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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 24 June 1959, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi  
3a, 47 (continued)

*Cannon mark 42.58*

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.985 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3a and 4

## EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI (T/L.909)

(continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1957 (T/1406, 1442, 1452, 1461)
- (b) PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/PET.GEN/L.2, 3; T/PET.3/L.9; T/COM.3/L.23 to 25)

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

Economic advancement (continued)

*see ver. 5*  
Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Several questions that I wished to ask of the special representative regarding the special development fund have been answered in replies given to previous speakers, and therefore I shall not ask questions concerning these matters.

The annual report, on page 67, describes the activities of the Société de Crédit au Colonat et à l'Industrie. Can the special representative tell us whether this company grants loans also to coffee planters and, if not, what is the difficulty in their obtaining such loans?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The primary purpose of that organization, as its title shows, is to make advances to farmers, settlers, planters and manufacturers. As far as coffee growing is concerned, it makes loans to any settler or planter who owns a certain amount of plantation land. I believe that the minimum size is fifty hectares, but I shall check this figure. On this basis some Africans have received loans from that organization, but Africans may likewise receive loans from the special credit fund for indigenous Africans and also through co-operatives. Yesterday I received information on the setting up in Buyogoma of an agricultural co-operative, and part of its capital is used to finance loans to indigenous planters.

Mr. SALMON (Haiti)(interpretation from French): The preliminary comments which the special representative made at the 879th meeting, as well as throughout the whole of the annual report, give indications of the efforts made to develop and extend the planting of coffee by the indigenous population. We believe that coffee prices are dropping over the past two years without any chance of their being stabilized. Could the special representative tell us whether there is an organization or a stabilizing mechanism for the price of coffee which might overcome any disappointments for the new coffee planters, or whether the indigenous coffee planting office can make any recommendations in this respect?

*coffee*

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The coffee trade in Ruanda-Urundi is free and open; but there is an office which is the Urundi Coffee Board, whose job it is to classify coffee, to send samples to the various international markets to guarantee its qualities. This Board is known as the OCIRU. Together with this there is a fund which the representative of Haiti referred to as a stabilization fund; the capital amounts to 400 million. Its purpose is to ensure that when there is a crop, and when the prices would be on the low side, there would be additional resources for the indigenous planter so that coffee growing should remain worthwhile for him.

At a previous meeting I drew the attention of the Council to the fact that the study of a coffee counter had been considered by the Government and presented to the General Council; but this idea was not followed up. One of the ideas of this organization was to make it possible to have an easier operation of this stabilization fund. With reference to this year's crop, as yet, I have received no information that prices are so low that the stabilization fund had to come into effect.

Mr. SALMON (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I wish to thank the special representative for this information which is fully satisfactory to my delegation. On page 2 of document T/1452 the Administering Authority gives a brief listing of the projects which will be implemented in Ruanda-Urundi

*projects*

(Mr. Salomon, Haiti)

as a result of the contribution by the European Economic Community subsidies. Could the special representative tell us how these projects have been selected by the Administering Authority? Can he tell us whether these projects were given a priority after consultation with the General Council or the State Councils, whether it is a custom to consult such organs in the circumstances?

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

I think a distinction must be made among the various projects so that my reply will be clearer. The projects concerned, first of all, the introduction of tea-growing in the Biumba district. This will enable the Administration to finance the introduction of tea in the Biumba indigenous territory where altitude and climate are favourable, and also where we can have a tea factory. The General Council has been familiar with this, and the councils of the country have been familiar with this idea for quite some time. The introduction of tea-growing is part of studies which were already submitted prior to the setting up of the General Council, and which are well known to the mass of the Banyarwanda and Barundi. The development of the Mayaga-Bugesera is one of the items in the ten-year plan. It is part of the recovery, recuperation and development of sterile territories, and which have to be permanently irrigated. This, likewise, is a project which not only has been discussed, but which has already had a start by using local means and resources. The needs to mechanize and to spread the test and power experiments, which are done on the spot, will require an investment of 12 million francs.

The highway connexions are a continuation of the undertaking which is being financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The first part of the thirty-five kilometre from Usumbura-Astrida of the "A" main highway will continue through the offshoot by Muremuya, which is a rather important county capital; and the cost is ensured by the fund we are now considering.



(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

The development of the Moso is a development in Urundi and the scope is the same as the development of the Mayaga-Bugesera. Moreover, you have the development of the farm settlements of the Moso. Now we have to make some roads in order to enable Africans to dispose of their commodities. The Council of Urundi is perfectly familiar with these routes and they were congratulated by the Governor for the co-operation they gave to the development of the Moso.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): On page 150 of the annual report, reference is made to large-capacity freezers which had to be installed near the slaughter houses that are being projected. The special representative will recall that the Council had been very interested in this question at previous sessions. Could he give us more information on the size and dimensions and scale of these installations?

*freezers  
(meat)*

On the same page, on the other hand, in the last paragraph, it is stated that the milk establishments of Nyanza, which is of a scale comparable to those in Europe, have had to stop their activities in view of the impossibility of competing with imported products. Could the special representative give us more information on the circumstances of this situation and of the measures which the Administering Authority is capable of taking in order to assist these enterprises in such circumstances.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The question of these freezers is something which was already discussed in the past. We do have freezers in Usumbura, but in so far as fish is concerned. I do not believe that the freezing point for fish and meat is the same. In so far as meat is concerned, the problem of destocking is connected with the freezing of meat. The problem of destocking in order to get rid of superfluous meat is a problem that was studied and that is the subject of tests and of pilot projects.

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

As is well known by the representative of Haiti, we are confronted with the social value of the cow. Now cattle in Ruanda-Urundi is much too expensive because it is not priced according to its economic value; it is priced according to its social value. Thus the agricultural services, in order to promote the elimination of surplus cattle, has been forced to turn to the stage of setting up small farms, of improved breeding and stocks, which is the only way of showing the Africans that it is worthwhile to have just a few heads of cattle, but of good quality, and that after all is said and done, it is the economic quality of cattle which counts. Education must be carried out in this field and in particular we must have the cost of cattle come down because we will never sell a kilo of meat abroad.

Internal consumption of meat of cattle is considerable. We see that every year more and more meat from the slaughter house is consumed by Africans. This could be a superfluous utilization, an inadequate use, as regards the domestic consumption of this meat. But since results have already been achieved, chiefly in Urundi, by the Veterinary Service, slaughterhouses for 12 million are being set up and freezers are going to be constructed. But I do not have the technical information concerning these freezers, which in all likelihood will only be included in the 1960 budget.

As regards the question of the Nyanza dairy, this dairy is an industry which was built during the war in order to make up for the difficulties in supplying butter. After the war this indigenous co-operative had difficulty in subsisting because of the competition from foreign butter. Unfortunately foreign butter was sold cheaper in Ruanda-Urundi than local butter, and this because milk and everything connected with a cow has a great symbolic value. Therefore, the Banyaruanda buy milk at a much higher price than the dairy itself should buy it. Thus, there is difficulty in keeping up a dairy in a place like Nyanza where cattle is really split up into many sections, because two-thirds of the heads of cattle are owned by people who do not have three heads of cattle and who consume their own milk.

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

There is difficulty in gathering milk because hundreds of milking stations are required. There are very great transportation difficulties and conditions, and as the international situation becomes more and more tense, and since Ruanda-Urundi, Uganda, Tanganyika, the Belgian Congo and Kenya go through the same river area, it was not possible to set up custom barriers. During a general meeting, it was decided not to discontinue the dairy, but to put it in moth balls, so to speak.

The setting up of the dairy is maintained and we are contemplating shifting it later on into a pastoral zone, in other words the Mutura. The Council has a map of the Territory in the report. It is the north-eastern extreme of Ruanda. There is a region which touches upon the Kagera park. The Administration, because of the physical aspect of the region, intends to set up African settlements which would carry out grazing, and it is there that the selected breeds will be of high quality and will follow economic norms. Then the Nyanza dairy will be rebuilt there. At least these are the plans.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I wish to thank the special representative for such a highly detailed reply. I would like to go on to the next question. On reading the report it appears that the indigenous population of Ruanda-Urundi -- and as a matter of fact this was high-lighted by the special representative in answering questions put by the representative of Burma -- is interested in the trade of livestock, and that in view of the difficulties in exporting and importing, this is centred in another group of the population. Could the special representative tell us whether at any given time at all, thought was given to providing the indigenous population with the exclusive privilege of trading in livestock and what effect that would have upon the trade and the activities?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Administration has always felt that we would be rendering the poorest service in having Africans follow such a practice. It is normal for them to follow their trade and to maintain competition. But if we were to allow them to have an apprenticeship, there would be two categories of trade operation: the one of Negoce, which is the most numerous; in so far as occupation of land is concerned, and the most important, this is only open to the Banyaruanda and the

(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

Barundi. The business centres are open likewise to the non-indigenous population, but as I pointed out yesterday, we are witnessing in the trade centres a withdrawal of non-African trade and an advance in African trade, which proves that we are following a good path.

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

Moreover, I was able to emphasize that two trade co-operatives, the Trafipro and the CCPICO, represented a chain of consumer and trade co-operatives, one serving Ruanda and the other serving Urundi. In Urundi there is a second trade co-operative which is known as the Burundi trade co-operative.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have a last question to put. I am not sure that this is the time to put this question since it is a question which concerns both the economic and educational fields. However, I shall put the question anyway. My question concerns the special educational fund that the 1957 Visiting Mission had proposed for the purpose of financing certain parts of the educational programme, for training teachers and for the development of schools of the State and so on. Could the special representative tell us whether this idea has been explored and what is the present situation as regards this matter?

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Fund*

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Strictly speaking, there is no special education fund. There is a tendency on the part of the Administration to create additional resources by turning to the Chiefdoms and to the various parts of the country. But the fundamental principles are free primary education, participation of parents depending on their possibilities in the field of secondary education and also depending upon the ability of the parents to pay the costs. The setting up of an additional fund has been considered, but the idea was not maintained in that form. I can assure the representative of Haiti that the question is still open and that the Government, in view of the increasing cost of education, might contemplate a request to the chiefdoms and to the tribes, on an exceptional basis, because more and more they want an extension of education.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I wish to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Reisdorff, the new special representative of Belgium to our midst and to say that we look forward to working in co-operation with him on this Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and in examining the annual report which is now under consideration.

ser. Plan  
My first question relates to the Ten-Year Development Plan. Incidentally, may I recall that the other day the representative of Australia, Mr. Kelly, commended to the Council the course of referring to the library for papers or documents which are not circulated to the Council. I did so but I could not get hold of a copy of the Ten-Year Development Plan in the library. This is a very important paper which has a bearing on our consideration of the conditions in Ruanda-Urundi. However, I was able to lay my hands on a brochure called "The Handbook of Ruanda-Urundi's Ten-Year Plan", which I believe is an official publication. I came across the following passage in that brochure:

"After the example of Belgium, a small and thickly populated Territory, incapable of feeding its population, Ruanda-Urundi, occupying a central position in Africa, would specialize in the export and processing of the raw materials from the vast neighbouring Territories where labour is short. It might build its wealth with work of its population incorporated in manufactured goods destined for export. These exports would supply the necessary resources to acquire the indispensable complement of imported food as well as the goods required for its development and welfare."

This passage seems to sum up the objectives underlying the Ten-Year Development Plan which is now in its last lap. It would, therefore, be useful for us to have the Administering Authority's assessment of the success of the Plan in the light of the policy which is summed up in the passage which I have just quoted. It is obvious that what was intended was the Territory's economic orientation toward industrialization, and the second major objective was to increase the Territory's purchasing capacity in respect of foodstuffs because it has to depend upon the imports of foodstuffs in view of the shortage of internal production.



(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

Could the special representative tell us the following: first, the size and scope of the Territory's manufacturing industry based on its own produce, both mineral and agricultural, and on the products of the vast neighbouring Territories such as the Congo or Uganda or Tanganyika?

Secondly, could he throw some light on the extent of the Territory's dependence today on imported foods and the extent to which this dependence has diminished in the last eight years when the Plan came under implementation?

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

In order to answer the first question of the representative of India, I should like to give him some figures. The mining production of Ruanda-Urundi in 1957 was 270,989,000 and in 1958 as a result of the world recession, this figure dropped to 183,213,000. The principle agricultural production which was exclusively in the hands of the indigenous population in 1957 -- the production of coffee -- reached a figure of 910 million. In 1958, as a result of the circumstances that I explained in my opening statement, the figure was only 580 million francs. In 1957 the production of cotton was raised to 36 million francs and in 1958 to 44 million. The figure for hides was 39 million francs. In other branches of production it is difficult to give figures, branches such as slaughtering of animals, livestock, pork and mutton. The figure for all these was 250 million, but it is not possible to know which part was sold in the Belgian Congo where large markets exist and what part was sold in Ruanda-Urundi.

*mining*

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special  
representative)

Ruanda-Urundi does not import foodstuffs. It exports palm oil and peas and beans in rather limited quantities, but it is essentially a country of auto-consumption. Each African lives on his land and consumes his own production. The majority of the workers, apart from those in Usumbura, are peasant workers; in other words, they return home every day and when they do not go to work they engage in agricultural activities. We have evaluated the annual auto-consumption in Ruanda-Urundi. This evaluation should not be given any more than an indicative value because the various ethnic groups are so different and the conditions in which they live are so different. In any event, this is the evaluation which was given by the Agricultural Service: auto-consumption - 5,500,000 tons per year or 8,000 million francs. This evaluation was made on the basis of the market prices and it is quite certain, of course, that it does not have the same value with respect to the peasant who consumes what he himself produces.

*just* Mr. RASGCTRA (India): I am sure that the information given by the special representative will be useful. But perhaps I did not explain my question very well. In addition to what the special representative has said, I wanted to know the state of the Territory's processing industry based on raw materials imported from neighbouring territories. I believe one of the objectives of the plan was to develop a processing industry in the Territory which would process materials imported from neighbouring territories. Secondly, I would like to have a bit more detailed information as to the nature of the Territory's dependence today on imported foodstuffs. What kind of foodstuffs are imported and what proportion of the imports is consumed or is intended for the bulk of the indigenous population? Could the special representative expand his answer on these points?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): To my knowledge at present there is no substantial processing industry in Ruanda-Urundi for products coming from neighbouring countries. There are processing industries for coffee, cotton and manioc, but all of it is of local production.

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special  
representative)

I am sorry that I did not answer the second question quite clearly. In practice no foodstuffs are imported, except perhaps for products which are known as fresh foodstuffs and which are brought in by plane. For example, some European fruit might be imported in this manner. But there is no importing which could be counted in the economic balance of foodstuffs coming from abroad. The country is self-sufficient. Perhaps I might add as an aside that the administrators have been employing the slogan "Consume local products" so that their value will not depreciate. It is possible that local products might not be as good as imported products, but we would prefer the local products to be used.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): My next question also relates to planning -- not to the ten-year plan as such, but to planning. Does the Administering Authority intend to formulate another ten-year or perhaps five-year development plan to follow the one which is now reaching fulfilment? If that is so, what are the targets in view? For example, is any shift in emphasis contemplated? The emphasis in the first plan was on the establishment and expansion of the Territory's industry. *for plan*

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Yes, a plan has been under study for some time, but I have not been involved so far in the discussions. This plan will take over from the present ten-year plan even before the present plan is completely fulfilled, because quite a lot of the criteria have changed. The orientation of this plan will certainly be towards industrialization of the country. The Governor of Ruanda-Urundi has stated, and the Visiting Mission has noted, that the industrialization of a country such as Ruanda-Urundi was the only way of breaking the circle created by the terrifying increase of population. On the other hand, as a substratum has already been established in the industrial field as a result of the power plants, highways, ports, airfields and so forth, which have already been constructed, we have discovered in the course of the implementation of the first plan a factor which had not been sufficiently highlighted in the intentions of the first plan, namely the reconversion of agriculture. I understand that the second plan

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special  
representative)

will deal with the reconversion of the basis of agriculture, and this will solve the existing problems of the Ruanda peasant and the Urundi peasant.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): It will be recalled that the 1957 Visiting Mission pointed out that the success or failure of the development programmes would depend mainly on the extent to which the indigenous population itself participated actively, conscientiously and willingly in the development of Ruanda-Urundi. We believe that this remark has a general application not only to Ruanda-Urundi but also to other under-developed territories. What has been the extent, in the Administering Authority's view, of the participation of indigenous organizations, authorities and people in the implementation of the ten-year plan? Perhaps the special representative could also state the measures that are now contemplated by the Administering Authority to encourage more active participation of the Territory's inhabitants not only in the implementation of the existing plan but also in the formulation of the new plan to which he referred.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In order to make my reply a little clearer, I shall have to divide it into two parts, the first relating to what have been and what will be the measures taken to associate Africans with the discussion of the plan, and then the actual implementation and development of the plan. I have already stated that the framework of the ten-year plan is a very broad one; the objectives have been set out and indicate the work which has to be done, but the timing is spread over several years and there are no fixed deadlines for carrying out the various stages of the work. All the African Councils have had an opportunity of expressing their views. They have all had an opportunity of discussing the arrangements involved, from the very small Council of a Sub-Chiefdom, which may have been called upon to express its opinion on, for instance, the way in which the resources of the Indigenous Welfare Fund should be spent on its own particular hillside, right up to the Chiefdom Councils which have expressed their views on the crafts and craft centres and the State Council which constantly provides suggestions and criticisms and discusses the carrying out of the ten-year plan on the nation-wide level. I have already said in reply to a question by the representative of the Soviet Union that the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi has discussed a certain number of items connected with the ten-year plan.

This association of the population with all stages of the implementation of the plan will be further amplified in the course of the discussions on the next ten-year plan, which will be submitted to the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi and will probably be discussed by all the bodies which are affected, the State Council, the Chiefdom Councils and so on.

As to the possible participation of Africans in the carrying out of the plan, the letter from the Hutu journalist that I mentioned in my opening statement shows quite clearly that the Africans understand where they came from and where we have led them up to now, and they understand what is expected of them. They know that we have rid them of hunger and disease, and they know that in order to do that it was necessary to impose certain duties upon them. Because of the traditions of the milieu in which they lived, we should never have been able to do away with the scourge of hunger if we had not first imposed compulsory labour.



(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

I have presided over hundreds of African meetings and I have never heard any objection to compulsory labour. Some persons may have said that we ought to leave matters to their own way of doing things, but they have never objected to the principle. Compulsory labour has now been eliminated and that stage is past, but we are now faced with the need to implement a ten-year plan oriented towards agriculture with Africans of whom we no longer have to expect anything but willing co-operation. We shall count upon general propaganda and publicity and upon certain agreements which we shall be able to make with the Chiefdoms; we shall tell them that this is the plan which we have elaborated for the development of a given region, this is the money we shall contribute and these are the commitments which they must obtain from the population.

In regard to the work of the various missions, as has already been pointed out, even if we were to close all our test stations and our agricultural and veterinarian stations, we should still have in our hands the methods needed to develop the country. We know what we have to do, but all these stations continue to work to improve our techniques although we already have sufficient knowledge to be able to tell any community what methods to use and what results they will achieve if they do. In other fields, we must continue to carry on research and we now have a hydrological mission at work. We are carrying out research also in regard to fertilizers and we have evolved successful types although they are still priced a little too high. In that particular field we are still in the research stage and we shall have to go on with it. Africans take part in all this work quite regularly. The notables visit our pilot stations and we frequently organize trips for them to see the people at work and to see our pilot stations. They are, therefore, associated with all our programmes because this is the only means we have of promoting a thorough-going reform -- we have to convince them of the need.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I was pleased to hear that reply because I wanted to make sure that the participation of the inhabitants is real and is not on a superficial plane. My next question also relates to planning, in a rather indirect manner.



In his opening statement the other day the representative of Belgium said that while the two countries, Ruanda and Urundi, were tending towards a different development of their internal institutions, for the needs of higher and university education, for the economic and monetary structures and for certain technical necessities there would have to be a common organization. I assume that among the inhabitants of the Trust Territory there is an awareness of the inevitable interdependence, especially in the matter of economic organization and sound economic planning, of the Territory's two regions, Ruanda and Urundi. One might then say that this field of economic planning and development would furnish excellent scope for extensive co-operation between the two groups of the population on a national scale. It is the feeling of my delegation that the establishment of a territorial council would help develop an identity of interest among them. Such a council would without doubt lend a popular character to planning and mobilize to the utmost extent possible the active participation of the people, to which I referred earlier. I am sure the Trusteeship Council would be interested to hear the views of the representative of Belgium and the special representative concerning the possibility of the establishment of a national development council consisting of indigenous people. The special representative has referred to the advisory role which the General Council plays, but what I had in mind was a permanent or standing body, which might be called a development committee or national development council, the membership of which might be drawn from among the members of the General Council itself but consisting entirely of indigenous people. What are the chances of such a body being brought into existence?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In the course of an earlier reply I stated that we were convinced in Ruanda-Urundi that at the present stage of development, owing to the complexities of the problem, we must utilize all fields of competence; we must call upon all the personalities, regardless of the social strata from which they come, so as to associate them in solving the difficult problem confronting Ruanda-Urundi. The spheres of influence of the councils are very clearly defined; they go from the local council to the regional council, and then to the State Council and the Ruanda-Urundi General Council. If a territorial development council were set up it would be logical that it should lean upon the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi. I am stating a personal point of view, because I do not know what the view of the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi on this point would be. But I know that, after the appointment of a standing committee for education, an economic standing committee has been set up, one of the activities of which is to find a way to multiply the economic ties between Ruanda and Urundi -- hence the meetings, which I mentioned, of technicians and representatives of the two countries which have discussed the possibilities of promoting indigenous trade at the sub-chiefdom level.

If a further committee were created, it would be called a territorial development committee, the purpose of which would be more along political lines, to find schemes for the union. The suggestion, at first sight at least, needs to be studied, but I do not see why in this committee only the representatives of the State councils of Ruanda and Urundi would be permitted to discuss the matter apart from the Administering Power and apart from other sectors of the population which also contribute their co-operation to the progress of Ruanda-Urundi. It is thus within the framework of the General Council that such a council might be envisaged. This is a personal opinion because I do not think that the matter has ever been raised as such within the State councils.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): My next question relates to the information given on pages 64 to 68 of the annual report. Therefrom it appears that credit facilities for industrial and agricultural activities are available through the Central Bank of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, the credit society and a special fund. The special representative in one of his answers yesterday

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

also gave some further information about these facilities. It seems, however, that the Administering Authority itself recognizes -- and we certainly do -- the inadequacy of the credit facilities, and it also appears that some studies concerning the expansion of these facilities were being undertaken.

We should like to know whether any concrete proposals have as yet emerged as a result of these studies, to permit, in the words of one of the recommendations of the twenty-first session of the Council, the early establishment of a more comprehensive system of agricultural credits for small farmers.

Would the establishment of, say, a National Bank of Ruanda-Urundi lend any assistance in that direction and, if it would, does the Administering Authority contemplate any plans for the establishment of such a bank in the near future? It is rather a lengthy question, but I should be grateful if the special representative could give an answer to it.

Mr. REISDOFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I should like to supplement the concept which the representative of India has of the credit facilities in Ruanda-Urundi by giving the following views. It is not only the banks and the savings institutions that provide credit for Africans, because they provide them under certain conditions which are not met by all Africans. Generally speaking, the farmer in Ruanda-Urundi is financed within the paysannat. The African who established himself in a paysannat or in allotments of land, in other words, shows his confidence in the Administration and is prepared to exchange traditional farming methods for modern methods, benefits in fact from substantial financing. These paysannats have asked for rather large investments for their development, for their equipment and for establishing their co-operatives and buildings. The African peasant who comes to establish himself therefore obtains possession of capital which the Government gives him in the form of land -- to which formerly he had no right -- and in the form of farming equipment, seed, housing, building materials, and a tax exemption. He is placed in the position of becoming a farmer in a modern economy. He is perhaps not given any money but he is given better than money; he is given the

(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

means to produce something. This is the way in which the concept of credit for the peasant is understood in Ruanda-Urundi -- so that full utilization might be made by him of the money, which is money from the community, and which is granted to individuals who will thus become productive factors within the community.

I have pointed out that there has just been established a special credit fund for indigenous inhabitants. This fund is designed to finance the activities of individual African settlers, progressive farmers and businessmen. This is not a bank, but it is at least a fund which is made available to the indigenous population.

On the other hand, as regards housing, Africans receive assistance from the loan fund, which makes it possible for them to build houses of lasting materials. They also receive gratuities from the King's Fund: a certain sum of money is given them to encourage them to build. I shall not dwell on this matter, because it has several aspects. However, there again it is an intervention by the Administration, which is perhaps not made, in the case of loan funds, in the form of money given to the party concerned which he can dispose of as he wishes; but he is given the opportunity of building a house, that is to say, having available a sum of money which will make it possible for him to build a house whereas otherwise he would not have the means to do so.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): My next question relates to the tin mining industry. From the perusal of the information placed before us we have formed the view that it is among the most important industries of the Territory. Last year the special representative informed the Council that several tin mining industries in the Territory had to be closed down during 1956-1957 owing to the general depressed condition of the world tin market. Now, what was the position of this industry during 1958? What was the value of the production of tin or tin-bearing ores, and was there any surplus of production over exports? And if there was, how was the surplus utilized, how was it disposed of?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The situation in mining has not improved during the 1958 period under consideration. On the contrary, this was reflected by a drop in production, and a drop in particular in the sale of this production because of the drop in minerals prices. Mining production in 1957 -- which is in the report -- was 270,989,000 francs and in 1958, 183,213,000 francs.

If the representative of India is interested in getting certain production figures, I can supply him with these figures. The production of cassiterite was 2,510 tons in 1957; the production of tantalum-colombite was 100 tons; the production of wolfram was 663 tons; the production of amblygonite was 102 tons; the production of bastnaesite was 239 tons; the production of beryllium was 95 tons; the production of gold was 9 kilograms -- I do not have the actual tonnage for 1958, but I can give you the figures, in other words, the output figures -- this amounted to 9 kilograms for gold production.

In 1958 the gold yield amounted to 6,812,000 francs; in 1957 it was 5,697,000 francs. In cassiterite it was 157 million as opposed to 192 million; in tantalum-colombite it was 9,327,000 as opposed to 10,691,000 francs; in wolfram it was 8 million as opposed to 43 million. In amblygonite it was 50,000 francs as opposed to 12 million. In bastnaesite it was 37,000 francs as opposed to 3,800,000. In beryllium it was 840,000 francs as opposed to 1,700,000 francs.

All things being equal, we may expect that mining production will be re-established because of the fact that mines now are connected with electrical current. The problem was to obtain from the deposits having a low tonnage some cheap fuel -- water electricity power rather than diesel motor power.



(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

The Ruanda-Urundi mines are now connected with la Taruka. It is expected that for 1959 the production will be re-established because deposits of a lower grade can be exploited. From another point of view, mining research is being turned to new mineral deposits and ores.

This production is gross production which is sold on world markets. I believe, although I am not an expert in this field, that the United States is the chief buyer.

I apologize, but I thought there was a second part to the question of the representative of India. If we would be good enough to repeat this question, I would be thankful to him.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I shall be very happy to do so. The second part of the question was whether there was a surplus of production over exports? And if there was, how is this surplus disposed of? I was referring particularly to the production of tin and tin-bearing ores.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There are no production surpluses for export purposes. All production is exported. I do not have any information in this matter except for the fact that Ruanda-Urundi production is directed at markets which are most favourable for it.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): When the prices of a certain commodity or product falls in the world market, the answer of producing countries usually is to produce more and send more to the market, to keep the level of the countries' sales. Why was it that in this particular Territory, a depression in the world market led to cutting down in production? Last year the special representative informed the Council that this decision was a result of international considerations taken in consultation with other countries. Could the special representative take the Council into confidence as to what these considerations were for which the production of tin and tin-bearing ores had to be cut down? Are there any special reasons?



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

I must confess my incompetence in this field. If there has been international conversations with reference to tin production, or a possible limitation of tin production, I have no information in this field. But I believe that if a certain number of yards and fields were closed down, it was because the mining company for the past two years has been losing money. Because they are all on the red side of the balance sheet, they wish to reduce their general costs and overhead, they wish to cut down on staff. They wish to continue the exploitation of profitable mines and close the exploitation of mines which are not profitable, while awaiting that international conditions would once more enable them to reopen these mines. Now, as to whether there was an international agreement, I apologize but I cannot speak from the point of view of the Ruanda-Urundi administration.

*fact*  
Mr. RASGOTRA (India): It is common knowledge that almost the whole of the import and export trade and the wholesale trade of the Trust Territory remains in the hands of Europeans and, to some small extent, in the hands of a few Asian firms. The report for the year 1957 indicates that there is growing indigenous participation in retail trade as a result of the increase in the number of trade centres in which only indigenous inhabitants are allowed to carry on business. The report further states that many indigenous traders have now established themselves in the hills apart from those who are working in the centers of trade.

The Administering Authority seems to be somewhat disturbed by this development and it is said that the proliferation of such installations raises serious problems. This information is to be found in the additional information supplied to the Council by the Administering Authority. We should like to know exactly what these serious problems are and in what respect they are likely to have an injurious effect on the trade of the Territory.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French):  
The Administration has maintained the project for the installation of Africans outside of commercial centres, although the traders who are installed in the trade centres, as well as a certain number of chiefdoms, have protested. They said: "We are paying taxes to the chiefdom, we are submitting to building rules, and you are allowing unfair competition of people who do not even have the same obligations". But the Administration felt that this represented obvious economic and social progress and that the consumers could thus avoid having to move about for very unimportant purchases. Moreover, the Administration realizes that the multiplication of small trade, the control of which is very difficult, could at the same time be unfavourable to the traders and consumers themselves.


(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

Now by breaking up trade into very small figures, the multiplication of these stores would reduce trade and businesses to such an amount that the trader would have to draw unfair profits or would have a tendency to cheat on either weight or quality. It might not be in the interest of the consumer to be limited to making a very restricted choice.

Lastly, we have legislation which is provided for the consumer's interest, namely price control. Maximum prices are fixed in order to protect the consumer against any usurious and excessive prices. The multiplication of small trade will make it difficult for the competent services to check prices, weights, the balance of scales and the proper operations of the trader. Therefore, the Administration will not impose this project. It will try to channel it, it will try to use it. In all likelihood it will be necessary to create a mobile service which at the same time will act as the adviser and the inspector of these new centres which in all likelihood will spread throughout the country.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): In our view, no great harm will be done if some of the profits which were in the past derived by European and other foreign firms now go to the pockets of indigenous small traders. I think this is a very healthy development and I was therefore very pleased when I heard the special representative say that it is not intended to hinder this new development in any way, but that other corrective measures might be taken to see that trade carried on in these small business centres in remote areas is on a fair basis.

I would like to take the special representative back to the field of mining, more specifically to page 445 of the annual report. In table E there appears the number of permits granted for mining. There are general permits numbering 243 in 1957, and there are exclusive permits numbering 522. First of all, I would like to know whether these numbers of 243 and 522 are the number of permits granted in 1957, or is the number carried over from 1956 when 242 and 515 permits were respectively granted in the two categories?



(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

The second part of the question is whether any of these permits were granted to non-Europeans, either the general permits or the exclusive permits, or are all these permits granted to European miners? I would like to have some detailed information on that and, if possible, a break-down in the number of permits granted to indigenous people and to Europeans or Asians.

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

The number of permits which we find on page 445 of the annual report, in table E, is the number of valid permits. The figures of 232, 242 and 243 are the fluctuations of the number of general prospecting permits; in other words, permission to prospect in a certain zone. There are exclusive prospecting permits in mining groups. After a few years, the party concerned must make a choice of some plot or area in which he can obtain the exclusive right to carry out prospecting and development. If he has found anything, he will then ask for an exploitation permit. These are the three stages.

No special condition is required in order to obtain a general or exclusive permit, or an exploitation permit, except to have capital, which, I believe, amounts to 500,000 francs, and to have the necessary technical knowledge, so that future exploitation should be carried out in the interest of the development of the natural resources of the country.

As far as I know, there are no Africans who have requested a permit. I can assure the Council that throughout the time I have spent in Ruanda-Urundi, I saw the question raised only once by a council. At the present juncture Africans are not interested in getting these funds -- which it would be easy for them to gather. Mining exploitation and operations in Ruanda-Urundi have shown how risky it was and how much difficulty was involved and how much funds were required. As far as I know, this exploitation does not tempt them.

First of all, it does not seem to be a good business opportunity to them. Secondly, it is not in the nature of their attitude. The Banyaruanda and the Barundi are pastoral farmers and would rather engage in farming work than mining work. I am speaking of the workers. Likewise, for those who are intellectuals, one will certainly find more who take up the profession of agronomy and veterinary science than they do mining.

(Mr. Reisdorf, special representative)

In so far as the Administration is concerned, there is absolutely no obstacle whatsoever for a Banyaruanda or Barundi to obtain a prospecting permit. The only fact which applies here is that he has never asked for such a permit.

As to the question whether there are any Asians who have mines, there have been in the past, but I cannot tell you whether there still are any at present. It is possible that they are associated with some companies. In order to reply to this question, I would have to have a list of members in the various companies which are operating in Ruanda-Urundi.

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Mr. RASGOTRA (India): It is gratifying to know that there are no conditions debarring Africans from taking a share in the exploitation of the Territory's mineral resources, but I wonder to what extent this financial limitation of 500,000 francs, which amounts to some \$10,000 itself, has in some way a discriminatory effect in practice against the Africans in going into this business, which obviously is not an unprofitable business apart from the depression of 1956-1957. I wonder whether the Administering Authority is taking any steps to encourage the participation of indigenous inhabitants in this particular field of development, namely, the exploitation of the Territory's mineral resources. If they are taking any steps, I am sure the Council would be pleased to hear about them.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I can assure the representative of India that the Banyaruanda or the Barundi, if they felt that it would be good business, could easily scrape together the sum of 500,000 francs. The coffee co-operatives are capitalized in millions of francs. The trade organizations which have just been set up have a purchasing power of more than 500,000 francs. Therefore, the obligation to raise a capital of 500,000 francs does not constitute an obstacle.

In the field of mining exploitation, the Administration has taken no steps to set up companies in which Africans would be involved. All the mining companies are joint enterprises, that is, the Government automatically has a share in the stocks of the company and it shares in the profits of the company, this being independent of an export tax, of income taxes and of direct taxes that are collected, just as is done in other activities.



Mr. RASGOTPA (India): The other day, in reply to a question posed by my delegation, the special representative and the representative of Belgium gave a glowing account of the functioning of the General Conference of Ruanda Urundi, of its powers and the influence its opinions exercise on the Territory's administration. The special representative's account gave us the impression that there is almost nothing of any consequence, especially in the budgetary and economic fields, that is not referred by the Governor to this Council for its examination and opinion. Could he tell us whether the question of the Territory's association with the European Economic Community, which will no doubt have significant effects on the Territory's economy and economic development in one way or another, was at all referred to the General Council for its advice? If it was referred, what was the nature of the advice tendered by the General Council on this important question?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to recall the fact that the European Economic Community does not in any way imply any responsibility whatsoever on the part of the overseas territories. The only effects of the European Common Market in so far as the associated Territories are concerned are the following: a gradual reduction of customs duties on the Metropolitan Market and, if the Territory is not associated with the organization, customs duties on the products of the associated territories; creation of an investment fund instead of funds coming only from the Metropolitan countries which are members of the Common Market; finally, the absolute maintenance of the rights of the associated territories to protect their infant industries by means of tariff barriers, without taking into account the provisions which are taken inside the Common Markets and which do not concern the member Territories. It is clear that these three results do not imply in any way whatsoever any decision of the associated territories. As a matter of fact, it is not up to them to decide whether Belgium, Germany, France or the Netherlands have or do not have the right to reduce their tariff barriers. It is quite true that if they would be asked this question, they would certainly be glad to have this broadening of their markets.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

With reference to the setting up of a development fund, here again no obligation is imposed upon them and no contribution is asked of them. They are only, in the measure in which they wish it, the beneficiaries of this investment fund.

Concerning the third aspect, that is to say, the possibility of creating customs barriers to protect their infant industries, I recall that Ruanda-Urundi, inasmuch as it follows the open-door policy through its adherence to other international treaties, is prevented from setting up any discriminatory customs barriers which would give preference to member countries of the Common Market to supply manufactured products which it imports.

Having said this, it is very easy to understand why the very decision of association had not been submitted to a decision of the local bodies. As a matter of fact, these local bodies could not decide anything which involved responsibility on their part, but it is certain, moreover, that the question has been presented to them and that as regards the practical implementation of it, for example, a possible appeal to the Development Fund, their participation is absolutely paramount. It is they who request these projects and who study the projects concerning which an appeal would be made to this investment fund for overseas territories of the Common Market.

*public force*  
Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I do not wish to pursue this question further at this stage, but perhaps we shall comment on the implication of that statement in our own statement in the general debate.

In answering another question of my delegation concerning the force publique du Congo belge, the special representative stated that the Public Force is intended to constitute the nucleus of a small army which Ruanda-Urundi might need outside its frontiers. Mr. Reisdorf added that this force had been called upon in recent years to participate in operations during recent hostilities. Those were his words. My delegation is not aware of any recent war or hostilities between the Trust Territory and its neighbours. Could the special representative give us some information about these hostilities and the nature of the participation of this Force in those hostilities? What we would more particularly like to know in reference to the economic conditions in

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

the Territory is, first, the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of the force publique du Congo belge during 1958 and, secondly, the expenditure involved in the participation of this Force in those hostilities and the extent to which this expenditure was borne from the Territory's budget or Territory's resources.

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

The hostilities occurred during the Second World War in the course of which the Ruanda-Urundi troops formed part of the expeditionary corps of the public force in the various theatres where it was called upon to participate. The total cost of the operations of this public force was paid from the Belgian Congo budget. After the war, Belgium reimbursed the Belgian Congo budget for the cost of the maintenance of this expeditionary force. Ruanda-Urundi, which had paid nothing, benefitted from this in the form of the fund for indigenous welfare, because that is the origin of the Indigenous Welfare Fund. The amount of 2,800,000,000 francs was reimbursed by Belgium to the Belgian Congo, which paid it out to Ruanda-Urundi, which had not paid anything, and the interest from these monies is used to carry out a certain number of projects, particularly in respect of drinking water, as part of the ten-year plan.

With regard to the cost of the maintenance of the contingent of ~~900~~ soldiers forming the public force, for 1956 the cost of the salaries of the European and indigenous personnel was 15,951,000 francs.

Mr. RASGOIRA (India): It will be appreciated that when we examine the conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, we do so in relation to the Territory's ~~status as~~ a Trust Territory. I was therefore a little surprised when I heard that the Territory was engaged in hostilities with some foreign country. The picture is now clear. These hostilities referred to the war which took place before the Trusteeship System came to be. I do not wish to comment on this further, though it does seem to us that this is a rather heavy price that the Territory has to pay for the maintenance of a contingent from a neighbouring country.

I have no further questions and I should like once again to thank the special representative and the representative of Belgium for the patience and care with which they have answered my questions in the economic field.

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Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I had some questions under the heading of mining, but the inquiries of the representative of India have given me all the information I need in that field. I want to return to the interest-free advances made by Belgium in respect of the development budget and, in 1958, of the ordinary budget of the Territory. I understood the special representative to say the other day that the amount for 1958 in practice proved to be 150 million and not 125 million as was foreseen in the budget estimates, and that the subsidy for 1959 is expected to be even greater. Together with the advances that have been made under the ten-year plan, the extraordinary budget, the Territory now owes Belgium well over 3,000 million francs, which is rather a large sum. I know that questions have been raised previously in this Council as to what is to happen to that debt. I gather that the sums have been transferred by Belgium but it is not bonded or funded in any way; there is no fixed time for repayment; there are no legal instruments of obligation to Belgium.

Could the special representative give any indication as to whether the Territory will eventually be obliged to repay that money? I realize that this might be an awkward question to answer and I quite frankly do not expect a clear-cut answer. It certainly would be a great advantage to the Territory if such investments could eventually be waived by the Administering Authority.

Mr. CLAEYS DOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The representative of New Zealand has just explained that the funds in question are subsidies. They are interest-free advances without any amortization plan and without any obligations for reimbursement at this stage. These subsidies are not classified as donations, although they might have the character of donations because the accounts between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo are open and the future is unknown. The future belongs to God and it may well happen that some day Ruanda-Urundi might find itself in a more favourable position than Belgium itself. I admit that the hypothesis is very far off and improbable, but in such a case these funds might be reimbursed. The representative of New Zealand quite correctly high-lighted the fact that there is no legal obligation to reimburse these funds.

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Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I want to thank the representative of Belgium for his very helpful reply. There is another problem under this heading which has been occupying my mind, namely whether there was any danger, owing to the generosity of Belgium in financing even the ordinary budget by means of a considerable subsidy, not to speak of the development plan, of setting up unreal standards of social, medical and perhaps even educational services in the Territory which could not be financed later when the Territory became independent. My tentative conclusion was that no such danger would arise because at the moment the attainment of independence or self-government by the Territory is clearly a good way off. I think the representative of Belgium rightly stressed the other day that Belgium is seeking in the meantime to promote the development of all the resources of the country so that it will be able to make the best use of those resources and have a viable economy. To sum up, does he agree with me that there is no likely danger of such subsidies endangering the future stability of the economy of the country.



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

I can assure the representative of New Zealand that the social benefits and the salaries which are now given to personnel in Ruanda-Urundi without any discrimination are in keeping with the requirements. Salaries are based upon an index which is checked regularly by officials and by representatives of the unions with a view to establishing the minimum necessary living standards and salaries are changed in accordance with this minimum standard. I do not think that it is possible to say that officials are over-paid -- from my personal experience, one can never grow rich in the service of the King -- and the services of the Government as they now stand can certainly be supported later by a future Government of Ruanda-Urundi which will have freely chosen to dispose of its own destiny.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I believe that this is a wise investment by Belgium in terms of human welfare, and as to the future we must, for the time being, leave it to take care of itself.

I pass now to another question dealing with livestock. I am rather interested in cattle and I notice on page 144 of the annual report a picture of European-type cattle and below a picture of indigenous cattle. I know that the European-type cattle will be much more productive of milk and milk products, but the question that occupied my mind was, how do they stand up to the rigours of the climate of Ruanda-Urundi? The native cattle have been there for many centuries and have no doubt developed resistance to disease; have any problems been experienced in acclimatising European cattle or do they manage to survive the climate quite well?

*livestock*

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

The European-type cattle are introduced on small farms or at stations where they can be cared for and treated in a special way. A certain number of progressive African breeders have received European cattle to enable them to accustom themselves to rearing this type of livestock. There are a certain number of agricultural and zootechnical rules which they must observe. The introduction

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

of European livestock to an African habitat without any supervision would of course be tantamount to condemning it to death, because as the representative of New Zealand has rightly pointed out, during the dry season the African cattle are able to subsist on very little whereas the European cattle need additional nourishment which is furnished by the agricultural stations and by the planting of fodder crops and grazing areas. The trouble is that European livestock can only be given to progressive farmers if it is to be maintained at the proper quality and is not to degenerate.

~~Cross-breed livestock~~ has been developed from African and European cattle or from African and Asian cattle and some of this livestock is more resistant although its milking qualities are less developed. It seems therefore that the general orientation is towards the establishment of modern breeding stations in the favourable areas whereas in the indigenous areas we have to content ourselves with increasing the value of the cattle by crossing it and improving its treatment.

*palm trees*  
Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): That was a most helpful and illuminating reply. I have two more questions, one dealing with palm trees. In his opening statement the special representative spoke of the extension of palm tree plantations in Tanganyika and in the Bururi territory, and said that work on the new plantations, which started in 1954, would be continued until 1959 and would result in the planting of 125,000 palm trees. I assume, however, that palm trees were already growing in the Territory and these plantations are merely for the purpose of increasing the output of the products of the palm trees. Could the special representative confirm this, or is the planting of palm trees an entirely new departure?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The palm tree area in Ruanda-Urundi is very limited and consists of a strip of land at the edge of Tanganyika. Ruanda-Urundi is a high plateau country with a rather cool climate, and a rather low elevation is necessary for the planting of palm trees. The production of palm oil is at present approximately 1,600 tons per year. We shall perhaps be able to double that by changing the

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

types of palm trees, but after that there will be no possibility of further extending the plantations because there are no favourable regions available.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): My last question relates to co-operatives.

On page 7 of document T/1452 it is stated that an agricultural co-operative at Musaho in the Kibuye district has been approved and that a new branch of the TRAFIPRO Co-operative, comprising about 3,000 coffee planters, has been opened in the Ruhengeri district. I assume that these are producers' co-operatives, but I wondered whether they were primarily related to the marketing of crops as distinct from their production. I assume they are marketing co-operatives, but could the special representative confirm this?

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

These in fact are a new type of co-operative, for the collection of coffee, and I think this will be of particular interest to the representative of New Zealand because it represents an evolution in our ideas on the development of co-operatives in Ruanda-Urundi.

(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

The Visiting Mission has had the opportunity to visit one of the co-operatives at Nkora, which, by the way, is located in a particularly favourable spot.

With the intention of grouping the coffee planters and giving value to the product, the Administration began by organizing co-operatives, which were half-way between co-operatives and plants. In general the capital was provided by the planters, with an important participation on the part of the Government. We constructed a plant for processing and drying coffee. Three of these co-operatives are at present in existence.

After the first stage of education, the co-operatives have been left to themselves, under the guidance of the Co-operatives Service. This means that at present the co-operatives of Butegana, Nkora and Impara, through their managing board, sell their coffee and perform all the operations of a normal business. Yet these co-operatives are not popular within the area.

Along with these co-operatives, which are substantial enterprises, we see springing up -- and this is on the initiative of the chief of Nogosi -- co-operatives in which Africans gather together their coffee after having processed it themselves. On each hillside there are now one or more threshing machines. The Africans like to thresh the coffee themselves in these threshing machines; then they dry it and bring it to a small purchasing office, which refuses to accept poor quality coffee. When it has a sufficient quantity of coffee, this purchasing office sells it in Usumbura to wholesalers under favourable conditions. The point is that under these conditions the Africans obtain better prices for their coffee; but the quality of their coffee is much lower than that of the threshing co-operatives, which is always first-grade coffee. Since the threshing co-operatives have substantial expenses, and since, on the other hand, the co-operatives members do not evaluate the services provided by the co-operatives -- in other words, the threshing, drying and processing of the coffee -- the members of the threshing co-operatives are at present discussing the basic principle of their co-operatives. With a higher investment, they still get the same price as that obtained by the harvesting co-operatives. This is a very important point. We have stopped establishing any more threshing co-operatives and investing further millions of francs in this kind of undertaking,

(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

because harvesting co-operatives spring up and develop of themselves. These are the two types of harvesting co-operatives referred to in the statement of the representative of New Zealand, I take it.

This also makes it possible to emphasize a difficulty that is always encountered in new countries. The technical services of the Office des cafés are not favourably disposed towards the harvesting co-operatives, because they object that these co-operatives do not sort their coffee and that, even if they sort out the poor coffee from some of their members, which comes back to them through the normal channels of trade, they do not grade their coffee, and as a result they do not provide proper service to the Banyaruanda and Barundi planters. On the other hand, the Indigenous Affairs Service is in favour of these harvesting co-operatives because it sees in them the springing up of the co-operative movement; and in these co-operatives the African truly identifies himself with his little purchasing group, and the co-operative spirit is born. This does not seem to be so in the case of the threshing co-operatives, as the technique is a little too difficult for the majority of farmers, who in fact bring only a portion of their coffee crop to these co-operatives, wishing to abide by their traditional methods. On the other hand, in the harvesting co-operatives, which are at their level, a true spirit of co-operation is being born.

The existence of these two opposing points of view shows the general opposition between the technical and the social aspects of these activities. It is quite likely that the harvesting co-operatives will increase in numbers; the Administration will certainly not oppose that. It remains to be seen how the Administration will be able to channel this movement, which is a very interesting one from the co-operative point of view, if the Administration is unable to get the coffee processed in smaller establishments. Then we shall have to have technicians come in and help us.



*Common market*

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I found that a most interesting reply. I had not realized there were so many problems in reconciling the purposes of the harvesting and of the threshing co-operatives. I have no more questions.

Mr. OBIEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the remaining twenty minutes, I hope I shall be able to put some of the questions we wish to put in the economic field. The representative of India has already asked regarding the inclusion of the Trust Territory within the European market. Perhaps I did not fully hear the reply of the representative of Belgium, but it was not quite clear to me whether there were any preliminary consultations on the part of the Administering Authority with the indigenous population, with the General Council or with the State Councils of Ruanda and Urundi, regarding the inclusion or non-inclusion of the Trust Territory within the framework of the European market. Were there such preliminary consultations? Were the members of these Councils informed of the possible consequences of such an inclusion?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I thought I had made myself sufficiently clear in the reply I gave to the representative of India, but I shall be glad to repeat the essence of what I said for the Soviet representative. I said that there were no preliminary consultations prior to the decision which was taken to associate the overseas territories with the Common Market, because this association did not have the slightest responsibility in so far as they were concerned. No obligation whatsoever was imposed upon them. Naturally, the measures to implement the Common Market, for example, the possible intervention of the overseas investment fund and all other possible steps which might be based on the Common Market, will be dealt with in constant exchanges of views with local authorities and representatives of the local population.



Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): It may be taken from this answer that in this particular interest the Administering Authority considers the Trust Territory only as a passive object within the framework of its active policy, and that it has no obligations with respect to the Trust Territory -- is not clear in the European markets -- some credits will be available to the Trust Territory; and the Administering Authority considers that the Trust Territory and those organs which exist within it have no say in the decision of the question of whether or not they should associate themselves with the general European market or not. That was, as I see it, the policy of the Administering Authority.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to reply to this question by another question: Does he feel that the Government of the French Republic, or the German Federal Republic, or the Belgian Government have an obligation to consult a foreign territory when they want to reduce their customs tariff?

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that the best reply to be given to this question could have been given by the representative of Belgium, or the representative of France, or the representative of Germany. That is precisely why I am putting the question to you. You are a participant or one of the members of this general European agreement. You have included in this agreement the Trust Territory concerned which is not your own private territory but is a Trust Territory which has been entrusted to you temporarily by the United Nations, and which you have undertaken to lead in fulfilment of the purposes inscribed in the over-all framework of the Trusteeship System. Therefore, it is quite logical to ask the question whether the Administering Authority has asked in due course and at the appropriate time those organs which now exist in the Trust Territory of the results of the inclusion of the Trust Territory in an agreement in which certain foreign Powers are participating.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to point out to the representative of the Soviet Union that the associated territories of Africa are not members of the Common Market. As for the Common Market, their hands are completely free. The only repercussion of the association is a drop in common tariffs of member States of customs duties with relation to the production in the associated territories. With respect to their possible participation in the Common Market, obviously it is up to them to decide ultimately, in due time, what they want to do. But the question does not arise; at present these territories are not members of the Common Market.

Mr. OGBREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I should like to obtain the following information from the special representative or the representative of Belgium: What will be the over-all participation of Belgium in the Fund created by the European Common Market, under this agreement? The Fund is designed for expenses in overseas countries, is it not? Also, it would be interesting to know what part of the funds will be present or made available to the Belgian Overseas Territories -- to the Belgian Congo, and of course, to Ruanda-Urundi which is under consideration at this time.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The subject of our agenda is the examination of the report submitted by the Belgian Government concerning the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi. The question of Belgian participation in the investment fund of the overseas territories in the European Common Market does not come within the framework of this discussion. Concerning the second part of the question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, I believe I replied to it in my opening statement. It was decided by the investment fund that there would be a first over-all allotment of 500 million francs for investment in Ruanda-Urundi for the years 1958 to 1962.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that these questions are fully appropriate in the discussion of the yearly report since this agreement applies to the Trust Territory; it is then permissible to consider the agreement in all of its repercussions so as to evaluate the effect of that agreement, and the possible effects of that agreement, upon the Trust Territory concerned. I therefore think that the representative of Belgium should perhaps not avoid replying to a question of that kind simply because it is bound up with the European Common Market. We are not interested so much in what Belgium derives.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to reply that I am not refusing to answer anything referring to the association of Ruanda-Urundi with the Common Market. I replied that the only implication that I know of is, namely, that the Investment Fund of the Common Market decided to have a first allotment of 500 million francs for a five-year period running from 1958 to 1962.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In order that it might be more readily understandable for the representative of Belgium to see precisely what is the point of our question, I would then like to communicate to him the data which I would like to have him, as the official representative, confirm for me; the point is that the Belgian Press -- this is well known -- I should like to hear either a confirmation or perhaps further information on the part of the Belgian representative -- in the Press it was communicated that for Belgian Overseas Territories there was earmarked to take out of the Fund of the European Common Market for a period of five years the sum of \$30 million. At the same time it was communicated that the contribution of Belgium into this Fund would stand at \$70 million. In other words, Belgium would contribute --

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I ask for the floor on a point of order because it seems to me that it is not for this Council to discuss on the basis of Press releases or other information details concerning the operation of the European Common Market in keeping with the Treaty of Rome. What our Council is interested in is a consideration of the situation in Ruanda-Urundi and a consideration of the report of the Belgian Government submitted to the General Assembly concerning this situation. The general conditions concerning any development elsewhere other than Ruanda-Urundi do not concern our Council.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I shall, of course, not insist on a reply. We will simply have to make the corresponding conclusions, but as regards figures, at least, I hope that we may have perhaps complete agreement with the representative of Belgium. That is why I asked him to make the necessary confirmation, to say whether these figures are correct, whether they do correspond to the official data which the representative of Belgium has.

But the purpose of the question is not that. The point is that I should like to know whether Ruanda-Urundi obtains, as a result of the propagation upon the Trust Territory of the agreement on the European Common Market; whether there is propagation of an adequate participation from the Fund which is earmarked for Overseas Territories. You yourself have said that Ruanda-Urundi is to have 500 million francs, in other words, \$10 million. Then, why have we not the right to know from what source that is going to be financed? What is this over-all pool? What is this over-all Fund, in other words?

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

In order that it might be completely clear, I would like to put the question perhaps in a slightly different vein. Would not the Trust Territory obtain more if the funds were directed not through the Fund itself but directly from Belgium, if we were to take into account the current Belgian obligations regarding their contribution to this over-all Fund for Overseas Territories?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): As I pointed out, Ruanda-Urundi does not contribute to this common Fund. In so far as the money it receives, obviously it receives it through Belgium.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps the translation was not fully accurate into French, although I doubt that very much, or perhaps, on the other hand, the representative of Belgium is willfully not understanding the substance of the question which is being put to him. But I still wish to lead this to its logical conclusion. If the representative of Belgium will have patience for another few minutes and if he will be kind enough to hear a few figures -- which, after all, are such astronomical figures and can be retained by memory -- then I think we will be able to find an answer to the question which is of interest to us.

The point is that on the basis of the data available at present, which was not officially presented in the Council here, Belgium will contribute much more to the Fund of the Common European Market, and earmarked for the overseas territories than will be derived by the Belgian Overseas Territories. This divergence in the figures -- and in fact a rather substantial diversion of \$40 million -- is the thing I would like to clear up because this would inevitably reflect itself upon the Trust Territory concerned, namely Ruanda-Urundi.

On the basis of this data, the Belgian Congo would obtain \$20 million and Ruanda-Urundi would obtain \$10 million. That would total up to \$30 million. Belgium would contribute \$70 million into the General Fund. In other words, there



(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

would be a surplus of \$40 million. I simply wanted to know, should these figures be confirmed, whether they correspond to the official data. That is the whole point of my question.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I shall not reply to this question because here in the Trusteeship Council, when we are considering the case of Ruanda-Urundi, there is no need to consider questions which have nothing to do with the situation in Ruanda-Urundi. I hope that the representative of the Soviet Union is not expecting to dictate how the Belgian Government will utilize the funds which are in its own budget.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to make it known that I do not agree with the fact that the Trusteeship Council apparently does not have the right to consider those agreements which have effect upon Trust Territories, particularly since the Trust Territory has not been consulted in the matter and was not asked whether it wishes such an agreement to affect it or not.

As for the funds which Belgium utilizes, that of course is an internal matter of Belgium. But if these funds make available credits and finance, certain projects within Trust Territories, then it would seem to me that the Trusteeship Council is fully entitled to have a unilateral statement on the part of the Administering Authority that such a sum has been earmarked and, furthermore, we have the right to know out of what fund this money comes from. I shall go even further than that and say that the Trusteeship Council has the full right to know all of the circumstances governing the management of these funds, so as to know the policy of the Fund.

I think it would be quite natural for the Council to look a little further into this matter, particularly since the General Assembly, as we all know, has discussed this matter and since there is a special resolution on the part of the General Assembly regarding the effects of the European Common Market and the inclusion into that Market of Trust Territories.



(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

Therefore, we are quite unable to say that the Trusteeship Council is not even entitled to speak of this. But I should like to leave my comments for the general debate. Right now I shall simply confine myself to saying that I do not agree with the point of view expressed by the representative of Belgium.

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The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.



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Trusteeship Council  
24th Session, 19th Meeting (AM)

Press Release TR/1502  
24 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this morning resumed the questioning of Belgium's special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, Ivan Reisdorff, on economic conditions in this Belgian-administered trust territory.

GEORGES SALOMON (Haiti), referring to the annual report of the administering authority, asked for additional information on the introduction of tea growing, the installation of large capacity freezers near slaughter houses, and the trading in livestock.

He also asked whether the administering authority had explored the idea, first advanced by a UN visiting mission, that a special educational fund be created to finance schools and the training of teachers.

The special representative said that "strictly speaking" there was no special educational fund. However, education in elementary schools was free and, for secondary schools, the parents' participation was being enlisted to help finance the facilities.

M. RASGOIRA (India) wanted to know to what extent the territory was dependent on imported food.

The special representative said that, generally, the people in Ruanda-Urundi consumed what food they themselves produced. No foodstuffs, except some fresh fruit from Europe, were imported. Local products were not as good as imported products, he commented, but the administering authority encouraged the use of the food locally grown. When he entertained friends, he said he also used local products.

The special representative stressed that Africans participated in all projects of the administration designed to improve agriculture and other economic fields.

(END OF TAKE 1)



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Trusteeship Council  
24th Session, 19th Meeting (AM)

Press Release TR/1502  
24 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

In reply to a question by the representative of India concerning the position of the mining industry, Mr. REISDORFF, the special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, said that the situation had "not improved" because of declining prices on the world market. Some companies, he added, had closed exploitation of unprofitable mines, but exploration was underway to determine other mineral deposits.

The special representative said that as yet no African had applied for a license for mining exploitation. A capital of 500,000 francs and technical knowledge was needed to receive the permit and, in his view, Africans considered the risk too great and preferred other activities.

From the point of view of the administration, he said, there were no obstacles barring Africans from sharing in the mining industry. He pointed out that credit could be obtained and that much larger sums, often several million francs, were made available to Africans engaged in the coffee industry.

In reply to another question by the representative<sup>of</sup> India, ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) commented on the arrangements under the European common market. These involved, he said, the gradual reduction of customs duties affecting products from associated territories, the setting up of a development fund, and the right of associated territories to protect their fledgling industries by way of customs barriers.

He then pointed out that Ruanda-Urundi, as a trust territory, had an "open door policy" and could not impose customs barriers.

T.P. DAVIN (New Zealand) referred to the interest-free advances made by Belgium to Ruanda-Urundi's ordinary and extraordinary budgets. He asked whether Ruanda-Urundi was obliged eventually to repay these advances.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT said the interest-free subsidies, while not outright donations, had the character of donations. There was no legal commitment requiring repayment from Ruanda-Urundi. As to what might happen in the future, only the future could tell, he added.

(more)

Mr. DAVIN then asked whether there was any danger, as a result of these subsidies, of health and educational services being established at a level which would be too high for Ruanda-Urundi to maintain when eventually the territory became independent.

Mr. REISDORFF, the special representative, assured the representative of New Zealand that the social benefits given to the people were in keeping with the requirements and were kept constantly under review.

In reply to other questions by Mr. Davin, the special representative spoke about matters relating to livestock, plantations and cooperatives.

VALENTIN I. OBEREMKO (USSR) asked whether there were any preliminary consultations between the administering authority and African representatives concerning the inclusion or non-inclusion of Ruanda-Urundi within the framework of the European common market.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said there had been no such consultations because "not the slightest obligations" were imposed on the associated territories.

The only effect of the association, he said, was a reduction in customs duties on products from these territories. He added that "association" did not mean "participation;" the overseas territories were not members of the European Economic Community.

When the representative of the Soviet Union referred to Belgian press reports about funds earmarked for overseas territories, the representative of Belgium said that the Council was discussing Ruanda-Urundi and not details of arrangements made under the European Economic Community. He pointed out that Ruanda-Urundi did not contribute to the common fund referred to and that whatever money it received came from Belgium.

The representative of the USSR said he had read in the press that Belgium had contributed \$70,000,000 to the common fund and that \$20,000,000 were earmarked for the Belgian Congo and \$10,000,000 for Ruanda-Urundi. He asked whether these figures could be officially confirmed.

The representative of Belgium repeated that this was not a matter for discussion by the Trusteeship Council. "The representative of the USSR cannot dictate to the Belgian Government how it should utilize the funds in its own budget."

The Soviet representative questioned this position, maintaining that the matter concerned the trust territory and therefore was of concern to the Council.

The questioning will be continued at 3:00 p.m. today.