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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 February 1956, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. SEARS

(United States of America)

Examination of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi [3b, 4] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.657. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN RUANDA-URUNDI:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1954 (T/1197, 1201 and 1223) [Agenda item 3b]
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARA. 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.3/L.5 and 6) [Agenda item 4] (continued)

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

Economic advancement (continued)

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My first question is with regard to the head tax. As you know, in past sessions of the Trusteeship Council, this means of revenue has given rise to repeated criticism on the part of the various members of the Council. Our delegation feels that this head tax is highly inequitable. I would be interested in ascertaining what the policies of the Administering Authority have been of late in this field and whether anything is being done in order to replace this head tax by the imposition of some other fiscal method such as income tax.

Before the special representative answers this question, I should like to ask a supplementary question. What are the reasons for this system of taxation? Is it because there is normally no income worth taxing?

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

This head tax, however blind it may appear in its impact, is not as unjust as might be thought at first glance. Actually, the tax is not based blindly and brutally on the number of inhabitants, so much per head without discrimination, but rather on local resources. Therefore, it takes into account the minimum resources which the inhabitants of a given area can secure. Thus, in 1956, there were different rates of taxation, which ranged from ninety francs per year in the least favoured areas to 210 francs per year in those which were more privileged.

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representative)

The long-range policy of the Administration is to replace this tax by another system of taxation which will be more appropriate with respect to the true resources of the taxpayers. At present, however, it is impossible to carry out this substitution because the establishment of a whole group of tax collectors and tax controllers would be a heavier burden on the budget than the total revenues of the present head tax. This, therefore, is a long-term goal which present circumstances prevent us from achieving at this time. I recall that all natives who have an annual income of more than 18,000 francs do not pay the head tax any more but pay either personal taxes or income taxes.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question deals with export and import operations.

In paragraph 42 on page 80, it is stated that exports increased from 1953 to 1954 both in physical volume and in value. Corresponding figures are given for imports. I should like to know whether, in the past year, for instance, there have been cases in which local inhabitants or indigenous enterprises have taken part in export and import operations.

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

The general trend of export-import operations is in the hands of non-indigenous inhabitants. However, some volume of exports is in the hands of the indigenous population; cattle for instance towards the Kivu, and exports of bricks produced in native brick plants located in the northern reaches of the Territory. In the case of coffee also, some exports are handled by indigenous co-operatives.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to have clarification on one point. The special representative stated that the indigenous inhabitants participate in export operations through co-operatives. Does that mean that these indigenous inhabitants sell or export merchandise from the country, or are there some intermediaries, for example, European export companies, between the co-operatives and the export of the commodities? Or do the local co-operatives take care of the export operations directly by themselves? If so, I should like to know what percentage of the total volume of coffee trade is carried out by these local co-operatives.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I cannot give you the exact percentage of the local export trade which is handled by the co-operatives. I know that at the present time this percentage is rather small since the co-operatives have just begun operating and since they comprise only a limited number of coffee producers. If the Soviet Union representative has no objection I might be in a position after the recess to give him some additional figures on this point which I do not have available at present.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I shall be delighted to hear the additional data which the Special representative promises to give me after the recess.

The next question deals with investments. In paragraph 47 of the report of the Administering Authority mention is made of investment figures, especially foreign investments. I would be interested in knowing if there have been cases in the Territory in which indigenous investors made investments in indigenous enterprises. Were there any cases of this kind in 1954?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not quite understand the question of the representative of the Soviet Union. Is he asking whether enterprises operating in the Territory reinvest their earnings or re-export them? In this case, I will answer that most of them reinvest a substantial amount locally. Or does the Soviet representative ask whether indigenous capitalists have invested capital in indigenous enterprises? In this case, I would have to answer that the majority -- I would even say the totality -- of enterprises in the hands of indigenous inhabitants have been started locally with indigenous capital. I did not quite get the point of the question that was put, and I am sorry for it.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My question was not sufficiently clear, and I am sorry for that also. I shall give the point of my question.

There are some investments in this Territory. Judging by the report of the Administering Authority, the investments are mainly in the exportation operation, and then in the development of plantations, especially coffee plantations; there are also investments in the mining industry. I should like to know if the indigenous capitalists, if any such exist, participate in investments that are important for developing the economy of the Territory. I would be grateful to the Special Representative if he could answer this question. The report gives the impression that investments in industry and in transport are totally in the hands of foreign companies. If my question is not sufficiently clear, I will develop it in further detail.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As concerns agricultural production such as coffee and cotton, it might be said that the totality of the enterprises are in indigenous hands. The parts of coffee and cotton production which are in the hands of non-indigenous companies is practically negligible. In the cases of both coffee and cotton, indigenous producers receive very good selling prices for their products, and in 1954 these prices far exceeded the possibilities of resale open to exporters.

Regarding mining industries, for which large capital is required and which also require technical qualifications, these are at present in the hands of European

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corporations. On the whole their importance is less than that of agricultural enterprise. The report indicates the way in which the indigenous inhabitants participate in the profits of these enterprises; Ruanda-Urundi, as a juridical entity, holds a substantial part of the stock.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My next question relates to the activities of foreign corporations in the Territory. Is there a system of control over the activities of these enterprises in connexion with their earnings and their export of profits and capital from the country? If such controls do exist and are applied by the Administering Authority, perhaps the special representative might relate the main outline of this or cite some document in which we could find these figures. I am not asking the special representative to give the data here, because there are a number of foreign corporations. However, we would be grateful for some reference to the relevant documents in which this information could be found.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I do not have any document which could give with complete accuracy the percentage of profits which are exported by foreign corporations operating in the Territory. The situation is as follows. In an overwhelming majority of cases, these corporations which are called foreign are actually corporations which have been established on the spot and which happen to have foreign officers. Many of these corporations have no branches other than those operating in the Territory. The export of dividends and earnings in these cases is very small and practically negligible. Most of these corporations use their earnings in the business.

Some of the corporations have branches in the Congo and abroad and do export part of their profits, but I would say that they constitute a minority. I cannot give any further clarification on this point.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I am satisfied with the answer given by the special representative, but there is one detail which I do not quite understand. Does the Administering Authority possess data on the earnings of these foreign corporations? If an accounting system is kept by the Administering Authority, could we obtain the figures?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): These corporations pay various taxes on their profits and the State does exercise control to some extent over their profits. There are no publications, to the best of my knowledge, which would give the figures for each corporation.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I understand the answer of the special representative to mean that there are no published data regarding the earning figures of the foreign corporations operating in the Territory. While these figures are not published, they do exist and it is quite proper for the members of the Trusteeship Council to show some interest in them. If the special representative is not able to give us these figures, we might perhaps dispense with them.

The data contained in the annual report indicate that the indigenous inhabitants have 66 per cent of the land under their control. From the figures shown on page 133 of the report, we could conclude that the indigenous population might hold more land. In connexion with the question of the relocation of the population of the Territory, a natural subsidiary question is: why is it that the Administering Authority cannot put at the disposal of the population the land areas which at present are without owners and under the control of the Administration? The Administering Authority might be able to resort to that land which up to now has not been occupied.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The statement that the indigenous inhabitants occupy 66 per cent of the land means that 66 per cent of the land is effectively being worked by the indigenous inhabitants for forest exploitation, agricultural crops, and so forth. Thirty-three per cent of the balance of the Territory is still available to the indigenous inhabitants. One of the main concerns of the Administration is to get the population to use this 33 per cent of the land. However, there are fallow lands and marsh lands which we are attempting to reclaim and there are dry areas which we are attempting to irrigate. All this land is available for occupation. The Administration is concerned with making this land available to the indigenous population as early as possible.

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Special representative)

It will be noted that every annual report has shown that substantial areas of land have been reclaimed, irrigated and opened for settlement. Sixty-six per cent of the area, therefore, is actually occupied by the indigenous population. The indigenous population, however, could occupy up to 99.4 per cent of the Territory, since only 0.6 per cent is retained by the Administration.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Among the figures set out on page 133 of the annual report, I note that there are 12,000 square kilometres of land area which cannot be used for agriculture. On the other hand, I note that there are 16,000 square kilometres which are available for agriculture. Why is the land which can be used for agricultural production not occupied by the indigenous inhabitants? Are special rights required in order to occupy that land? Is some special title required? Can the 16,000 square kilometre area be occupied by the indigenous inhabitants without any special title simply because they reside in the Territory and lack land and would like to move to another area where they could establish their farms? What happens to this land which can be used for agricultural production and what is the legal status of potential owners of that land?

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I listened to the special representative carefully and I understood his answer to mean that the land which cannot be used for agriculture narrows in size from year to year, thanks to irrigation measures, reclamation measures, and so forth. Yet, what happens to the land which is open for agricultural production and which is not occupied? I would be grateful if the special representative would clarify that.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There is no juridical obstacle to the occupation by the indigenous inhabitants of any vacant land. They can settle wherever they like -- and, the more land they occupy, the more satisfied the Administration will be. The Administration tries to make as much land as possible usable. But when we say that there are 22,440 square kilometres of land which could be used for agricultural output, that covers all land which could be used for agricultural production either directly and immediately or if certain preliminary work, such as irrigation or reclamation, is done. Therefore, this figure of 22,440 covers certain areas which might be open to agriculture if some irrigation takes place. When we speak, on the other hand, of areas which are improper for agriculture, we mean those areas which can never be used -- for instance, lake areas or rocky areas, where not even grass would grow, or areas where the gradient of the slope is so great that forests would not hold.

The answer, then, to the point raised by the representative of the Soviet Union is that we do not in any way oppose the indigenous inhabitants when they wish to occupy vacant land. On the contrary, we favour such occupation and welcome it.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In paragraph 68, on page 165 of the report, there is mention of special permits for the exploitation of mines, and it is indicated that sixteen operation permits were granted for a total area of 6,592 hectares. Were these given to Europeans or to indigenous inhabitants or corporations? Secondly, I should like to know whether this area covered land occupied by indigenous inhabitants or some other land.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): These permits were granted to European corporations. Indigenous corporations have neither the capital nor the technical qualifications required for engaging in such mining activities. Regarding prospecting permits, they have extended to areas which sometimes are occupied by indigenous inhabitants and sometimes are not. But, at any rate, we might say that, because this is merely prospecting activity, the rights of the indigenous inhabitants were never infringed.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to add one word regarding mining operations. The representative of the Soviet Union has asked whether indigenous inhabitants participate in these operations and whether they have subscribed to part of the stock of the mining corporations involved. The question has been considered, but mining operations involve serious risks, money must be invested in order to prospect areas, and the results of all this prospecting work are not known in advance. As a matter of fact, many mining corporations have spent a lot of money, found nothing, and ended up in bankruptcy, while others found their capital substantially reduced. Thus, the Administration would have some qualms or scruples in encouraging indigenous inhabitants to invest their capital in mining enterprises whose future is unknown, because the risk factor would be very high.

In order to help the indigenous share in the profits of mining enterprises, the Administration established the obligation to pay to the Treasury of Ruanda-Urundi a certain number of shares of stock. On page 62 of the report, the representative of the Soviet Union will find the list of shares in the portfolio of Ruanda-Urundi. He will see that Ruanda-Urundi holds 113,000 shares of the Société des Mines d'étain du Ruanda-Urundi, 110,000 shares of the Société Minière de Muhinga et de Kigali, 2,317 shares of stock of the Compagnie Minière en Afrique orientale, and so forth.

Further, the representative of the Soviet Union asks whether mining is carried on in land belonging to the indigenous inhabitants. But there are legal devices which permit the working of mineral deposits under the land, the surface title to which remains in the hands of the legal owner. Therefore, there are what are known in Continental law as servitudes, which entail the right of occupying the surface area of land under which there is a mineral deposit, to the extent to which mining operations require. Of course, compensation for that must be paid to the owner.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful for the explanation, but what is at stake here is several thousand hectares, and I am interested in this concrete case. Was this land alienated from the native population? What did the Administration do? Did it pay compensation to the owners? Did it grant them other land in exchange? And I am not speaking of the land only, but also of the buildings which might have been on the land. How did the Administration proceed in taking over? Of course, I understand about the so-called servitudes, and I do not deny that right. But I am interested in the procedure which was followed by the Administration. Did it pay compensation? Did the local inhabitants agree to this compensation? What happened in this particular case?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In all these cases, there was agreement by the indigenous inhabitants. Perhaps the Soviet Union representative has not correctly grasped the position. These lands were not expropriated. The indigenous occupants were not expelled. Prospectors were given authorization to prospect for mining deposits. In any case where this prospecting -- or, subsequently, exploitation -- impaired any right of an indigenous inhabitant, compensation was paid. This is not land which is reserved exclusively for mining and upon which no movement may take place. The indigenous inhabitants may occupy the land as before. Only if, for instance, a pit is dug in the middle of a field, thereby impairing a right of the indigenous occupant, is compensation paid. In other cases, there has been no damage whatever to the rights of the indigenous inhabitants.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The following statement is made at the bottom of page 164 of the annual report:

"The right to exploit a mine is a real right secured by legal servitudes when surface land is occupied.

"When the occupied lands are domain lands, yearly rentals are paid, in conformity with the rate established for the sale or leasing of lands.

"When the lands are occupied by indigenous inhabitants, or when the latter have rights to those lands, the occupation must be authorized by the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, who establishes indemnities corresponding to the amount of damages sustained, increased by one fifth."

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I imagine that two different issues are involved here. On page 165 of the annual report, details are given on the so-called "permis d'exploitation" -- not the "permis de recherche". Now, the "permis d'exploitation" refers to the actual mining, once the prospecting has been finished. Of course, once the mining operations begin, there has to be a certain amount of construction: railways must be built, roads must be laid down, and so forth. When that construction takes place, the indigenous occupants of the land can no longer fully exploit that land. It is this exploitation permit which I have in mind. Now, from the replies given by the special

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representative and the representative of Belgium, I understand that in all these cases the indigenous inhabitants were consulted and their agreement was obtained. I also understand that those inhabitants are entitled to a yearly rental or to some other indemnity.

I am interested in having some other details on this question. If the special representative does not have the information available now, I should be glad to have it at some later date.

The fact that permission has been given to exploit 6,590 hectares implies that the population was to some extent deprived of the possibility of utilizing the land. What did the population receive? In the case of other Territories, the Administrations have paid sums for land alienated from the population which the Trusteeship Council has regarded as inadequate. Could we have the actual sums which were paid to the indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi for land alienated from them for purposes of exploitation? It is true that, according to the statement on pages 164 and 165 of the annual report, the Administration has the right to prospect for mining resources and to exploit those resources. But how does the population benefit from that, concretely? The indigenous inhabitant owns a piece of land which, under a permit, is given to a company for exploitation. How is the indigenous inhabitant compensated for the damage suffered in that way?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Under the legislation of Ruanda-Urundi, the subsoil does not belong to the owner of the land; the subsoil belongs to the collectivity, the community. A concessionaire is granted a mining concession. The returns are collected by the community, not by the indigenous inhabitants who own the surface soil. The indigenous inhabitants are compensated only if a small part of the surface soil has to be occupied in order that the subsoil may be exploited. If indigenous inhabitants suffer some damages in that way, they are compensated. The holder of a mining concession has a legal servitude permitting him to occupy the surface soil if he compensates the owner of the land. The owners of surface land are compensated only for the actual damage entailed by the surface installations of a mine. The mine, however, is worked for the benefit of the collectivity.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My last question on this subject is the following: Did the indigenous inhabitants occupying this land receive land grants elsewhere, or did they merely receive monetary compensation for the material damage suffered?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The expulsion of the indigenous inhabitants is in no way involved in these cases. The indigenous inhabitants continue to live near the mining installations. The only surface buildings constructed are camps for the workers, and so forth. The indigenous inhabitants are compensated for the soil which is used for these surface buildings. They can continue to cultivate their fields or can settle on other indigenous land. They are quite free to settle elsewhere; they need no permission from the State. When one crosses Ruanda-Urundi, one constantly sees new installations, new houses which have just been built, new banana trees which have just been planted. The indigenous inhabitants settle on vacant lands, and they need no permission from any representative of the Government.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My next question relates to the subject of public works, referred to on page 173 and following pages of the annual report. In the report, a list is given of the various public works carried out in the Territory in 1954. I believe that some further clarification might be given in this respect. The list in the report contains no mention of school construction. Could the special representative tell us how many schools were built in 1954?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): If one takes the breakdown under sub-headings A and B, which cover building in Usumbura, Ruanda and Urundi, some details of the construction of schools will be noted there. It will be noted that there is mention of the construction of certain schools -- a nursery school for Asian children, and the building of a school for male student nurses in Kigali, for instance. If the representative of the Soviet Union will turn to page 176 of the report he will find the figures for the whole of the Territory, from which it will be seen that a professional school is being built for student male nurses at Karuzi. The representative of the Soviet Union will also find on that page a paragraph beginning, "In addition, the following buildings were constructed by the territorial services", and this is followed by a list of the buildings in question at the bottom of the page. The mission schools were built by the missions themselves without technical assistance from the State.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have put this question in order not to be confused. Among the public works I counted eight school buildings. At the foot of page 126 I read that, in addition to twenty-three gaols, eight schools were built. This proportion of eight schools to twenty-three gaols seems to me to be rather odd and, indeed, one that is not altogether to the credit of the Administering Authority. I do not want to be accused of engaging in propaganda here -- a charge that is often levelled at me -- but I would like to know from the special representative how he interprets these figures.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): This anomaly arises because there is no philanthropic association which undertakes to operate a prison. Otherwise, the Government would certainly be quite prepared, instead of building the gaols itself, to subsidize any philanthropic or benevolent institution wishing to build and operate them. There are, however, a certain number of charitable organizations which do undertake to devote themselves to education, and in such cases the Government subsidizes sometimes as much as 90 per cent of the construction work. Thus the Government does not have to build these schools itself. Incidentally, there are some 4,000 schools in Ruanda-Urundi, not eight.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There is another consideration which may explain this rather amusing paradox. The construction that is entrusted to the Public Works Department comprises work of major importance and buildings which are fairly large in size. The works entrusted to the territorial services are less important in size and the buildings do not have to be constructed by specialists. The twenty-three gaols referred to here are small buildings which are erected in the principal headquarters in order that persons who are condemned to two or three days' imprisonment should not have to be transferred to the main regional gaols.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I should like to thank the special representative and the representative of Belgium for the clarification which they have given. I must point out, however, that in my view it is a good thing that the philanthropic organizations in the Territory do not take care of such matters as the building of prisons since otherwise the Administration really would not have very much else in the way of public works to undertake.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I have only two questions to put to the special representative, and they relate to foreign trade. Foreign trade in Ruanda-Urundi, as in most countries with a rather primitive economy, plays quite an important role. The representative of Belgium and the special representative have placed the matter in its proper perspective. At our last meeting they pointed out that the Administering Authority's concern should not result in sacrificing to the need for exporting commodities the no less important need to provide the population with an adequate supply of foodstuffs. However, it is a fact that the Territory produces various export goods, and on page 99 of the annual report it is stated, as a matter of principle, that the export and import trade is left to private initiative. Nevertheless, all governmental initiative is not necessarily excluded because of this, and there are governmental bodies dealing with export and import problems -- and more particularly the first of these.

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Thus the Office des Cafés Indigènes du Ruanda-Urundi is designed to foster and improve the production of indigenous coffee, to control quality, and to classify export coffee in a standardized way. There is another organization dealing in the same way with the exploitation and cultivation of cotton. Then there is an Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur, or Belgian Office of Foreign Trade, which has an office in Leopoldville and has just opened another office in Usumbura. I should like to know what is the exact extent of administrative intervention in these fields. To what extent, and in what way, does the Belgian Office of Foreign Trade operate, and how can it improve the conditions and circumstances in which commodities are exported? That is my first question.

My second question is this. Does the intervention of these administrative or semi-administrative organs apply only to the bringing about of an improved quality and standardization of these commodities, or is it designed eventually to affect prices -- for instance, in a depression when the price paid to the producer may be insufficient? In such a case, is there any organization empowered to maintain the price paid to the producer at a level higher than that which might obtain as the result of particularly unfavourable economic circumstances at any given time?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The Belgian Office of Foreign Trade was inaugurated in 1954 and is, therefore, a recent institution. The main business in 1955 was to establish contacts and to find market outlets. This included the exploration of better standardization procedures. Before that, such procedures were controlled by the local office, the so-called native coffee office, which also handled all the exports of coffee. Now the exporters, having purchased coffee from the native producers, come before the local coffee office, where the coffee is examined. If it is too moist, it is rejected and impounded. The coffee which is accepted for export is classified in four or five different categories. The bags are sealed, marked with the category and quality of the coffee and then exported directly.

The second part of the question which was put to me was whether there existed a fund which, in bad times, would enable one to pay the producer an emergency price higher than the normal one. My answer is in the affirmative. A so-called equalization fund for coffee was established, which is built up by a bonus per kilo of coffee in normal times, and this fund has already fairly large resources which enable it, if there is a bad year, to pay the producer a normal rate. This fund has not yet had to operate, since the producers have been able to sell their coffee at a reasonable price each year.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I should like to thank the special representative for the very interesting information which he has given to us. The examples which he has singled out are examples which relate only to coffee, for which there exists a strict control with regard export and an equalization fund. I should like to know whether administrative activities in this field apply only to the trade in coffee; or do they affect a limited number of commodities, or all commodities?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): A situation, perhaps not altogether similar to that with regard to coffee, but an analogous one, exists in connexion with cotton, but as far as other products are concerned, there has been no degree of state intervention up to the present time.

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U PAW HTIN (Burma): I had intended to ask some questions with regard to land settlement, but my questions have been covered by the representative of the Soviet Union. However, I still have a few more questions to be cleared.

My delegation has followed with interest the Administering Authority's programme for developing Ruzizi, Mosso and Rutana and for establishing indigenous agricultural settlements. Will the special representative please tell me approximately how many families have been resettled as a result of the development programme being carried out in those areas, and when all these regions are expected to be ready for resettlement.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): At the end of 1954 the number of families resettled amounted to 4,209. Resettlement continued in 1955, but I do not have the figures to 31 December. The available figures are given on page 139 of the report.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): My second question is, on the basis of these resettlement figures, will the special representative please furnish me with an estimate of the degree of reduction which these resettlement plans would have on population pressure arising out of a very rapid rate of increase?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This population resettlement programme must be considered as one of the means used to lessen the congestion in densely populated areas. It can be considered that these 4,209 families represent approximately 15,000 to 17,000 persons. However, as the Council is aware, besides this resettlement in unoccupied areas there must also be a certain movement of emigration brought about by other means. Other means must be found to remedy the growing pressure of population as the problem becomes more acute and urgent. I have already made this point in reply to questions by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. There is some land which can be cultivated profitably and resettled, and we are thinking on these lines at the present time.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): My next question relates to the measures which, along with the resettlement programme, the Administering Authority has been taking to extend cash crops in order to use more intensively land that is not at present densely settled and to encourage industrialization. Will the special representative please tell me how these measures are proceeding?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There is an area north of Usumbura, not a particularly vast area, in the plain of Ruzizi, in which the indigenous agricultural population has been organized and is developing advantageously. There is another region in which the settlement of a new type of agriculture is under way. This is a region slightly to the east of the first region which I have mentioned, and here, in the lowlands, rice fields have been created. There is also the Mosso region, where resettlement is slower than in Ruzizi because of the fact that irrigation is more difficult.

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A cane sugar plantation has also been established in the Ruzizi delta, and it is hoped that this will make it possible to develop the sugar industry in that area and, as a result, attract people. At the present time, the Mwami of Ruanda is endeavouring to settle agricultural workers in Ruanda, but this is only under study at present.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I would add, in connexion with the question put by the representative of Burma regarding the exploitation of cash crops, that five and a half million coffee plants were planted in 1954, and I believe that the same number was planted there in 1955. These figures are important because, of course, coffee is a very advantageous crop. Even with a very small acreage, coffee can produce sufficient money for the worker to purchase the food crops that he needs. Therefore, as the representative of Burma pointed out, replacing food crops by industrial crops that are more remunerative will lead to the enrichment of the population, since a family can live better with an acre planted in coffee than with an acre planted with other food crops.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): My last question relates to the problems posed by stock breeding. Could the special representative enlighten me on the stage that has now been reached in the matter of developing facilities for the marketing of cattle and the studies undertaken for the establishment of a meat industry in the Territory.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): We have reached a stage which, while it cannot be called a very spectacular one, nevertheless is a very important one. It is possible to say at the present time that the indigenous authorities as a whole, have acknowledged that it is necessary to eliminate the Ubuhake contracts and to dispose of the excess livestock. That is a very important and significant step because the ideas which prevailed among the indigenous inhabitants with regard to cattle were a major obstacle to the carrying out of our programmes. Cattle have been redistributed everywhere in Ruanda. In one case, by the end of 1954 40,000 cattle had been dealt with by this redistribution programme. I cannot give up-to-date figures because our

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

statistics cover the year ending 31 December and are not published until January or February. That is why usually I come to the Council without the required figures. However, I know that this system of redistribution has been continued and that larger numbers of cattle have been sold in the markets than was the case previously. That would seem to indicate that on the whole the policy has been successful.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): With regard to the question about meat marketing, I do not think we need have much illusion about that, because as the prosperity of the indigenous inhabitants increases, they will eat more and more meat. If everybody could afford to eat as much meat as he would like, there would not be sufficient cattle in the Territory. Therefore, I do not think we can envisage a large-scale meat market, since eventually the indigenous inhabitants will be eating more and more meat themselves.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I put my name on the list of those with questions to ask, but all the questions I had in mind have already been asked.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): The position of my delegation is rather an unusual one. Most of our questions regarding economic advancement are intimately connected with the ten-year economic development programme for Ruanda-Urundi. However, it was only today that, thanks to the courtesy of the Belgian delegation, for which we are grateful, we received a copy of this ten-year plan. My counsel on economic matters feels that the doubts which he had with regard to this ten-year plan will probably be dispelled by a study of this document. It is rather a voluminous document, and some time will be required to study it. However, this is not the end of our difficulty, since we are in a similar difficulty with regard to social questions also. This is the next field to be discussed, and my delegation would prefer to refrain from putting questions at this time. We are prepared to put a certain number of questions with regard to educational advancement.

I would like to ask you, Mr. President, whether, if it would not create undue difficulties, we could reserve our right to put certain questions, if we still have certain questions on economic and social advancement, after we have

dealt with educational advancement. If you have no objection and if the special representative has no objection, we would be very grateful. In any case, very probably we shall have only a few questions.

The PRESIDENT: Unless the special representative objects, I have no objection whatever. We will assume that that course will be followed.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I was also rather interested in the references at several points in the report to the ten-year plan, and while we have not asked the Belgian delegation or the special representative to supply us with the text of the plan, I was going to ask whether we could hear a few general observations at some convenient point regarding the nature of this plan. It may be that other members of the Council who have discussed this in the past are more familiar with this matter, but to me it does seem to be a matter of distinct interest affecting the economic and, of course, the social development of the whole Territory. Would the special representative care to make a few general remarks about the significance and role of this plan?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I should like to refer to the suggestion made by the representative of Guatemala. Of course, I am at the disposal of the Council and I am prepared to give any information, whatever the subject may be and whenever the question is put. However, I fear that the delegation of Guatemala may be wasting its time in studying the ten-year plan in the document placed at its disposal. This plan was set to cover the years 1949 to 1959, but, for various practical reasons, it did not begin to operate in 1952. It has been amended on several occasions.

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

The various departments at Usumbura are now redrafting it and therefore I do not think it would be useful to comment on this plan. What I could do, however, by way of an indication to the Council, would be to give the results of the investments which were made, through 31 December 1955, in the economic field, within the framework of the Ten-Year Plan. The Council would thus be able to have an idea of the scale of achievements.

On 31 December 1955, 4,000,000 dollars had been invested for the implementation of the road-building programme; 160,000 dollars had been invested for the implementation of the waterways programme; for the airway services, 100,000 dollars had been invested; for scientific equipment, public services, cartography, geological services and telecommunications, the sum of 5,428,000 dollars had been invested. To that one must add various other emergency expenditures not envisaged in the Ten-Year Plan, amounting to two million odd dollars.

Therefore, within the framework of economic expenditures, the investments made within the Ten-Year Plan, through 31 December 1955, amounted to 12,360,000 dollars; and to that there should be added 12,000,000 dollars for social investments. I will provide the details on this particular aspect when we discuss the fourth section of the report, if delegations require it.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I would like to thank the special representative for this information regarding recent expenditures under the Ten-Year Plan, which I gather is a rather comprehensive plan of investment in different branches of the economy and in the social life of the community. I think that the Council will undoubtedly be especially interested in following the development of this plan. I note, in connexion generally with programmes of investment, that reference is made in the annual report to an annual interest-free advance made to the Territory by the Belgian Government of the order of 400,000,000 Belgian francs, and this is expended, in different proportions, in different types of developmental projects. In the year under review, the bulk of the money was invested in the fields of transportation and communications and for scientific equipment and public services. Could the special representative tell us whether it is expected that these are the types of investments likely to receive special emphasis in so far as that 400,000,000 franc interest-free advance is

(Mr. Walker, Australia)

concerned, or whether major expenditures will gradually be transferred to other fields, such as health and education, in future years.

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

In this listing I gave only those expenditures which applied to economic matters. The main headings are in the economic field: the road programme, the waterways, the airways, public works, geological services, telecommunications, etc. Besides that, there is of course the social investments, such as the native housing programmes, the water supply, the struggle against tuberculosis and other endemic diseases, education, cultural investments and the development of agricultural schools.

Those are the main headings of the Ten-Year Plan which encompass the whole of the economic and social development programmes in Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I thank the special representative for that interesting information. I would like to ask a question now regarding the matters dealt with on page 136 of the annual report, particularly the matters of land tenure, the land-holding system. On page 136, the report refers to the evolution of the ideas of private property and land, which I gather is gradually replacing the former indigenous system of land tenure under which the title was held by the Mwami but in which the actual use of the land, under a rather complicated system, was made available to the indigenous population. I gather from this that a transformation of the land-holding system is gradually taking place. I wonder whether the special representative could give us some information regarding the exact process by which land is being removed from the scope of the customary law and designated as private property, particularly where the indigenous population is concerned.

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

It is one of the problems which is of concern to the Administration. We are attempting to raise the indigenous inhabitants to the status of full-fledged property owners while protecting them against speculators, whether indigenous or foreign. This is a serious problem. The tenure of land system varies widely

throughout the country. In some areas there is a form of land tenure which is more or less similar to the system of property ownership that is embodied in our civil code. But in many other areas there is a system of collective land tenure and of collective operational exploitation of land which makes for exceedingly complicated relations.

The indigenous inhabitants would like to reach a uniform status of private property ownership. This is also the wish of the Administration. But one of the main obstacles is the lack of any land registration system which could be adequate to cope with the problem of determining the boundaries of the plots to belonging to the various owners. Another difficulty which we would like to avoid is to see vast estates fall into the hands of local chieftains or speculators. All of this is a serious problem and we are attempting to deal with it step by step. For the time being, we are bringing in private ownership of land in some areas in which boundaries have been established between various pieces of land and in which land registration rosters have been set up. However, there are many obstacles, stemming from custom, to overcome if we do not want to infringe upon existing rights.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to call the attention of members of the Council to the difficulties which would arise if private ownership of land were introduced into a Territory where the population is relatively undeveloped. First, there is the tremendous difficulty connected with the land registration system. Secondly, in Ruanda-Urundi, we have, for example, no cases of indebtedness at present. There are no speculators who are engaged in lending funds to the peasants and thus turning them into eternal debtors. What the indigenous inhabitant wishes to achieve, and what we must give to him, is the free use of the product of his labour. If he has planted coffee, he should be able to harvest it and to collect the proceeds of the sale. For this, it is enough to comply with the customs and to discontinue any custom which would deprive the producer of a commodity of the proceeds of the sale.

Actually, the indigenous inhabitant cannot be evicted from his house or from a piece of land which he tills and from which he earns his living. This is the main safeguard. If we were to introduce private ownership of land with title to land, we would place in a position of inferiority all those areas of land to which private ownership would not apply, for we cannot immediately establish private ownership throughout the area.

I think I recalled to the Council that in the case of sweet potatoes, in order to promote its production, over-zealous officials had suggested that any producer of sweet potatoes be given a piece of paper which would represent a title to the piece of land on which the potatoes would have been raised. The result of this was that certain local chiefs took away from many natives land on which the latter had worked for years. Thus the poor man found himself with a paper for a small plot of sweet potatoes from which he drew some measure of food. As against that, for the banana area which was situated on the old plantations of his village and for which there was no paper, the chief said to him: "You do not have a paper", and he took this land away from him. I think that the customary rule should be the absolute rule, namely, that whoever works is entitled to the product of his labour. This rule should apply, and any infringement of it should be prohibited.

The question of private ownership of land, with all its difficulties, with the possibility of sale and therefore with the possibility of indebtedness and speculation, has many dangers, as we well know. We know that in many countries poor peasants had to sell their land and the land ended up in the hands of a few

(Mr. Ryckmans, Belgium)

feudal landowners. This is an evil about which we do not know in Ruanda-Urundi, and I hope that we never will.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I should like to thank the representative of Belgium and the special representative for their very interesting explanations on this matter.

A related matter to the actual ownership of land is, of course, the conservation of land. I have noted the efforts which the Administration is making to protect the land against soil erosion and to promote reafforestation and various irrigation programmes. Could the special representative indicate the extent to which these programmes receive positive support and interest on the part of the indigenous people themselves? To what extent is it an uphill task to arouse interest in these matters?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is quite sure that the indigenous inhabitants do not evince immediate interest in such work as the reclamation of land and protection against erosion. It is obvious that the chiefs must be constantly alert to bring pressure to bear on the indigenous inhabitants to dig protective trenches around fields threatened with floods, for instance. In general, the indigenous inhabitant is not interested in work which does not give an immediate reward.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): With reference to a particular commodity, I know that efforts have been made to initiate a sugar production industry in the Territory. Could the special representative tell us just what degree of success has been encountered in introducing this industry and what effect it is likely to have on the economy of the Territory? Is there any prospect of developing sugar as an export in due course?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I do not believe that one can contemplate sugar as an export at the present time. We are at the very beginning. A few acres have been planted with sugar cane in order to ascertain the possibility of more extended cultivation. What we might hope for is to have the product of the restricted areas which have been devoted to this

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

type of crop serve the needs of local consumption. For a long period of time, we will not be able to envisage any export of this crop.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): According to data provided in the Secretariat working paper, I think that one can estimate the population of the Territory at about 4,250,000 in terms of indigenous inhabitants and approximately 10,000 non-indigenous inhabitants.

In its report, the Administration points out that the indigenous inhabitants own 36,000 square kilometres of land, and the non-indigenous inhabitants approximately 226 square kilometres, of which 47 square kilometres are occupied by schools, missions etc., so that approximately 179 square kilometres belong to non-indigenous inhabitants. The per capita ownership per square kilometre would be less than 1/100th of a square kilometre for the indigenous inhabitant and approximately 18 square kilometres for the non-indigenous inhabitant.

The results of this computation make it rather difficult to understand the statement in the report to the effect that approximately 66.45 per cent of the land is occupied by the indigenous inhabitants. It may be that in its calculations, the Administering Authority bore in mind certain factors which, due to my inexperience in the field of political economics or sociology, I find it difficult to assess.

But on the basis of the population figures on the one hand, and the area of land occupied by the indigenous inhabitants on the other, I find that there is a substantial discrepancy as between the per capita occupation of land by the indigenous inhabitants and the occupation of land by the non-indigenous element. One hundred and forty-six square kilometres are in the hands of the Administering Authority, and I wonder whether it would not be possible to remedy this gap existing between the holdings of land in indigenous and non-indigenous hands, and whether the Administering Authority could not grant liberal concessions to indigenous inhabitants requesting concessions for some form of exploitation or other. Could the special representative give me some explanation on that score?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In a general way, one should mistrust statistics. When we say that the State occupies 146 square kilometres, it is true in this sense, that these 146 square kilometres cannot be privately owned by indigenous inhabitants. If you consider, however, that in these 146 square kilometres are included road areas, you naturally ask the question as to who uses it most: the Europeans who number 10,000 or the indigenous inhabitants who number 4,000,000? If you take the airfields, the area of experimental agricultural stations and those groupings considered to be non-indigenous, you will come to the conclusion that these areas are used for the collective benefit. I do not understand the suggestion of the representative of Haiti to the effect that these lands should be given to the indigenous inhabitants. When indigenous inhabitants need land for crops or for commerce, it is not necessary that this land be granted to them; they can take it and occupy it without authorization from anyone. Any indigenous inhabitant who needs ten hectares of land, for example, can occupy them provided no one has claimed it before him. All these lands are free.

As to the 226 square kilometres of land occupied by persons or groups that are not indigenous, I wish to observe that 47 square kilometres are occupied by the Missions. As regards these Missions, if we make a per capita division, we note that 80 to 90 per cent of this land is occupied by indigenous inhabitants while about 10 per cent is occupied by three or four missionaries who live in the Missions.

(Mr. Leroy,
Special representative)

The land problem in Ruanda-Urundi is a very general one in the sense that an area of 54,000 square kilometres, including 22 per cent of land not devoted to agriculture, for four and a half million inhabitants, is not a large amount but, as I have said, the non-indigenous inhabitants actually occupy less than 1 per cent of the whole Territory. To give an example, I will tell the Council of what happened to me last year. A settler disappeared, and his land was put up for public auction. There was only one bidder for that area of 43 hectares, and he offered a very low price. In order to save the concession which contained some buildings, I went to the auction and I bought the property in the name of Ruanda. But the Supreme Council of Ruanda did not approve of this purchase; they did not feel that it was necessary to get that land back.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I am grateful to the special representative for this information. I was happy to learn that with regard to vacant lands, the indigenous inhabitants are quite free to occupy them.

I will now go on to the second part of my question. Could the special representative tell me in what capacity the non-indigenous inhabitants occupy this land: as owners or as farmers? Do they have to pay any real estate tax or any form of tax?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The report states that out of the 226 square kilometres which are in the hands of non-indigenous people, 100 square kilometres are owned and 126 are leased. Yesterday I explained how these lands were allocated. When a colonist desires to settle, he contacts the Administrator of the Territory and the local chiefs to ascertain whether he could occupy a certain parcel of land. Then an investigation is carried out in writing in which the Administrator of the Territory participates, as well as the local judge who has competence over the area, the indigenous chiefs of the region and the indigenous inhabitants who might have a claim to these lands. The investigation determines exactly what these rights are. These rights may be varied. It may be the right of cultivating the soil, the right of passage, the right of digging wells, of cutting wood, etc. Once all these rights have been ascertained, the indigenous inhabitant is asked whether he wishes to give up his

(Mr. Leroy,
Special representative)

rights and under what conditions. If he refuses to give up his rights, the investigation stops there and the indigenous inhabitant retains his right to the land and the settler looks elsewhere. If the indigenous inhabitant is willing to sell his rights, these are bought by the Administration who becomes the owner of the land and it sells or rents it to the person who wishes to buy or rent it. The policy of the Administration for some years now has been to grant agricultural concessions only in those places where they might be a nucleus for future occupation and future settlement of population. For instance, if a settler, for instance, wants to settle in the region of Mosso, the European and indigenous authorities would view this initiative very favourably because this settler would become a nucleus around which the indigenous population would gather later. This is the principle: wherever settlers can contribute to the education of the indigenous population or promote the occupation of land which is sparsely inhabited, it is encouraged. Whenever settlement would compete with indigenous farmers we do not tolerate it.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I still have other questions to put to the special representative, but it seems to me that it would be preferable to put them after the recess.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Paragraph 67 of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat states:

"Almost the whole of the import and export trade and wholesale trade remains in the hands of European or Asian firms."

I should like to know to what extent the indigenous inhabitants participate in wholesale trade or in export trade. On the other hand, I have in mind a law enacted in 1949 which enabled the Governor to approve native co-operatives. I should like to know whether under this law co-operatives were set up by the natives and to what extent these co-operatives were encouraged. Are the co-operatives benefiting from any subsidies of agricultural credit that would enable them to engage in agricultural practices. Perhaps the special representative could give us some further information on this question.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As the representative of Haiti has stated, a text was promulgated in 1949 concerning the indigenous co-operatives. These co-operatives come under Government control. They are entitled to receive, if they so wish -- and they usually do -- credits over a period of time. These credits are given without interest during the first year and after that at a low rate of interest. These details may be found on page 94 of the report. The Governor of Ruanda-Urundi can licence indigenous associations whose purpose is to promote through the use of the principles of co-operation, the economic and social interests of their members. To finance their first expenditures, an association which does not possess sufficient financial reserves may obtain advances without interest during the first year, at a rate of 2 per cent during the second year and 4 per cent for subsequent years.

The co-operatives have been active primarily in the coffee trade. During the year 1955, two indigenous co-operatives of coffee planters were in operation, one in Butegana, Urundi, and the other in Shanghi, in the territory of Shangugu, in Ruanda. The establishment of a third co-operative is under study for the territory of Kisenyi.

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

I might give some idea of the activity of these co-operatives in 1955, and this would also provide a reply to the question put by the representative of the Soviet Union before the recess. For these two co-operatives, the number of members in 1955 amounted to 10,070 for the Butegana co-operative and 4,254 for the Shanghi co-operative; the number of kilogrammes of coffee purchased amounted to 1,189,998 kilogrammes in Butegana and some 752,000 kilogrammes for the Shanghi co-operative; the average purchase price for coffee was 2.81 francs in Butegana and 2.87 francs in Shanghi. This, as regards dried coffee, represented 221,000-odd kilogrammes for the first co-operative and 149,430 kilogrammes for the second co-operative. The average sales price of this dried coffee was twenty-seven francs in Butegana and twenty-six francs in Shanghi.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I now turn to another set of questions. In the same chapter, we read that the main export commodities are bought from the producer and sold abroad by export co-operatives. It is the system of intermediaries which was the subject of some of the points of the representative of France, and the representative of the Administering Authority told us something about the operations of an agency which is entrusted with the task of controlling the price level, ensuring its stability, and, in case of sharp price drops on the market, ensuring, as it were, the producers against the repercussions of such drastic drops. What happens if the price goes up in outside markets? Would this price control agency then ensure to the producer a price which would be more in keeping with the higher price paid on the market abroad?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This is not the line taken by the Administration in its attempts to protect the indigenous producer. The Administration sets by decree the minimum purchase price paid to the indigenous producer of coffee. This minimum price is often exceeded and a higher price paid, but in no case can a lower price be paid to the producer than the minimum established by decree. Once the coffee has been sold, the indigenous producers are not involved in any fluctuations of prices.

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

The situation is different in the case of cotton. The cotton-producing co-operative merely serves as an intermediary. It buys cotton from the local producer, processes it and, after having sold it, makes possible additional payments to the producer if the price turns out to be advantageous. As a result, the producers often receive an additional payment after the sales have been carried out.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I now come to my last question, which was touched upon by the representative of the Soviet Union. It relates to mining in the Territory. I believe that the special representative, in answer to the representative of the Soviet Union, declared that, while the surface of the land belongs to indigenous inhabitants, what is under the soil does not belong to them, and that, as a result, if a mineral deposit is found under an area owned by an indigenous inhabitant, he would have no right to participate in the profits derived by the mining operations. I would say that, at first glance, it would seem that the owner of land under the surface of which a mineral deposit is found should receive some compensation out of the profits derived from the operation of a mine under the land which he owns. I remember a rule of Roman law which holds that the ownership of land implies ownership of both the surface and what is under the surface. I wonder whether the Administering Authority could not bring into its mining legislation some principle under which the owner of the land would benefit from whatever mineral deposits might be found therein. Perhaps the special representative would care to comment on this.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Under the statutory law of Ruanda-Urundi, ownership of the subsoil is distinct from ownership of the surface land. The subsoil belongs to the State, to the collectivity. The indigenous owner of a piece of land under which a mineral deposit is found benefits in the same way as any other member of the collectivity. In other words, any mining operation represents a source of profit to the budget of the Territory, and thus to all the inhabitants of the Territory. This profit to the budget takes the form of mining taxes, income taxes, taxes on export, and so forth. Furthermore, the State directly participates in the ownership of most of the mining corporations, through the ownership of shares -- as the representative of Belgium has already pointed out. I do not think that the Administering Authority could at present contemplate the kind of radical change in the legislation which would be involved in providing that the owner of the surface land should also own the subsoil.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I would like to specify that the open-air mines, as they are designated in French law, are the property of the owners of the land. The subsoil mines, the mines deep down in the earth, are the property of the State. In fact, the existence of the latter mines are for the most part unknown to the land owners. It would be quite inconceivable for the profits of a tin mine two hundred metres below the surface of the earth to be divided among the owners of all the fields on the surface. As I have said, however, the open-air mines are the property of the owners of the land on which they are situated and exploited.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I have two supplementary questions on economic advancement.

My first question relates to the Kishubi scheme. As a part of the scheme, the Administering Authority has established ten small farms where food crops, coffee trees, orange trees, and so forth, are grown and where cattle are raised along modern lines. I take it that this is an attempt to set up model

(Mr. Jaipal, India)

self-sufficient farms for adaptation elsewhere. I should like to know from the special representative whether there has been any extension of this scheme. Have additional farms been set up in the area? Have the ideas worked out in the Kishubi scheme been applied elsewhere? Also, could the special representative give us an idea of how the scheme itself is working and whether it is proving to be an economic proposition?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This project has been continued in a number of parts of the Territory, with the assistance of the indigenous authorities. The relevant details will be found on pages 152 and 153 of the annual report. At present there are small farms at Bubanza, Bururi, Kitega, Muhinga and the other places listed at the bottom of page 152. These small farms are used by cattle breeders as demonstration plants. They have proved successful, and indigenous chiefs -- particularly the Bami -- greatly encouraged the movement in 1955.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): My next question concerns the abolition of the ubuhake system. As we know, the abolition of this system may well bring into the market surplus cattle. Furthermore, apart from a possible fall in the price of cattle; it creates certain problems. The last Visiting Mission referred in its report to an FAO mission which had been carrying out certain technical inquiries into this problem of excess cattle. We should like to know whether that FAO mission has presented its views to the Administering Authority. If so, could the special representative give us some information in this respect?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The mission visited Ruanda-Urundi in 1953, if I am not mistaken. It suggested solutions very similar to those actually applied by the Administration. The visit ended with a rather voluminous report, in which the views of the Administration were in fact endorsed. In practice, the Administration did not have to alter its policies as a result of the report.

that WHO's report did not mention smallpox as one of the principal diseases because of the very fact that this disease is well under control, with smallpox vaccination established as a routine service.

Turning to Tanganyika, during 1955 the public health officer for the Eastern Area of the WHO Regional Office for Africa paid two visits to Tanganyika and conferred with the Director of Medical Services and with other officials on possible forms of assistance which might be requested from WHO. During his first visit, the WHO public health officer visited the new Group Hospital, which is to take about 300 nurse-trainees, and received a very good impression of its organization and facilities. He held discussions with the Director of Medical Services of a project under consideration for the development of rural health services which, it is understood, involves a five-year plan under which 40 selected district hospitals will be transformed into rural health centres, linking up with the existing 400 dispensaries. This plan coincides with the recommendation made by WHO in its report on Tanganyika to the fifteenth session of the Trusteeship Council, and my organization is gratified at the action being planned since it meets the objective of that recommendation. It should be borne in mind that there is considerable experience available in other parts of the world in connexion with the establishment of such rural health unit systems. WHO considers it important, in the planning stage, to study the problems of organization and administration of rural health units, with particular emphasis on the system of technical supervision and team work among the health and medical workers in the area. In this respect, WHO is prepared to render all necessary assistance for the preparation of such plans in Tanganyika.

Another project which was discussed by the WHO public health officer and the Director of Medical Services was the maternal and child health project which is being assisted by WHO and UNICEF. A WHO expert in maternal and child health will shortly visit Tanganyika to advise on services and training work in this field.

It is understood that an offer by WHO to make available the services of a tuberculosis assessment team to Tanganyika is under study by the Director of Medical Services. A WHO expert in the field of nutrition has just departed for Africa, where he will visit Tanganyika to carry out a nutritional survey in the Baha area.

(Mrs. Meagher, WHO)

Teaching supplies were provided by WHO to nurses' training schools in Tanganyika in 1953, 1954 and 1955; and a number of fellowships will be awarded in 1956 and 1957, as was the case in previous years.

The annual report of the Administering Authority for 1954 indicates that there is a total of 354 registered medical practitioners in Tanganyika, of whom five are Africans; and fifty-eight licensed medical practitioners, of whom four are Africans. The annual report states that progress has been made in carrying out the comprehensive plan for the expansion of government training services. It would be of interest to know whether this plan includes provision of opportunities for Africans to pursue professional medical education, to which the highest importance is attached by my organization.

With regard to the Cameroons under British Administration, in its report on the British Cameroons to the fifteenth session of the Council WHO pointed out that the most important diseases prevalent in the Territory were those related to poor environmental sanitation. WHO is therefore gratified to note that due emphasis is being given to the improvement of sanitation through construction of latrines, provision of safe water supplies and elimination of mosquito breeding places by proper drainage. Such activities can be effective only when the local population as a whole becomes interested and actively participates in the work. In this respect, it is important to educate the local inhabitants and to impress them with the importance of improving the sanitation of their living environment, and to mobilize them to take an active part in the necessary reform work directed by the health authorities. Such activity would also help to stimulate self-help in community development work in the areas concerned.

WHO is also gratified to learn that five-and-a-half year courses for Africans to pursue education as registered physicians are being provided at the University College of Ibadan or at medical schools overseas.

With regard to the Cameroons under French Administration, WHO is continuing to provide assistance to the campaign of malaria control in French West Africa, the objective of which is now to protect the whole country between 1957 and 1960. The WHO malariologist and sanitarian assigned to the Cameroons under French Administration as part of this project will be continued through 1956 and 1957.

Early in 1955 a malaria course in the French language was held at Yaounde, and a similar WHO course is planned for 1957, to be followed by field visits to malaria control projects.

In Togoland under French Administration, WHO is giving technical advice to a project to treponematoses control in French Togoland, in addition to the work of assisting in malaria control.

I shall now turn to the general activities of WHO in the African region. Towards the end of 1955 a number of WHO conferences were held in Africa -- one on yaws, one on malaria, and one on environmental sanitation. It was agreed at the yaws conference to recommend that an offensive on a continental scale against the endemic treponematoses, particularly yaws, be undertaken in the near future in Africa, with WHO initiating the technical co-ordination of the work. The malaria conference enabled a very valuable exchange of information among the participants, and produced a recommendation that malaria control be extended as soon as possible to both rural and urban populations in the malarious parts of all African territories. The environmental sanitation seminar produced a number of important conclusions and served to emphasize the priority of work in this field, particularly the need for long-term plans into which individual programmes might be fitted.

A programme and budget for the African region for 1957 have now been considered by the WHO Regional Committee for Africa and by the WHO Executive Board and recommended for approval by the World Health Assembly which is to meet in May 1956. This programme provides for the award of 87 fellowships in 1957, which is more than double the number awarded in 1956. It provides for 87 country-projects in 1957, compared with 69 in 1956; and for fifteen inter-country projects compared with five in 1956. But the increase in WHO's activities in Africa is perhaps best reflected by a comparison of budgetary provisions for field activities: in 1955, \$745,000 was provided; in 1956, \$954,000; and in 1957 at least \$1,203,000 will be expended.

At the fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, which met in September 1955 at Tananarive, Madagascar, technical discussions were held on the health problems of the pre-school child in Africa and the role of the nurse as related thereto; and it was decided to hold technical discussions at the 1956 session on practical public health methods of tuberculosis control in the African region. It may be of interest if some excerpts are quoted from an address by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. M. Candau, to the Regional Committee for Africa at its fifth session. He said:

"... The World Health Assembly has approved the Second General Programme of Work for a specific period of four years. The basic idea in this new programme is to promote the integration of specific projects into the general framework of public health services as a whole. As far as Africa is concerned, work is mostly at the initial stage. It involves taking stop-gap measures and giving priority to the control of the most important diseases. This does not mean, however, that the final objective, namely, the integration of treatment activities into the routine work of public health administration, is not constantly borne in mind. In the last analysis, health campaigns will be successful to the precise extent of the strengthening of national health services which they bring about."

"As for national health programmes, the best method for fostering them is to plan them as an integral part of inter-country programmes, and I note with satisfaction that, in spite of many handicaps, inter-country programmes are being encouraged more and more in Africa. I am referring in particular to the excellent results yielded by your Conference on Onchocerciasis and to the international Malaria Course held this year in Yaoundé.

"... I want to tell you how impressed I am by the magnitude of the task which confronts you and by the great number of problems with which your countries are faced. I also wish to state that I too am concerned by the new threats to the health of your populations which have appeared in the form of problems which could until recently be disregarded, namely, tuberculosis, alcoholism and mental disorders. I know that you are aware of the seriousness of these difficulties and that you will agree ... that all necessary measures must be taken in

(Mrs. Meagher, WHO)

good time to avoid a situation where disease that has been chased through the door returns in a new guise through the window. I am convinced that ways and means will be found ... to advance towards progress in the solution of these problems."

At the seventeenth session of the WHO Executive Board, which recently took place in Geneva, the Director-General reported to the Board as follows:

"The Trusteeship Council has emphasized at recent sessions the need for WHO to give it more assistance in its consideration of health conditions in Trust Territories. To meet this growing demand a consultant was engaged in 1954 to prepare the first general study which WHO has made of the health conditions in these Territories. This study was presented to the Trusteeship Council in August 1954. In 1955 the WHO regional offices co-operated in preparing comments on the health sections of the reports submitted to the Council by the Administering Authorities of six Territories. WHO was represented at the fifteenth session of the Council where these reports were considered. In its report to the General Assembly, the Council noted the observations of WHO and called them to the attention of the Administering Authorities. The General Assembly noted the report of the Council in resolution 948 (X)."

This report on co-operation with the Trusteeship Council was noted by the WHO Executive Board in resolution EBL7.R68 of 1 February 1956.

In conclusion, may I say that a senior medical officer of WHO, Dr. R.L. Coigny, Director of the Liaison Office at the United Nations, will soon return to New York from a field trip and will be at the complete disposal of the Council for any assistance which it is possible for WHO to render at the present session.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to thank Mrs. Meagher for her very welcome report on the progress which WHO is making in the various African Trust Territories.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I am grateful to the representative of WHO for her comments. I should like to note a few points. The representative of WHO spoke of the medical personnel and said that it would be desirable to train the present auxiliary medical personnel up to

the degree of Doctor of Medicine in order that they would be able to practise.

The representative of WHO went on to point out that one member of the auxiliary medical service was taking a course in medicine in a Belgian university. This is an exceptional case since, as I have already had occasion to tell the Trusteeship Council, we require, in Belgian universities, for entrance to medical school, the certificat d'humanités complètes, which includes Latin. The member of the auxiliary medical service who takes this course must pass an examination on all subjects within the scope of this certificate, which is extremely difficult. It is very difficult to pass an examination in subjects which are actually covered in school during six years, particularly the subject of Latin. This is, therefore, an exceptional case, and it would be impossible for the majority of medical assistants to acquire the degree of Doctor of Medicine in a Belgian university. The universities in the Congo grant degrees which have exactly the same value as those accorded by Belgian universities.

We believe that this is a sound policy. If, however, WHO believed that, for a provisional period, it might be better for the university itself to accept somewhat lower ideals, I should be grateful if WHO would make such a suggestion in so many words. This is not the policy followed by the universities in the Belgian Congo. We wish the Congolese universities to grant diplomas of the same value as those given by Belgian universities.

The representative of WHO spoke of the efforts of that organization to supply the indigenous inhabitants of other Territories with water. I should like to point to an omission in the report of WHO to the effect that tremendous effort has been made in Ruanda-Urundi, during 1954, by a water prospecting mission, which received substantial subsidies from the indigenous welfare fund -- I believe it received about 40 million francs in 1954 which resulted in the opening up of 3,418 fountains, which served 615,000 inhabitants with fresh drinking water.

(Mr. Ryckmans, Belgium)

Details of these water supplies will be found on page 257 of the annual report.

On page 262 of the annual report reference is made to a private mission, also subsidized by the Indigenous Welfare Fund, which went to the Astrida Territory and used DDT in hundreds of thousands of cases. This application of DDT has given excellent results in the campaign against malaria. At the beginning of the campaign in 1949, the percentage of people suffering from malaria was 51, and this had been reduced to 6.6 per cent at the end of the campaign in 1954. In the territories of Bubanza, Usumbura and Shungu 96,391 cases, 98,000 square metres of buildings and 2,550 hectares of marshland were treated with DDT. It will be seen, therefore, that about 1,000,000 have been treated in the anti-malaria campaign. I was sorry to see that the WHO did not feel impelled to mention these results in its report.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have just two questions to put concerning labour, and my first question arises from some figures contained on page 476 of the annual report. These figures are also to be found in paragraph 91 on page 18 of the summary prepared by the Secretariat. In the table on page 476, it is stated that the average number of gainfully employed persons in 1954 was 130,492. Considering the stage reached by this Territory, which is largely agricultural and pastoral in nature, this figure may seem to be very good for a population of four and one half million. But, from another point of view, I think one may conclude that a figure of 130,492 out of a population of four and one half million is not very high. However, I was also interested in the breakdown in the different branches of economic activity. It is indicated that of this figure of 130,492 there are 25,355 workers in agriculture, while in the extractive industries there are 22,978 workers. In the field of construction there are 17,223 workers in commerce, 11,643, and in transport and communications, 17,853. It has occurred to me that in view of the fact that the Ten Year Plan has been operating for five or six years and that as was indicated earlier, more than \$12 million has been expended, one might have thought that the number employed in construction and in transport and communications and that sort of thing would have been a little higher in proportion to the number employed in agriculture and mining. I do not know whether the special representative would like to comment on this, but it has occurred to me that these figures were a little low.

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

The only comment I can make on this question is that most of the expenditures in the Ten Year Plan in the field of road networks and air travel were devoted to preliminary studies. In the communications work carried out under the Ten Year Plan, much preliminary research is required in order to map out the final location of the roads and of the aerodromes. That is why the expenditure has involved only a relatively restricted manpower.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I imagine that in the next year or two we can look forward to the figures under these different headings being quite different from what they are now. As I understand it, the position of the Administering Authority is that they are still in the planning stage and not in the actual stage of construction. With an over-populated Territory, the tremendous need for industrialization would seem to be reflected in the figures I have quoted.

My next question related to paragraph 103 of the Outline of conditions prepared by the Secretariat. In that paragraph it is stated that no indigenous trade union has yet applied for recognition in the Territory. Last year and, I think, the year before the Trusteeship Council expressed an interest in the formation of trade unions. This seems a little strange in view of the fact that in some of the other Territories where conditions are somewhat similar there are active trade unions. When one sees among the figures of those gainfully employed that 22,978 workers are engaged in mining and the extractive industries, it seems that an active trade union organization might already have developed. Has the special representative any comment to make as to why trade unions have not developed?

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

With regard to the extractive industries and the other industries which employ a number of workers, there are professional organizations -- the local workers' committees and the company councils -- which bring management and labour together and which study and find solutions for any difficulties that may arise in management-labour relations. With regard to trade unions, properly speaking, the first trade union was established in August 1955. This is the trade union of African administration agents, and it has already held a large number of meetings.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): Before turning to the questions which I have in mind to ask of the special representative, I wish to associate myself with the tribute which you, Mr. President, have paid to the excellent assistance being provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the field of health services in the Trust Territories and for their collaboration with the Council. In this connexion, I would like to ask the special representative how they are going to apportion the eighteen fellowships that have been awarded by WHO between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, since the apportionment has been left to the Administering Authority. In my opinion, the apportionment should have already been made by WHO in view of the special status of the Territory. One is a Trust Territory and the other is a non-self-governing Territory. It would have been much easier to do it that way. At any rate, I should like to know from the special representative how they are going to apportion these fellowships.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is not possible for me to reply to this question at the present time. I have no relevant data.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I certainly am not insisting upon an answer. However, could the special representative indicate if such awards have been made in the past and how, for example, they were apportioned? Has there been any case of that sort in the past?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I have no personal recollection of an apportionment in the Territory of fellowships granted by WHO.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I am very grateful, at any rate, to the special representative. I am sure that the Administering Authority will take into consideration the special status of the Territory and the fact that it is supposed to progress more rapidly towards independence, and that for that reason it may need a larger percentage of these fellowships than the other Territory. However, I do not want to commit my delegation to any of these points and I am sure that they themselves will be in a position to judge the proportion.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I think that the question of the apportionment of these fellowships between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi may not be as significant as the representative of Syria seems to imply, because from a technical point of view the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi make use of medical services which have a common direction. Studies were made, in co-operation with WHO, on deficiency diseases; they were studied in the Belgian Congo more particularly. These same deficiency diseases exist in Ruanda-Urundi, but whether it is a doctor from the Belgian Congo or from Ruanda-Urundi who studies these diseases under a fellowship, the medical corps of Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo will benefit together, regardless of whether the doctor comes from the Congo or from Ruanda-Urundi. In any case, these studies will directly benefit the work of the medical corps in both Territories.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I should like to elaborate on the point just made by the representative of Belgium. I would like to point out that in 1954 the International Children's Fund continued to give assistance to undernourished children in Ruanda-Urundi. We received 9,000 kilogrammes of whole and powdered milk and 8,023 kilogrammes of skimmed milk. The whole milk was distributed among various organizations taking care of orphans, including the medical centres, and the skimmed milk was sent to hospitals to take care of deficiency diseases and dietary deficiencies.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I am very grateful for the clarifications that have been given to me by the special representative and the representative of Belgium. I turn now to another question which stems from an answer which the special representative gave last year to the representative of Syria. In one of his statements before the Council, in answering a question, he said that there was some sort of an anti-missionary feeling in Ruanda-Urundi. I wish to verify that statement, in view of the all-encompassing role which the missions play in the Territory. I wonder whether that statement is a correct one, because I have not been able to find any reference to it in the annual report of the Administering Authority nor in the summary prepared by the Secretariat. Is there such a thing as an anti-missionary feeling in the Territory?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I think that this must be the case of a misunderstanding or a misinterpretation of the situation. I do not recall at any time, at any place, having heard mention of any hostility with regard to any of the missions in the Territory. In point of fact no such hostility does exist. I cannot conceive what hostility is meant here. All the missions, both Catholic and Protestant, are devoted to the welfare of the indigenous inhabitants and I cannot conceive how these could give rise to any hostility. I cannot recall any circumstance in which I would have made such a statement.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I was as much puzzled by that statement as appears to be the case with the special representative. I wish to refer him however to document T/PV.600, the meeting which was held on 16 March 1955 at 2 p.m. If the special representative will bear with me, I will read the question and the answer. I am sorry to take up the time of the Council, but I wanted to verify the following statement:

"Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): In paragraph 249 of its report, the Visiting Mission refers to the indigenous Press of Ruanda-Urundi. We note that it is limited to two monthly publications of Catholic missions and also some publications in French which are read by the students of the Astrida school group. Paragraph 250 of the Visiting Mission's report also says:

'It is clear that there is no publication owned by Africans and independent of religious affiliations.'

"What is the view of the Administering Authority with reference to this statement of the Visiting Mission? I have seen no reference to those two paragraphs in the observations of the Belgian Government..."

(T/PV.600, page 2-3)

Mr. Tarazi continues until the end of the question, but I am not going to take the time of the Council to read all of it. Then Mr. Leroy, the special representative, replied as follows:

"Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Up to the present time the Administering Authority has not taken any initiative in regard to the creation of an African Press. As the Visiting Mission has said, most of the newspapers appearing in Ruanda-Urundi in the indigenous languages, whether in Swahili or Kinyaruanda or Kirundi, are above all publications of religious missions, whether Protestant or Catholic," -- and here is the statement that follows -- "and we must not overlook the fact that in Ruanda-Urundi there is some anti-missionary feeling." (Ibid.)

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I take it that reference is made to the summary record and that the statement which was misunderstood was a statement which was edited along these lines in the final version of the summary record. Certainly this statement does not correspond to reality.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): If that is the case, I apologize to the special representative. I just found it in the record and I thought that it would be a correct version of what took place. I asked this question because of my curiosity with respect to what was the situation in view of the leading role that these missionaries play in the Territory and because I did not find this very congruous with the record of the Visiting Mission.

I turn now to other questions which I wish to put.

I note on page 16 of the summary prepared by the Secretariat that certain discriminatory measures still exist in the Territory, regardless of the fact that, on various occasions, the Council has recommended the abolition of these practices. I also note that the Administering Authority refers to the fact that, due to certain traditions and local customs, these things must proceed with some sort of caution and slowly, and cannot be eliminated except with patience in the long run.

My question in this regard is as follows: What progress has been made since last year's report in this direction, in particular with regard to what is called in the report couvre-feu, the liberty of movement of the indigenous population and the curfew which is imposed on them?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There were no changes as regards the question of the curfew and the movement of the indigenous population except that the curfew hour was set at a later hour in the extra-customary centres. I want to make it quite clear, however, that this practice of the curfew is not a discriminatory measure. A curfew was established upon the request of the indigenous inhabitants themselves. When the Council first showed concern with respect to this question, we put the matter to the indigenous Councils without exerting any pressure whatever. All the Councils agreed that the curfew should be maintained, and they unanimously objected to any proposed restrictions thereon.

There is a view among the indigenous inhabitants that anyone travelling after nightfall is very probably a miscreant. In Ruanda-Urundi, it is proper to demonstrate against anyone travelling at night unless the person travelling at night announces himself by coughing or singing. Anyone travelling silently after nightfall was automatically considered to be an enemy who could be shot without preliminary warning.

(Mr. Leroy,
Special representative)

Today, this view is still widespread among the indigenous population. We will be in a position to eliminate this curfew -- and I want to make it clear that this curfew applies only to the extra-customary centres -- only when we have a well-staffed police force and when the night lighting in extra-customary centres is more effective. This is in no way a discriminatory measure, and it has never been considered as such by the Natives.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): Reverting to the question just put a while ago by the representative of Syria, here is the final text of the record of the 600th meeting of the Council. This is in answer to the question of Mr. Tarazi.

(continued in English)

"Mr. LEROY said that so far the Administering Authority had made no move in that direction." -- in encouraging the creation of a purely African Press -- "Most of the vernacular newspapers were published by Catholic or Protestant missions. It should be remembered that in Ruanda-Urundi there was no anti-missionary movement or feeling. The great majority of the population had no clearly defined religion. The indigenous inhabitants were satisfied with the mission newspapers, particularly since they voiced their claims..." (T/SR.600, paragraph 2)

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): In the first place, I should like to answer the representative of Belgium. I have also read from the verbatim records of that same meeting, but apparently this statement was subsequently corrected. I am satisfied, and I have also stated that earlier.

I come now to another question that I wish to ask. On page 182 of the report of the Administering Authority there is this statement with regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

(interpretation from French)

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has not yet been translated into the local languages."

Is the Administering Authority attempting to translate it into the indigenous languages, or has it done so?

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

There has been no translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into the indigenous languages for the same reasons which applied previously. They are that the indigenous languages are very concrete languages. The Declaration, on the other hand, embodies a group of abstract principles, and our entire legislation is imbued with the spirit of the Declaration. It is true that there was no formal declaration. But I believe it is true that in the schools the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been quoted and has been referred to during the classes on the principles of the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System as it applies to Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My next question pertains to the press and radio. In the summary record prepared by the Secretariat, I read the following:

"At its fifteenth session, the Council noted the absence of an indigenous Press and urged the Administering Authority to assist and encourage the establishment of an indigenous Press and requested that consideration should also be given to the establishment at an early date of a broadcasting station in the Territory." (Conference Room Paper No. 1, paragraph 26)

I have failed to see anything in the report to the effect that something has changed in the interval or that the Administering Authority has done something in that regard. However, I think that this report only covers the period to the end of 1954. In view of that, I wonder whether the special representative would care to supplement the information which is in the report and to tell me whether any action has been taken with regard to that recommendation of the Council.

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

In regard to the Press, as the Council knows, there is a fairly extensive Press operated by the missions. A list of these publications has been appended to the report. At the end of 1954, if I recall correctly, a newspaper called New Times, in French, appeared in Usumbura, operated by the Pères blancs. There is no indigenous independent Press, properly speaking, I might say, but I should say that indigenous public opinion is provided ample scope for expression in the existing publications. In these papers we find more and more articles written by natives, and even in such papers as La Chronique congolaise and the Dépêches du Ruanda-Urundi, which are two publications designed primarily for European consumption, you find more and more native names under the articles. I think that this shows that native public opinion finds means of expressing itself.

As regards radio, at present there are public address systems that are designed to inform the population of the towns -- specifically in Usumbura, in Astrida and in Kigali -- of current events. Not only are messages to the local population broadcast through them, but also programmes are broadcast by the Leopoldville main radio station.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): This is my last question. I note that one of the main reasons for the low standard of living in the Territory amongst the indigenous population is the low productivity of labour. I fail to see any indications in the report as to new steps or any measures being taken to improve the productivity of labour. I do not know whether the Administering Authority has envisaged any long-range plan to cure this anomaly or difficulty, which is one of the main economic difficulties that plague the Territory.

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

The shortcomings that have been criticized are well known to the Council. We cannot do much about it, inasmuch as these constitute long-standing habits of the workers. I will quote from the decree, recently published, on the labour contract, which was revised in 1954, and which included the obligation on the worker of personally carrying out his work. In the past, the text read that the worker had the obligation to carry out the work he contracted for.

(Mr. Leroy, Special representative)

We added the word "personally", so that it read "to carry out personally the work" because workers were in the habit of having themselves replaced by a son, by a brother or by another relative, regardless of the competence of the substitute. Time and again the Administration has attempted to get together with the workers in order to establish what we might call "Qualification Boards". This did not succeed because qualified workers are still so few that in many places semi-qualified workers are considered to be master craftsmen. We hope that vocational training schools may improve the quality of the labour force, but the improvement of the present labour force is nevertheless a problem. I would say that manpower is particularly deficient when it works according to customary traditional norms. Let us say that workers in industry can become fairly productive; however, it is very difficult to make the rural workers produce efficiently and work satisfactorily. They work for their present employers just as they used to work for their traditional employers. Of course, they work for them without being paid for it; therefore both their former employers and themselves were not very exacting as regards working hours and so on, as long as the work was done. We have to face their traditions of poor quality of work and bad work which are not intentional and which does not constitute sabotage or laziness. They merely have bad habits that have been handed down over a period of years and even centuries.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): My first question is related to the answer just given by the special representative. One of the greatest obstacles in changing the social conditions of Africans, a difficulty which is found in most territories in Africa, is the lack of interest of some Africans in increasing their cash earnings. Progress in this direction has been assisted in some territories by the introduction of increasing quantities of consumer goods such as bicycles, and gramophones and like articles. Can the special representative give us any idea of the extent to which the people of Ruanda-Urundi have shown any desire to possess such articles?

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

The Administration has always hoped to be able to awaken in the natives the desire for an improvement of their standard of living, to enhance their interest in their own work. Progress is being made. We notice large numbers of bicycles, for instance. I know some cases of natives who go to their work in cars. I know quite a few who own motor-bicycles. You see radio sets and iceboxes in native homes. Last year I cited a case of one of my friends who wanted to bring back to Belgium a local robe made up of bark fibre. He could not find one. These locally made robes of bark, which used to be seen everywhere a few years ago, can no longer be found. They have been replaced by clothes of spun cloth. Nevertheless, as regards workers in rural areas, those who are not in the towns or close to the towns, these people are perfectly satisfied to work as long as it is necessary either in order to pay their taxes or in order to buy the very few things which they are interested in. They work four or five weeks or two months and then they quit; they go back to their fields and you never see them again, and they take their animals with them.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): Do I understand that there is not the same desire in the rural areas for the possession of, let us say, bicycles? In many parts of Africa that I know, even in the most remote villages, people have bicycles and gramophones.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I believe that the desire is the same in both sectors of the population, but the inhabitants of the towns are more advanced towards the implementation of that desire.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): On page 272 of the annual report we read of the Central Housing Authority of Usumbura, which may construct houses for rent or for sale. I should be interested to know whether the special representative can tell us if there has been any considerable sale of these houses to Africans.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): A large number of these houses have been rented. For the time being the Administration is trying to make possible their purchase through a procedure of long-term instalment buying. In other words, the rent which they pay would be considered as part payment for the eventual purchase of their houses.

I should be glad to give some statistics on this question at another date as I do not have them with me today.

The PRESIDENT: We shall continue at tomorrow's meeting with the examination of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, and we shall add to the agenda the examination of petitions which are included in the reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions, numbered 138 to 142.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.