one or two individuals to Belgium. We would like to promote education generally, so that every child who has the intellectual means may be given a decent education and perhaps become a doctor. When children enter the primary schools at the age of six, we cannot decide that this or that pupil will be a good doctor and that therefore we will propel him into the career of a doctor, only to have him fail at the age of sixteen. Our policy has been to raise the level of the whole population as such and not to allow for the promotion merely of a few individuals.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The special representative gave an appreciation of the policy of the Administering Authority in the general field of education, including medical education. I may be pardoned for making a small comment before asking another question.

We contend that the Territory has 64 or 65 doctors, according to the data of the Administering Authority and of the World Health Organization. By a simple calculation one can see that this is not very many if one considers that the over-all population is four million. When the representatives of the Administering Authority say that they have a general programme of development and that therefore, as a result of this programme, some of the more capable pupils will one day in the future become doctors, that is really postponing matters too long.

The improvement of health conditions, as well as educational conditions, in the Territory, cannot wait so long. Our opinion as regards the particular issue is that the Administering Authority should make plans so that by 1960 there would be, let us say, twenty doctors, and by 1970 there would be a hundred and twenty doctors. But apparently we have a different approach to the question of organizing health services and planning education.

My next question bears on another matter. On page 399 of the annual report there appears some data regarding the daily wages of certain categories of workers, employees etc. I would like to have an answer to the following question: We have in the report the daily wage for the native, for the European and for the Asian. Here again we have the same type of work but there are different salaries. How should we understand this?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The question that has been put requires clarification. If one considers, for instance, the native mechanic who receives 52 francs and the European who receives 455 francs, one should not feel that the difference in salary is based on racial differences or on the colour of the skin. Aside from the racial prejudices that could be charged to certain employers, there are also economic laws which obtain there and which rarely can be overcome by other principles.

It is not for me to put questions to the representatives of the Soviet Union, but do they believe that an employer would pay 455 francs a day to a European if he could have similar services for 52 francs? There is a difference in the quality of the services. There is another aspect, because the problem of salary is a difficult one. The employer may be in need of a specialized employee who would be a stranger to the Territory. If he wishes to employ such a stranger, he would have to pay him perhaps at a rate that would be above what he would really deserve.

The representative of Belgium who is sitting at my side, told me one day that in order to have the first driver of road machinery, one had to pay him a salary that was equivalent to the salary of the Vice Governor-General. Does this mean that every person who would later act as a taxi-driver would have to be paid the salary of a Vice Governor-General? These differences -- and I think

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Special representative)

that is true in all cases -- are due mainly to qualifications and labour scarcity. In many places, and in this particular field, for instance, of the garage mechanic, one can see that the Europeans and Asians have gradually been replaced by the graduates of the professional training schools. There are very few European chauffeurs at the present time.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation, as has been noted, is always particularly sensitive in matters of such unfairness to the local population. The explanation of the special representative has not allayed our misgivings. We may also regard the table appearing in the annual report from another angle. Let us take a mechanic. If he is black, he receives 52 francs; if he is a European he receives 455 francs.

But nothing is said here about the difference in their qualifications. Does not the Administering Authority admit the possibility that a native taxi driver can be as expert as a European taxi driver? That is what causes misgivings. What we have here is not a difference in qualifications. The only difference that is mentioned here is the difference in the colour of the skin. Therefore, however unpleasant this may be for the Administering Authority, we fear that this is an exact reflection of racial discrimination. Consequently, if the special representative has more convincing arguments, he should produce them.

I realize that it is always easier to put questions than to answer them. But after all what we have here is not a difference in qualifications but a difference in origin. In the case of a doctor or of an engineer who has received his education in an African school as opposed to a European school, it is possible that the doctor who has been trained in Europe may have received more training than a doctor who has been trained in Africa. However, if you consider a taxi driver, then indeed if you pay him a different salary because of the different colour of his skin, I submit that you are engaging in discrimination. If you do not wish us to abide in our feeling that we have discrimination here, I should welcome other explanations.

We have heard, furthermore, that one pays high salaries to Europeans because there is no equivalent native personnel available. On the other hand, if you have a native who can do the job, the native is recruited and the European is sacked, but the native is recruited at a lower salary. Yet the employ of Europeans was considered profitable even if their pay was equivalent to that of the Vice-Governor-General. However, as soon as a native is recruited, this employ is considered unprofitable. I do not say that such a situation could not arise in practice, but I do not see how one can possibly try to justify it.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I think that the Soviet Union representative is not being entirely objective in this question. The principle of equal pay for equal work is an ideal to be achieved. However, in order to equalize salaries, there are only two means: either equalize them by raising salaries or equalize them by lowering salaries. If you want to do it

by lowering salaries, you will not find the specialists that the country needs. If you want to do it by raising salaries, then you just cannot go ahead because the country cannot afford the luxury of paying tremendous salaries to everyone in the entire country.

This happens in every country that needs foreign specialists -- in all the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and in the Point 4 Program of the United States. I suppose that in these technical programmes set up by all the great, highly-developed Powers, these specialists receive higher salaries than the native workers; and this in the hope that they will train the local native workers.

Let us consider China. Do you think that China ought to pay all the Chinese workers the salaries that it is now paying to the Russian specialists? No, China would have to give up such an idealistic undertaking. It just could not face up to such expenditures.

The United Nations has promulgated the Declaration of Human Rights. However, in an agreement between the United States and Bolivia or the United Nations and Bolivia, a specialist sent to Bolivia received the same salary as Bolivians of the same rank, plus \$12,000 a year. This is what happens in every country which has recourse to foreign specialists. If you attempted to pay high salaries to all the local workers, you could not continue. The only thing you can do is to get in foreign specialists and to pay them high salaries as a provisional measure.

The European specialists there are necessary now. Gradually, you would wish to replace them and put local native workers in their places. The same thing is true for doctors. For example, you secure European doctors. They must receive a higher salary. You cannot pay all the local doctors the same salary. If you do, the cost becomes exorbitant. All the resources and revenue of the country would not face up to such expenditures. You have to be realistic here. There is no point in just theorizing and presenting rosy ideals. We cannot bring all the salaries up and we do not want to bring them all down. We have responsibilities to the workers of the country. They all have their responsibilities, and so we have to be practical and realistic about this. All the foreign specialists receive higher salaries. This is perfectly normal and is the only workable arrangement.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of Belgium for the explanation which he has given. Of course, we have a different approach. It seems to my delegation that the title of shorthand secretary which is listed on the twenty-first line pertains to a position for which persons could be trained on the spot. I said that if it had been a matter of engineers or teachers or doctors, that would be a different matter. But what do we have here? These are specialized and semi-specialized workers. Of course a shorthand secretary is a specialized worker but he is not a highly qualified worker upon whose knowledge the life of a human being can depend.

The Visiting Mission points out that there are no trade unions in the Territory even though they are authorized by law. We can see this in the report. What is the view of the special representative with respect to why there are no trade unions in the Territory even though the workers number roughly 150,000 persons, including permanent and part-time workers? What is the reason for the absence of such trade unions?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

Before answering the question in connexion with why there are no trade unions, I think that I should answer the question concerning why in general it is possible to have trade unions. Trade unions were never recognized in Ruanda-Urundi or in the Belgian Congo before the war. After the end of the last war, in the interest of recognizing the need to have associations of workers, the Administration overnight set up trade unions. This initiative occurred in the Belgian Congo and was followed in Ruanda-Urundi.

Hitherto, trade unions existed in theory only. There does not seem to be much need for them, owing to the local workers' committees and other local groups. It is possible that in the future trade union life may become more active.

Mr. GRUEYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I understand the special representative to say that trade unions did not exist because, first, they were not authorized. However, since the establishment of the Trusteeship System, authorization was granted and trade unions are not prohibited. They do not exist because there has been no need for them.

The Visiting Mission, however, holds a different view. It states that trade unions are necessary in these days. For example, paragraph 259 of the report of the Visiting Mission mentions the composition of the Committee on Labour and Indigenous Social Progress, which is composed of five senior Government officials, five representatives of employers, five representatives of workers' interests (one European missionary and four African clerks). We note from the tables that there are approximately 30,000 agricultural workers and 10,000 transportation workers; there are also the mining workers and the many other workers.

One has the impression, therefore, that this Committee, notwithstanding the concern of the employers and their representatives, raises certain misgivings. For example, can this Committee in fact protect the interests

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of the workers? That is why the Visiting Mission raised the legitimate question of the need to have trade unions. In this way, the workers would be represented.

I think that these proposals of the Visiting Mission are quite legitimate. That is why I put my question to the special representative. If there are no such trade unions, how are the interests of the workers to be protected, even in the TEPSI Committee? I understand that this Committee does many things, such as making recommendations on minimum wages, the money equivalent of the ration, and other questions. This Committee has broad powers, and yet there are no representatives of the workers on it.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

It has been pointed out that in many cases the direct interests of the workers were better protected and defended by others. That is true in the present case. As the representative of the Soviet Union has pointed out, the members of the workers' committees are people who are not directly opposed to the interests of the natives. There are the representatives of the employers and the representatives of the workers' interests. The interests of the natives can be very well protected in this way.

There are also the indigenous councils, which are described on page 166 of the Annual Report. By an ordinance of 4 February 1955, the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi required employers having 200 employees to set up indigenous councils in some twenty-five localities.

In addition to these councils, there are the local workers' committees, which are described in column 2, page 166, of the Annual Report. The professional unions have not yet been set up.

I might add for the information of the representative of the Soviet Union that at Usumbura there is now a representative from the Belgian Congo studying this question. Even though these unions have not yet been established, the interests of the workers are not neglected by the Administration.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Annex of the report of the Visiting Mission contains an account of a session of the Council of the Vice-Government-General of Ruanda-Urundi. We read that the Council objected to the proposed suppression of the requirement of three years practice of the trade as a condition of membership in a particular trade union. I wonder whether this may not be a reason why the trade unions do not exist. As it is known, workers in those countries are often part-time labourers. This three-year minimum period which is required in order to be accepted in a trade union might constitute an obstacle. It is certainly a rather unfair condition which can hardly be justified. It will not assist the workers in becoming organized. It appears that this measure is actually directed against the organization of trade unions. Perhaps it has some other purpose. However, in all countries of the world, and I believe even in Belgium, such matters as membership in labour organizations are settled by the unions themselves and not by the Governments.

(Mr. Grubyakov, USSR)

I think that this is a measure which would obstruct the organization of trade unions if the Administration organized the conditions of membership. That is something which is normally within the competence of the union itself.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French):

As I have already pointed out, it was the Government which established the legislation allowing the organization of the trade unions. The Government had absolutely no obligation to enact such legislation, and I do not see why it should enact it if it were going to sidestep it by rather childish expedients. I repeat, in Usimbura there is at present a representative of Congolese trade unions who is occupied with these matters, and I am sure that the Administration will pay due attention to him.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): It is most interesting to note, from the reply of the special representative, that the interests of the workers were, as he said, better upheld by others than by the workers themselves. That, of course, is something which I could dispute. I think that in every matter -- even in the case of the Administering Authority itself -- it is the representatives of an organization which uphold the interests of that organization more competently than anyone else. The same can apply to workers or trade unions. Of course it is the workers, those who are concerned with the problem, who can uphold their interests better than anyone else. Nevertheless, I thank the special representative for his reply.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Drafting Committee on Tanganyika will meet tomorrow morning at 10.30 in Room 5. The Council will meet at 2 p.m.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.