

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL
T/PV.980
18 June 1959
ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 18 June 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

President: Mr. VITELLI (Vice-President) (Italy)
Later: Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi
[3a, 4] (continued)

*Annex 18
attainment 31
population 2
Sectors of women (polit)
22-5, 33 889, 77-81*

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.980 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.

Political advancement

r. KIANG (China): As we understand it, there is a continuous movement of the population of Ruanda-Urundi towards the Belgian Congo, Tanganyika, as well as seasonal movements of workers towards those territories. Could the special representative give the Council any estimate concerning the territory to which the majority of these persons emigrated during, say, the past three years?

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

The information requested by the representative of China appears on page 200 of the annual report on Ruanda-Urundi. There, a distinction is made between the number of emigrants who went to Uganda and Tanganyika, and the number who went to Kivu in the Belgian Congo. The figures appearing at the top of page 200 relate to the emigrations to the Belgian Congo. They are as follows: in 1956, 3,124; in 1957, 2,039; in 1958, 2,073 --this figure for 1958 is not given in the report.

As regards emigrations to the British territories, these are not final figures. The figures given in the report in this respect relate to the statistics at the point of departure, when the emigrants leave their chieftains. There are no records of the number of persons who return annually. The departures were as follows: in 1955, 44,108; in 1956, 42,631; in 1957, 35,171; In my opening statement, I added the figure for 1958: 32,956. These figures include both individuals who were recruited and those who crossed the frontier by their own means. The two tables appearing immediately below, on page 200 of the report, give this differentiation; I do not think I need to read out the figures.

Mr. KIANG (China): I thank the special representative for having brought up to date the figures which appear in the annual report and which I had read before asking my question.

My second question is on the same subject. I believe that there are persons other than seasonal workers who, after having gone to these neighbouring territories, return to the Trust Territory from time to time. In other words, there must be many people moving back and forth between the Trust Territory and the neighbouring territories. Could the special representative tell us whether these people who return to the Trust Territory bring back any new ideas which have an effect on the minds and the political and social outlook of the Africans at home?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I can reply in the affirmative to that question. Between 25,000 and 30,000 emigrants cross the frontiers of the Territory of Tanganyika and return to Ruanda-Urundi each year. Of course, they bring back to Ruanda-Urundi the habits, customs and ideas of the regions in which they have lived -- some of them, the seasonal workers, for a period of six months, others sometimes for several years.

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Mr. KIANG (China): I wonder if the special representative will permit me to pursue this question by asking him if he would be good enough to tell us how he himself assesses the impact of such dissemination of information about developments on the outside upon the political and social evolution in Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is very difficult to say what the amount of influence is of systems such as exist in Uganda, Tanganyika or Kivu on the movement that exists in Ruanda-Urundi and which, as I emphasized in my opening statement, was an emancipation movement for the peasant masses. This emancipation is manifested in different forms. It is impossible to isolate the influence of the different factors.

As to the manner in which the emigrants in Ruanda-Urundi conduct themselves, I have nothing particular to stress. This is not a particular category of emigrants, of a category of individuals of Ruanda-Urundi that prefer to go to East African territories -- British territories among others -- in certain adjacent areas of Tanganyika and Uganda. The practice is that every young man should at least once in his life experience the adventure of visiting Uganda. That is part of his first step on entering manhood.

movements
Mr. KIANG (China): My next question relates to the political movements territory. On page 5 of document T/1452, two political movements are mentioned to. I believe that additional information has been supplied by the Administering Authority on this. These two movements apparently are quite new because they are not among the political organizations referred to on page 40 of the annual report for 1957. Could the special representative inform the Council of the approximate number of the followers of these two movements, the Muhutu Social Movement and the Association for the Social Advancement of the Masses?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I regret that I cannot give any figures. Probably we will have some idea of the importance of these movements only after the next elections. The Muhutu Social Movement and the APROSOMA really derive from the same source. They defend the idea of the emancipation of the peasant masses, and they both are of a local

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

character, that is to say, they are both led by leaders from fairly close areas of the Central Ruanda Plateau. One of the two leaders of these movements is Mr. Joseph Habyarimana, who is well known to the members of this Council as the author of a certain number of petitions.

Mr. KIANG (China): May I ask the special representative if I am right in presuming that all the followers of these two movements are mainly from the Bahutus?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Yes, the great majority of the followers of AFROSOMA and of the Muhutu Social Movement are certainly Bahutus.

Mr. KIANG (China): Could the special representative tell us who is the leader of the Economic Union of the Belgian Congo?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The Economic Union of the Belgian Congo is a movement that originated in the extra-tribal centre of Usumbura. I do not have any information as to the membership of the Committee, but I know that it is made up practically exclusively of indigenous inhabitants of the Belgian Congo.

Mr. KIANG (China): That leads me to ask the following question: Am I correct in saying that it has a direct connexion with the political movements in the Belgian Congo, so far as this Union is concerned?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I do not think that we should see in this movement of the Economic Union of the Belgian Congo a satellite of one of the movements in the Belgian Congo. Actually in Usumbura there is a nucleus of extra-tribal population which has followed the Belgian administration and which has its own characteristics, habits and leaders and which has had them for a long time. As a matter of fact, in the Belgian Congo the Administration has recruited its first assistants, clerks and artisans.

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

The Economic Union of the Belgian Congo, we have been told, concerns itself with social conditions, but we do not know much about it. It is a newly-launched movement which has not yet, to my knowledge, held any public meetings.

Mr. KIANG (China): My next question arises from the opening statement of the representative of Belgium, Mr. Claeys Bouuaert. He led us to understand that a study group has actually gone to Ruanda-Urundi. May the Council know something about the membership of that study group.

Study Group

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The study group was composed of three members of Parliament, who represented the three traditional parties, a high official of the Ministry for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, and a member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. KIANG (China): What procedure has the study group adopted to ascertain the views of the population on the political evolution of the country?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The study group communicated with all of the organized councils. In particular, it received the views of the councils on the reorganization which they had in mind in the political and administrative fields. It also communicated individually with the representatives of these councils. It received a number of documents totalling approximately 2,000 pages. It contacted people who were in any post of importance. The number of hearings which it held amounted to about 400.

Mr. KIANG (China): When is the study group expected to complete its task and submit its report to the Belgian Government?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The date for the submission of the report was set for approximately 15 July, but this date was fixed before the beginning of any work to analyse the documentation. I am not in a position to say whether it will be possible to adhere to this schedule.

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Mr. KIANG (China): I should like to invite the attention of the representative of Belgium and the special representative to a passage of the opening statement made by Mr. Claeys Bouuaert. This passage refers to the decision announced by the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. Could we have some clarification of this statement, with special reference to the following sentence:

"Machinery for co-ordination with the Congo will be established, but the administration of the Territory, in all matters touching the responsibilities and functions of the Administering Authority, will be made responsible directly to the Department in Brussels." (T/PV.979, page 62)

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The representative of China has referred to the last part of my statement of yesterday in which I informed the Council that the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi had just announced his decision to put an end to administrative centralization, and so forth. This statement by the Minister was made before the Belgian Parliament at its meeting held on 2 May. I have no additional information.

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Mr. KIANG (China): Is there any analogy that one may draw in terms of administrative change as envisaged in the statement of the representative of Belgium between what the change will be and any other administration which is already in existence in East Africa? In other words, would it be safe to say that it might be the same pattern as the one we see in the administration of Tanganyika?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): At this stage it is not possible for us to say, before the child is even born, whether or not he will resemble any of his neighbours. The legal texts that will be enacted will be the only sources enabling us to determine the features of the future structure of Ruanda-Urundi. I therefore regret that I cannot give any other details on this point to the representative of China.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): Before I ask some questions concerning the political field, on behalf of my delegation I wish to extend a hearty and warm welcome to Mr. Reisdorff, the special representative whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Ruanda-Urundi when I visited that beautiful country in 1957 as a member of the Visiting Mission on which the President of this Council, Ambassador Dorsinville, served with distinction as Chairman. As he stated yesterday, Mr. Reisdorff had been of great help to the Visiting Mission. I personally enjoyed his company and his co-operation, and I made no secret of my appreciation of his sympathetic attitude towards the people of Ruanda-Urundi and their aspirations.

While in the Territory he spared no effort to see that our visit was a pleasant and fruitful one. His knowledge of the problems of that country and his interest in the welfare of the people have become evident in the course of our discussions of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi. I am quite sure that Mr. Reisdorff will be of great assistance to the Trusteeship Council.

One of the most significant events during the year 1958 in the political field in Ruanda-Urundi was the announcement made by Mr. Jean-Paul Harroy, Vice-Governor-General, Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, on 1 December 1958, in his address at the opening of the General Session of the General Council.

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He said that the Administration was studying political reforms entailing major structural changes, and that the texts on which the public would be invited to express its views would probably deal with the fundamental nature of the relationship between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, determine the course to be adopted by the Administering Authority and provide information concerning later developments.

Though we may have a further chance of discussing the implications of the Governor's announcement in this Council, my delegation would like at this stage to seek further clarification or information either from the special representative or from the representative of the Administering Authority.

My first question is this. What major structural changes were envisaged by the Administering Authority? Are these to be major changes in the whole structure of the existing General Council?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): As I understand it, the representative of Burma wishes to know about the substance of the structural changes contemplated. I cannot reply at this stage with regard to the substance of the changes contemplated, and I think I gave the reasons for this yesterday in my introductory statement. However, in all probability these changes will entail some structural changes in the organization of the General Council and in the organization of the two Councils of the Territory.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): This question is more or less based on the first question, since, in the light of the explanations and information the representative of Belgium has already given to me, I do not think I shall be able to pursue further the question of the powers and functions of the General Council.

However, there is another question I should like to ask the special representative representative or the representative of Belgium. The Governor of Ruanda-Urundi referred in his announcement to the opportunity that would be given to the public to express its views on the nature of the mutual relationship between

(U Tin Maung, Burma)

~~the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi~~. In the absence of any detailed information, either in the 1957 annual report or in the extracts from the 1958 report, my delegation is very much interested to know whether the political reforms foreshadowed in the announcement stemmed from or were even inspired by what is generally publicized in the world press as "the Belgian plan for gradual introduction of self-government in the Congo by the Congolese".

Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I can give a reply to this question. The plans now undertaken by the Administering Authority in connexion with Ruanda-Urundi follow directly and exclusively from the implementation of Article 76 of the Charter. This does not mean, of course, that there should not be some interconnexion in the trends which develop in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, these being neighbouring areas, but it would be incorrect to interpret this as being in a way a manifestation a development of Ruanda-Urundi determined by the circumstances prevailing in the Belgian Congo.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): The next question more or less follows the pattern of my previous questions. I wonder whether the special representative or the representative of Belgium will be able to answer this question, which I think is a simple one. Does the Administering Authority contemplate introducing in Ruanda-Urundi political reforms which, though providing a larger measure of autonomy than at present obtains in the Territory, would not be so advanced as those already envisaged for the Congo?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): First of all, I wish to reply to the statement by the representative of Burma and tell him that I appreciate very much the welcome he gave me to the Trusteeship Council. I also appreciate very much the reference he made to the days we spent together in Ruanda-Urundi. I can assure him that, if he took a certain interest in seeing certain things in Ruanda-Urundi, I, for my part,

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

enjoyed tremendously being associated with him, and I congratulate myself on having had the opportunity to accompany that mission and particularly the representative of Burma. I shall try, here in the Trusteeship Council, to give the same co-operation to members of the Council.

As regards the question asked by the representative of Burma, I believe that it is somewhat outside the framework of our agenda, for the reforms in the Belgian Congo are not on the agenda of the Trusteeship Council. It is therefore difficult to reply to him.

As regards the reforms in Ruanda-Urundi, I have already stressed the fact that an official statement has not yet been made. It is therefore impossible to know exactly its scope and direction. However, perhaps I may shed some light on the first part of the question. When the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi said that the reforms would be debated publicly, he had in mind the fact that the Administering Authority had already prepared draft texts, and these texts were already known and they would be discussed by the authorities responsible. The General Council, to which he was addresssing himself, asked that a working group be sent to discuss with the various personalities and organized groups in Ruanda-Urundi the question of the political future and administrative future of Ruanda-Urundi; and this was done.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I thank the representative for his answer, and also for the assurances that he is going to co-operate with us and this Council. I really wonder whether my next question will be answered by him. If he does not want to answer, it will be all right with me. This is the question I would like to ask of him, Will the political reforms to be introduced in Ruanda-Urundi substantially change the whole structure as a dual system of indigenous administration and European administration?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): My predecessor never made a secret of the fact that the aim of the administration of Ruanda-Urundi was to bring about integration of the African and European, or central administrations. If the Administering Authority has not completely fulfilled this aim, it is nevertheless likely that the merger will at least be begun. The outlook is favourable right now, for a great number of appointments have been made to levels which in earlier times were exclusively held by Europeans. My predecessor also pointed out that the merger would be possible from the moment when the Central administration will have been Africanized. Therefore, without being able to reply in the affirmative to the question of the representative of Burma, I can tell him that certain things will surely be done in that sense and in that direction.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I am quite sure that the special representative is aware of the Chiefdom Councils. What I want to know is whether the reforms envisaged will change the whole structure and the very base of what I and what has already been described in the Visiting Mission's report as the pyramid of councils, such as the High Council, the Chiefdom Councils, and the Sub-Chiefdom Councils, whether these envisaged reforms will change the dates and the structure of these councils?

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

This question is similar to the previous one. It is very difficult for me to foresee what the conclusions of the Working Group will be, but I will reply by giving you my personal opinion; It will not commit my Government. This is merely a matter of the experience which I gained in Ruanda-Urundi. The general policy of the Government of Ruanda-Urundi always was to take advantage of existing structures and to improve them. Therefore, it is likely that the improvements will be made in this structure. My personal feeling is that these institutions will not be uprooted and replaced by institutions which will be alien. They will be improved, and they will be democratized. But I stress again, that this is a personal statement of opinion, and it should not be construed as committing my Government.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I think I will also go on to the next question which concerns the Working Group. This question has already been touched on by the previous speaker. I should like to know whether the special representative will be able to tell us whether the great majority of the people, that is, the mass of the population, will be able to express their views before this Working Group, or whether they have already done so?

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

I am in a position to assure you that whoever wished to enter into contact with the Working Group had an opportunity to do so, for the Working Group sat during the daytime and sometimes during the night time, and it was available to all groups or individuals who wished to be in touch with them. No permission, no prior requests were necessary. The itinerary of the Working Group was known, and everyone who wished to give his comments on the reorganization of the political structure and the administrative structure of Ruanda-Urundi was in a position to do so. In this regard, I can give the representative of Burma every assurance.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for his answers and also for his assurance. The next question will deal with the existing administrative union. I will put a very simple question to him, What effect will the introduction of the reforms have on the existing administrative union with the Belgian Congo?

Mr. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French):

Mr. President, in fact and in law, these changes in the political structure might well take place without the slightest repercussion upon the administrative union, which as has been repeated so many times in the Council is strictly an administrative and not a political union. It does not involve the political structure. However, as I said in my introductory statement, in order to facilitate adaptations, in order to lighten somewhat the cumbersome machinery, and in order to adapt the structure to the requirements of the country, there are certain aspects of the administrative union which are outdated or require some adjustment; for instance, the question of recruiting does not appear in the same light in the two countries. For all these reasons, the Administration wishes to put an end to the centralization, and in the future, it will subordinate the affairs of Ruanda-Urundi directly to the central administration in Brussels.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I thank the representative of Belgium for his answer. I think he will appreciate that I had to ask this question because it will be recalled that the Trusteeship Council at its twenty-first session observed that the present customs arrangements between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo did not in any way or other make it possible to determine accurately whether the existing customs union between the two Territories was functioning equitably. And also, the Trusteeship Council at the same session expressed the hope that the results of a careful study undertaken by the Administering Authority on the question would be submitted to the Council. I really wonder whether the representatives of the Administering Authority will be able to inform the Council whether any such study has been undertaken? And if such a study has been undertaken, what are the findings of such a study group?

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

The Working Group, as far as I know, has not taken an interest in the question of the customs administration. However, as my predecessor has stated, a study, which was rather complex, was begun by the governmental services of Ruanda Urundi. I regret, therefore, that I cannot tell you about the results in detail or give you any figures. In principle, it was established that when the two members of the Customs Union presented their accounts, it would be necessary to have a very complicated investigation. That investigation has been made from the point of view of water transport. That is, as far as Ruanda Urundi is concerned, as regards water transport, we have approximate figures on the goods re-exported from the Belgian Congo to Ruanda Urundi and which, therefore, are charged to the treasury of Ruanda Urundi. On the other hand, as far as road transport is concerned, an estimate could not be made yet for the reason that it had been studied only from the point of view of the commercial invoices which were submitted by the importing or exporting firms and it was impossible to base oneself on this data. Only customs checkpoints could have yielded the information, and they would have been an impediment to traffic. The co-operation of the Chambres of Commerce will be needed.

At this time, we have customs checkpoints. They are functioning. Their personnel has been hired. Within a year, perhaps, it will be known what exactly is the scope of transport between Ruanda Urundi and the Belgian Congo. If transportation by water yields a favourable balance for Ruanda Urundi, the reverse is the case as far as road transport is concerned. At Usumbura, there is a point for fuel from which it is retransported to the Congo.

I wanted to mention all these details to the representative of Burma in order to show him that we are very much interested in this matter. We are anxious to see that neither of the two countries is harmed in this arrangement.

I have not yet mentioned air transportation. There, again, we hope to have some final figures in the near future. Ruanda Urundi now has an accounting setup which uses IBM machines.

U-TIN MAUNG (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for his very comprehensive answer. My delegation will take note of the progress so far made in this matter.

For the time being, I have exhausted my questions in the political field. I am really grateful to the special representative and my colleague the representative of Belgium. They have been very co-operative so far and I hope that, in the course of our discussions, we will have much more detailed information on conditions in Ruanda Urundi.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): First of all, I should also like to express my welcome to Mr. Reisdorff. We are already convinced that his patience in replying to our questions will be unlimited.

My delegation's first question relates to paragraph 23 of the annual report which states that elections are to be held this year in order to replace the Councils elected in 1956 for a three-year period. The Governor of Ruanda Urundi had assured the Visiting Mission of 1957 that elections would be held by universal suffrage for men. Yesterday, the Belgian representative told us that universal suffrage would probably be applied.

Could the special representative tell us when these elections are to be held and whether a recommendation on the revision of the general structure of the Territory must be awaited? This is a review to be prepared by the Study Group which recently went to the Territory. ~~Are we going to have to wait for that before these elections are held?~~

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): First I wish to thank the representative of Haiti for the kind words he addressed to me and I wish to assure him of my full co-operation.

The question of the representative of Haiti pertains to paragraph 23 of the report. The first part of my reply will pertain to the probability of the introduction of universal suffrage for the lower councils. I have no new information to give in addition to what was said yesterday by the representative of Belgium. But once again, speaking on my own behalf, I can assure the

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(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

representative of Haiti that I am quite sure that elections with universal suffrage will take place directly in the sub-Chiefdom Councils; in other words, the Councils will be elected under universal suffrage directly by all the adults. This is my personal expectation. As regards the date of the elections, if I am not mistaken, they should take place in October of this year. The Working Group has come back from Ruanda Urundi. We expect its report on 15 July. A governmental declaration will be forthcoming, and it is possible that the new legislation will not be ready by October. But the delay should not be considerable. The elections will take place as soon as the reorganization will have been formalized in a legal text.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to add a slight bit of supplementary information to what the special representative has just said, in particular with regard to the application of universal suffrage. In general, under this term, we include elections which cover all adults, both men and women. One of the points under discussion, which has been the subject of reasearch, soundings, examinations and reviews carried out by the Study Group, is the question of whether, in the view of the present authorities and of the present political organizations, indeed of the population in general, the population has reached a sufficient state of develepmnt to apply universal suffrage to all adults both men and women. This question will probably be settled at least in a provisional manner because it is obvious that the final purpose that we are pursuing is the introduction of modern democratic methods and, of course, universal suffrage for both men and women.

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Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Belgium and the special representative for their replies.

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My second question is as follows. The Council will recall that last year a recommendation was made here stating that from a political and economic point of view Ruanda and Urundi have a common future and that the Administering authority should consolidate relations between the two countries.

(Mr. Salomon, Haiti)

The Administering Authority at that time seemed to stress rather the difficulties of integration, even progressive integration. In his introductory statement the other day, the representative of Belgium seemed to indicate that the Administering Authority still considered that the two countries were developing in different directions, that is, that the institutions were developing separately. There can be distinct development without it being separate. This is something that is being considered by the Committee which is studying the problem. But could the special representative tell us whether in his view this situation has developed somewhat since the time when the question was reviewed last year? Could he also tell us whether we should consider that every effort has been abandoned toward finding a common citizenship for the inhabitants of the two parts of Ruanda and Urundi, and whether he thinks that the efforts to that effect should be abandoned?

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

I would reply to this question very clearly and say that the Government of Ruanda-Urundi has never abandoned its efforts for a closer union between Ruanda and Urundi. It is true that a political dualism has deep roots in Ruanda-Urundi, owing to centuries of history. Moreover, it is the opinion of the peoples of Ruanda and Urundi themselves. They feel that they are opposed to a closer relationship for these two Territories and the Government must take into account their aspirations. But for its part, it encourages institutions and organs that would be capable of bringing these two Territories closer together.

The national feeling at the present time -- in recent years at least -- has been progressing towards separatism rather than integration. The national feeling in Ruanda, like in Urundi, tends to be expressed through the Councils of the countries. After all, it is the Councils of Ruanda and of Urundi which crystallize and reflect these feelings. Each one of these Councils, for example, has expressed the view that it did not feel that a particular measure should be rejected because the other Council had expressed a different viewpoint.

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative.)

Moreover, the 1957 Visiting Mission has very clearly taken cognizance of this report and preferred perhaps a federation or formula of decentralization which would make it possible for each one of the regions to conserve a maximum of its own institutions, while at the same time developing its own particular genius and individuality. The Administering Authority has unceasingly laid stress on the need for Ruanda and Urundi to unite.

The Governor, in many speeches, has reminded the people that it was not only of a political nature, but also of an economic nature. Even as regards the sports encounters between teams of Ruanda and Urundi, such as occurred in January last, the Governor once again emphasized how happy he was to note this joint effort of Ruanda and Urundi. Moreover, the Government has created a Commission which brings the delegates of Ruanda and Urundi together with civil servants and technicians.

This Commission, for example, has studied the problem of trade in indigenous areas and it has proposed certain reforms which have been adopted. For example, there was the authorization for anyone to set up a business, on land belonging to him or on land which he had obtained, with certain requirements of hygiene, supervision and guarantee for the purchasers and the consumers.

This clearly shows in what direction the hopes of the Administering Authority have been developing. They would hope to develop a middle-class, a class of tradesmen, and there the solution to the divergence of views between Ruanda and Urundi may be found, and, along the same lines, to develop systems where people from the two Territories could come together and lay the foundation for a prosperous nation working together. This is the Administration's goal. However, it must take into account the very deep-rooted trends, both in Ruanda and in Urundi, owing, of course, as I have said, largely to historic factors.

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Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Among the steps contemplated by the Administering Authority, as we were told yesterday in the introductory statement of the representative of Belgium, one can note a reference to the centralization of the relationship between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo. Could we be told whether these measures might entail a revision of the status of the armed forces now stationed in Ruanda-Urundi?

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

The representative of Haiti was quite right in asking me to reply in a personal capacity, but I really have no personal comment to make on this point because, obviously, it relates to something which cannot now be foreseen. As regards an organization such as the armed forces -- which has been satisfactory, which has rendered the services that were expected, and which is very useful to Ruanda-Urundi at the present time, including having certain financial advantages -- I do not see that there would be any useful purpose served or any interest in changing this. Moreover, one might raise the question of the recruitment of persons from both Ruanda and Urundi, integrating them in the armed forces.

This is a question that is currently under study. But as regards the question of the recruitment of people from these two countries -- something which was impossible owing to existing legislation now in force in the Trust Territory and which is based on the former prescriptions laid down by the League of Nations -- this could not be the result of the present reorganization, but of a movement which is already at the present time deep-rooted in Ruanda-Urundi, and this is the question of these peoples' taste for discipline and their desire to belong to this elite group.

If I may sum up my comments, I do not think personally that there would be any useful purpose served if Ruanda-Urundi were to disband the forces as they now exist. But it is very possible that the peoples of these two Territories would be usefully served if they enlisted in considerable numbers in the armed forces.

dit par
Mr. SALOMON (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Could the special representative give us the approximate number of members of the various parties mentioned on page 40 of the annual report and could he give us some information on their activities and influence in the Territory?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French):
The following political organizations are mentioned on page 40 of the report for 1957: l'Union Eurafricaine du Ruanda-Urundi, la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie Nouvelle, l'Association professionnelle des Colons, Indépendants et Sociétés du Ruanda-Urundi, le Syndicat indépendant du Personnel d'Afrique, l'Association du Personnel indigène de la Colonie, la Centrale générale des Syndicats libéraux de Belgique, la Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens, la Fédération générale du Travail de Belgique.

The Union Eurafricaine du Ruanda-Urundi states that it has 300 members. The Ligue des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie Nouvelle has not given us any figures. The Association professionnelle des Colons, Indépendants et Sociétés du Ruanda-Urundi has reported 150 members. The Syndicat indépendant du Personnel d'Afrique, Association du Personnel indigène de la Colonie, Centrale générale des Syndicats libéraux de Belgique, Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens and the Fédération générale du Travail de Belgique have not as yet given a report of the number of their members to the Government of Ruanda-Urundi.

These groups are actually not parties, properly speaking; they are political, social or economic organizations.

admirer
Mr. SALOMON (Haiti)(interpretation from French): My last question is the following. In reply to a question by the representative of China, the special representative gave some information on the working methods of the study group which recently went to Ruanda-Urundi. Could he tell us whether the decisions taken in Brussels before the departure of this study group will allow it to establish for the Trust Territory time-tables or intermediate dates, even provisional ones, for the attainment of self-government or independence?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The Belgian delegation's position on time-tables is well known. Thus, I can reply to the question just put by the representative of Haiti only by repeating that these time-tables do not concern us. We do not wish to exercise any power whatsoever in Ruanda-Urundi for one day longer than necessary to carry out our obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement and to meet the wishes which will in due course be expressed by the population itself -- duly informed and with full knowledge of the matter -- on the powers to be transferred and the date when those powers should be transferred. Therefore, it is impossible to say now whether the report which the study group will present to the Minister will contain anything in the nature of a time-table.

I would also repeat something which I believe I had occasion to say two years ago. If, during our consideration of the Territory's development, it should appear appropriate to establish certain stages, that will be done in agreement with the population concerned. But we refuse, as we shall always refuse, to commit ourselves to setting down time-tables in the abstract.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): On behalf of the New Zealand delegation, I should like to extend a welcome to the special representative from the Territory, Mr. Reisdorff. I have no personal knowledge or experience of this Territory, and I therefore ask him to bear with me if some of the questions which I ask seem to him somewhat elementary.

In the first place, I should like to refer to a reply given to the representative of Haiti on the question of the date on which the Indigenous Council elections were to be held. I had been intending to ask this question. I gather from the reply of the special representative that the elections are to take place in October 1959. I am not quite clear, however, about the method of election. In 1956, in the Sub-Chiefdom Councils, for instance, there was election, I gather, by universal suffrage, but at two levels or two tiers. I understand from the statement of Mr. Claeys Bouúaert yesterday that, this year, elections are expected to be only at one level -- by universal suffrage, but direct election to the Council. I wonder if I could have some confirmation of that understanding?

local Govt.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I thank the New Zealand representative for his words of welcome, and I should like to say that I am very happy to co-operate with his delegation and with the Trusteeship Council as a whole.

As regards the date of the elections, I should like to make it clear that they had been envisaged for October 1959, but, owing to the reorganization now under way, it is possible that they will have to be somewhat postponed. I have stated that the postponement will be as brief as possible -- in other words, once the texts permitting the elections have been drawn up and the organizational work has been completed, the elections will take place. Nevertheless, it is not absolutely certain that the elections can be held in October; it may be necessary to postpone them for a short time.

As regards the second part of the question, the last elections were held on the basis of an organic act which provided that the electoral college might be appointed in the light of the preferences of the inhabitants -- preferences reflected in a list. Actually, the elections were held under a system of male suffrage, through which the members of the electoral college were chosen. The electoral college in turn designated the members of the Sub-Chiefdom Councils.

We hope -- personally, we are even certain, but this must be set down in written form -- that the forthcoming elections will be direct elections by universal suffrage. The electoral college would thus be eliminated, the electors designating the members of the Councils themselves. I would, however, repeat that I am making that statement in my personal capacity.

As the representative of Belgium has said, the question of the vote for women has not been decided. It will be decided by the study group. The Administration is in favour of giving women the vote, but it would appear that the feelings of the population do not coincide with that viewpoint.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I had not realized that women would possibly not vote in this particular election. I had heard references to universal suffrage, and I had not realized that this question of the vote for women had still to be settled.

Opposite page 28 of the report, on page 29, there is a diagram of the Administration. I would refer the special representative to the heading "Local Administration". Could the special representative tell me or confirm to me whether the Residents of Ruanda and Urundi respectively are Belgian career officials? I assume they are. There are also listed in that particular diagram Territorial Administrators. Are they Belgian career officials?

Residents

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I can tell the representative of New Zealand that his assumption is correct, I can say yes.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): Could the special representative tell me what are the functions of these officials in relation to the indigenous administrative authorities? I took note, incidentally, of the indication given yesterday by Mr. Claeys Bouwaert that evolution is to be expected in the integration of the indigenous administration and also of the reply of the special representative to the representative of Burma on this subject. I wonder just what the inter-relation is at present between the two, between the Residents and the Territorial Officials and Mwami and the Chiefs and so on.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): In principle here are the relations existing between the Mwami of Ruanda and the Resident of Ruanda and between the Mwami of Urundi and the Resident of Urundi: the two Residents have the right of giving advice and the right of veto. That may be seen from the text. Actually, these two authorities work together in perfect co-ordination. The Territorial Administrators operate in the same way with the Chiefs of the Territory; having the power of veto and the right of advice and to provide assistance. The position between the Chiefs of the Territory and the Administrator of the Territory is on the same footing as that of the Residents and the Mwamis. These two authorities collaborate both on a higher and on a lower level.

Gen Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): That reply is quite adequate for my purpose.

On page 31 of the report, particulars are given of the constitution of the present General Council. I should like to know which of the representatives under the headings (b), (c) and (d) would normally be indigenous inhabitants and which would be European. I realize that appointments are not made on racial grounds, but in practice clearly some of these gentlemen would normally be European and some indigenous. Perhaps the special representative could give me an idea of the present constitution of the Council in this respect. I understand that a year or two ago, out of the forty-five members of the Council at least sixteen were Africans.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Actually, as the representative of New Zealand has just said, these appointments are made on a personal basis for service in the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi. These persons, therefore, are appointed not with regard to race but with regard rather to the fact that they belong to groups which represent the various parts of the structure of society in Ruanda-Urundi.

I have here the list of appointments that have been made. Among the notables, for example, I see: one chief of a chiefdom, a settler, a businessman, an indigenous abbe, an Asian businessman and a European bishop.

In the alternates for these people, I note: four chiefs of chiefdoms, one European businessman, one African businessman and one other African.

Regarding the representatives of capital, we see that the principal members are European, as well as the alternate members.

As regards the representatives of the independent middle classes, we see that the members are European and that the alternate members are Europeans, with one Asian.

As for the employers, there are among the members two Africans and four Europeans, and among the alternates, seven Africans and four Europeans.

The representatives of the rural communities are as follows: among the members, one European and three Africans of whom one is the Chief of a centre, the second a medical assistant and the third is a chief clerk. The alternates are one European and three Africans.

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Special representative)

Among the persons belonging neither to the general administration nor the indigenous administration, we see an African bishop, a European bishop, one industrialist -- Mr. Habyarimana, who has already been referred to -- and one employee of an African business firm. The alternates include: one European bishop, a priest representing the Catholic missions and a bishop representing the Protestant missions, as well as four Africans.

I apologize if perhaps I have left out one name or another. I have just given you this list in order to show that the representation was decided upon on the basis of personal capacity. The members appointed as representatives of the rural community are respectively two members appointed by the Councils of Ruanda and Urundi and four alternates for each of these Councils.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I want to thank the special representative for that very full reply. I shall have to tally up these various people tomorrow, and then I think I shall be able to form a better impression of the nature of the representation in the Council.

I should now like to pass to a recommendation of the Trusteeship Council at its twenty-first session in relation to the General Council. The Trusteeship Council on that occasion recommended that a delegation of the General Council should be established which would be available for consultation with the Administration. Could the special representative tell me whether the setting-up of such a delegation ever proved practicable or necessary?

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

There is no permanent deputation of the General Council at this stage. This did not seem to be necessary. However, there is an education committee which deals with the important and difficult problem of education in Ruanda-Urundi. This committee meets and it has made proposals.

Terr Council

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): Page 35 of the report of the Administering Authority contains some comments on the Territorial Councils. Unlike the Sub-Chiefs and Chiefs Councils, it is said that these particular councils are less alive, that the Territory does not correspond to a customary division of the country and has no funds to administer. In fact, much educational work has to be done before such lower councils can fulfil the role for which they were established. I understand that there are nine territorial councils. Notwithstanding the difficulties of establishing these councils, I assume that the Administering Authority still intends to persevere with them. Would it be practical, for example, to abandon them and have the line of responsibility ascend directly from the Chiefs Councils to the Superior Council of the State?

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

The Territorial Councils were actually introduced at a level between the chiefdoms and the higher levels. They were also designed to meet new administrative requirements. However, their character as introduced bodies results in the people having less interest in them than in the small Sub-Chiefdom Councils, which may be regarded as small agricultural councils where the peasants come to discuss matters of interest to them, or in the Chiefdom Councils, which take up regional matters. These organs existed before the arrival of the Administration, and that is why they are active and living bodies. The Territorial Councils deal with administrative matters, and the people who are brought together on this level do not have the same interests as the people who are working together in a chiefdom or a sub-chiefdom. It is quite possible that with the development of trade, centres of business, education and a middle class, an awareness of their common interests might emerge. At this stage, however, it has not yet been reached. At the present time we cannot foresee when these

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Special representative)

Councils might be anything other than more or less co-ordinating bodies. I do not know whether I have fully answered the question of the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): The reply is adequate for my purpose. Evidently the Administering Authority intends to persevere with the Councils at present as co-ordinating agents.

My next question relates to a reply given earlier by the special representative to a question put by the representative of Haiti on the subject of encouraging unity between the two States of Ruanda and Urundi. In this connexion, I notice that the twenty-first session of the Trusteeship Council recommended that the Administering Authority should keep under review the possibility of leading the inhabitants to adopt a national name and national symbols. I assume that not very much progress has been made with this in view of the feeling in the States towards preserving their own identity. Could the special representative comment on this aspect?

*Ruanda
Urundi*

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I regret to say that we have not progressed in this field. It is true that a national feeling is developing in the Councils of the two countries, but this has also worked in the opposite direction. At the present time, the representatives of Urundi have their flag and their national anthem. My predecessor here has explained many times to the Council the efforts of the people of Urundi to obtain a national holiday. As this would have less of a national character than a customary character because it would coincide with the seeding-time holiday, the Administration did not object. It would appear that the Ruanda Council is going along the same lines. Up to this point, no decision has been taken by the Administration concerning the proclamation of a national holiday for Ruanda.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): My final question relates to the judicial organization or reorganization, and particularly to the new draft code of judicial organization and jurisdiction, which was drafted and submitted to the General Council in July 1957. At its twenty-first session, the Council expressed

Judiciary

(Mr. Davin, New Zealand)

its confidence that the Administering Authority would draw the attention of the General Council to the importance of ~~continuing its study of this matter and to~~ the wisdom of establishing a separate and independent judiciary. As I understand it, many officials of the Administration also exercise judicial functions on occasion, and there has been some criticism of this aspect. Could the special representative tell me what has happened to the draft code of the judicial organization? Did the General Council ever consider it or is it still before the Council?

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

The question put by the representative of New Zealand relates to the dual nature of the judiciary in Ruanda-Urundi. This duality rests on the requirements of practical administration. The African courts apply customary law and the European courts apply written law. At the present stage, custom is in a state of considerable fluctuation. It is impossible to codify it without making it inflexible, and that would certainly run counter to the general development of the country. It is not correct to say that European justice and African justice have no points of contact. In fact, the administrators may be judges of Territorial Courts and Africans may be working in European Courts. At the present stage of the development of this matter, this has proved to be a very delicate issue. The Administration will certainly pursue the idea of integrating the various jurisdictions in so far as it is possible, but it cannot destroy a whole structure which is based on meeting a real need. Moreover, the Visiting Mission of 1957 specified that the Belgian officials who were competent in this field should review this delicate matter in all aspects before adopting a final text on the indigenous judiciary. This question of indigenous jurisdiction will of necessity have to run parallel to the reformed administration of the Territory.

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Therefore it was not essential that the indigenous reforms should precede the reform of the existing administrative and political structure, but it is probable that, when the administrative and political reform has been effected, the reform of the indigenous and European jurisdictions, which is under review and is the subject of continuing examination, will in its turn be carried out.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): The only thing I am not quite clear about is what happened to the new draft code on which the Visiting Mission commented. I am referring to working document T/L.909, paragraph 33, where there is a reference to this new draft code.

*Draft
Code*

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This draft reorganization is the same as I have referred to in my previous reply in taking up the question of the duality of the European and indigenous courts. Actually this is a vast plan. It also comprises the replacement of career magistrates for administrative officials and combined administrative judicial officers, who are still being used, and reorganization of the general ranks of persons working in both the European and the indigenous courts. This practice is still under review, and it would not be wise to pass enactments in this field before measures relating to the political administration have been introduced.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I can quite understand that a revision of this nature is too fundamental a matter to be left to the General Council, and I understand, therefore, that it will apparently be considered with other administrative reforms under contemplation in the Territory. I have no further questions, and I should like to thank the special representative for his replies.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): First of all may I say how delighted I am to see Mr. Reisdorff as the special representative of Belgium for the examination of the affairs of Ruanda-Urundi. When I visited Ruanda-Urundi

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

in 1956 -- and I hasten to say that I did not visit it solely for the purpose of watching Kenya-Ruanda dancing, as some people seem to think -- I spent a good deal of time travelling around with Mr. Reisdorff and I had reason to learn immense knowledge and experience of the Territory.

One or two questions I should like to put. I think my first question representative of Belgium. Yesterday he made a very important statement working study group which has been appointed at the request of the cil of Ruanda-Urundi to study the future constitutional changes, I heard of the composition of this study group. He also told us that it had started work in April. My first question with regard to group is: can any indication be given when the study group will complete its work? The second question I should like to ask is whether anything more can be said about its terms of reference. I appreciate that the statement made by Mr. Claeys Bouuaert yesterday may have covered this, because he said, in the English translation, that the study group was "to make contact with the population of the Territory and to learn its views on the development of the future institutions of the country." (T/PV.979, page 58-60) It may be that there are no more precise terms of reference, and I appreciate that it is often better to leave things in general terms. But, if there is any further information which the representative can give us on that second point, as well as the first, I would greatly appreciate this.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): As far as the composition of the working group is concerned, I think the special representative has already given some information but, as it is short, I shall gladly repeat it. It is a study committee of five members: three are parliamentarians; one is a high-ranking official of the Central African Administration in Brussels; and the third is a member of the Legislative Council, which is the new designation of what used to be known as the Colonial Council, a Council which assists the King in these matters.

(Mr. Claeys Bouwaert, Belgium)

The terms of reference of the study committee were to inquire, on as broad and complete a basis as possible -- by establishing contacts with the political bodies in the Territory as well as with all individuals on the spot who were interested and able to give information -- into the various problems involved in the present political development of Ruanda-Urundi and as to the political reforms which would be justified. As was said by the representative of the United Kingdom, these are broad terms of reference which exclude practically nothing from the purview of the committee.

With regard to the question of the date when the work will end, at this time the Committee has finished its work in Africa and it returned to Brussels in May. It now has before it considerable documentary work, as was said by the special representative, including the records of hearings and meetings which, to give you an indication, contain more than 2,000 pages. There are also memoranda submitted by various persons. I might say that the Committee has heard, I believe, about 700 people, and more than 400 of them have submitted documents.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I am very grateful to my friend for that answer, which gives further elucidation to the important statement he made yesterday. It is clear, I think, from this answer that the terms of reference are comprehensive and that the working party has made rapid progress, and also -- this seems to me a very important point -- that the working group has excited wide interest in the Territory and has received representations from large numbers of people. I think it is clear that, as sometimes happens in this Council, we shall probably have to wait, with great interest and even avidity, for what eventually comes out of this working group. At the moment we cannot anticipate this.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

civil service

I wonder whether I may go on to rather different questions. I was very much interested in the remarks made by the special representative yesterday about the reform of the civil service and the promotion of 213 Africans to posts previously held by Europeans. If I am right in thinking -- and this comes from the Secretariat working paper (T/L.909, page 7) -- that the number of European officials was 753, it becomes immediately evident that the figure 213 is a very important one comparatively. Now, Mr. Reisdorff said in his statement that those promoted comprised 84 medical assistants, 77 agronomists, 44 technical veterinary agents, 1 chief of public works, 7 agents and principal territorial agents -- the last I understand to be administrative officers. I have a number of points here. The first is, can the special representative tell us what is a chief of public works, what is the scope of his duties? Also I would like to ask whether I am right in thinking that the promotions are to these posts of medical assistants, etc. rather than from the grade to some higher grade? And I would like to ask the special representative finally whether he can give us any indication of the prospects of promotions -- if the answer to the last question, as the first, to these posts that promotions have been made -- to the higher grade, either medical officer agricultural officer, veterinary officer, and so on. I think the question is clear, if complex.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): First I wish to thank the representative of the United Kingdom for the kind words he has spoken. I can assure him that I in turn have enjoyed as much as he has the days we spent together in Ruanda-Urundi. I can assure him of my full co-operation in all the questions that he might put to me.

If he could help me in locating the paragraph cited in the document prepared by the Secretariat, it would help me.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): It is on page 7, paragraph 28.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative): It is correct that the 215 African officials have been promoted to grades which previously were held by European officials. These Africans belong to the fifth category of the status, that is, they belong to the superior category. They were promoted because of their seniority and because of the services rendered by them. They were promoted to the first category of the status which previously was that of European officials. As regards their prospects for the future, the chief of public works is an official in the public works service who is a technician, he is not an engineer, not a trained engineer. He has moved up step by step in the hierarchy, but he will never become a chief of service in the public works service for he would have to be an engineer; but he can become an assistant chief. The main territorial officers in some cases, the files of these officials are being studied. There will probably be more territorial officials who will be promoted. The chief territorial official -- I think there are three -- is above the territorial officer; above him is the assistant administrator. The young people who will have graduated from the university will be employed directly in the staff of the territorial civil service, but the present territorial officers can also then be appointed as assistant administrators; and later, they can be appointed as administrator of the territory; later, they may become resident or even chiefs of service. The assistant agronomists are officials who are responsible for an agricultural sector. They have under them a whole range of assistants. In a territory which is approximately a small district, and would be equivalent to a small district in East African British Territory, there are four chiefdoms. Each may have an assistant agronomist, but more often the area of responsibility of the assistant agronomist covers two or even three chiefdoms. The medical assistants are members of the medical corps who are responsible for a dispensary or for a rural hospital where there is no physician available. They are auxiliary personnel who must be capable of performing minor surgical operations. But when the physicians who are now being trained in the universities will have

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

graduated, they will be engaged as chiefs of sector or as hospital physicians and chiefs of clinics. As regards the chief veterinary officers, they must either be part of the veterinary service or they must be experienced in the field of cattle raising. They are on the level of the territorial officers, and they may become chief officers.

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

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I should like to follow up my last question with another one relating to the training of inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi for higher positions in the Territorial Civil Service.

It is clear from what the special representative has said in reply to my last question and also from the documents in front of us that there are a number of young men in university institutions, whether in the Congo or in Ruanda-Urundi itself or in Belgium, receiving education which will fit them for the higher posts -- the posts of administrative cadet, if I translate correctly, agricultural officer, medical officer, veterinary officer, engineer.

Is it possible to say how many young men are being trained for these posts? How many are receiving the education which would fit them for these higher posts? What are the prospects in respect of the appointment of inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi to these higher posts? Is it possible to give us any indication of the number we may expect in, say, three years? This seems to me to be a matter of very great importance, if I may say so.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French):
I should like to be able to reply tomorrow to the question put by the representative of the United Kingdom because this will require some calculation on my part and some consultation of documents, which will consume a certain amount of time.

Bahutu in the
Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I would be very grateful indeed if the special representative would be good enough to give me this information tomorrow or whenever may be a suitable occasion. My next question, I think, may be answered simply by saying that it is not possible to answer it. But I want to ask about the extent to which Bahutu have risen to responsible positions either as employees of the Territorial Administration or as Chiefs. It may be that there is no separate categorization of Batutsi and Bahutu in these positions, and that I would very well understand, seeing that the whole object is to reduce and eventually eliminate this particular distinction. But I wonder whether the special representative, from his knowledge, if that is the case, could give me some general indication of the extent to which Bahutu have risen to responsible positions either in the chieftdom organization or in the central administration?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French):
It is true that the tactics of the Government of Ruanda Urundi have always been not to make any discrimination between Bahutu and Batutsi, as far as those people who are collaborating with them are concerned. It is not possible for a chief of service or a resident to say which, among its collaborators, are of one race or another. This has been a systematic policy so as not to create any complex.

Now as regards the customary authorities, the situation between Ruanda and Urundi is rather different. This is owing to the very structure of the two kingdoms. In Ruanda, the Batutsi have always had a much more clearly defined social position than in Urundi, and in Urundi you find a number of sub-chiefs who call themselves Bahutu. There is even a chief who is a Mahutu. In Ruanda, if such things exist, this constitutes a minority.

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

As regards education, the Administration does not foresee setting aside any number of posts for the young Bahutu or raising any restrictions for the young Batutsi as regards their admission to school, because anything else would be contrary to the policy of the Administration, which is a policy to promote union and which is designed to put all candidates on the same footing, taking into account only their merits. Therefore, I could not give any statistics to the representative of the United Kingdom because we do not have any on this point.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I entirely understand the reason why the special representative has given me this answer. I appreciate that these statistics are not available deliberately for a very good reason. My last question has already been largely covered by the representative of New Zealand. It relates to elections to sub-chiefdom councils.

Having regard to the Trusteeship Council's last recommendation on the subject, where the Council noted with satisfaction that the authorities in the Territory expected that it would soon be possible to carry out direct elections of members of sub-chiefdom councils, I was naturally very interested to hear what the special representative had to say on this subject when, speaking personally, but giving no doubt an authoritative prognostication, he told us that it was likely that the elections to the sub-chiefdom councils, in the next elections, would be direct.

Am I right in thinking that this applies all over the Territory or is it only in certain areas?

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

I can assure the representative of the United Kingdom that this system will be applied in all sub-chiefdoms, at least as far as I can foresee. But this is a general measure and if it is taken, it will be applied on a uniform basis.

*sub-chiefdom
Councils*

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I wish to thank the special representative for his very clear answers, and also the representative of Belgium for what he said in reply to my first question.

Mr. JHA (India): I have heard many of the answers given by the special representative to the questions put to him. I have also studied with care his statement and the statement of the representative of Belgium, although I was not able to be present yesterday when they spoke. I should like to ask a few questions, with a view, really, to educating ourselves in the affairs of this Territory, which has a rather complex socio-political organization.

his administration
My first question is the following. From the documentation placed before us concerning the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, it is clear that there are two parallel administrations in the Territory: a Belgian administration and an indigenous administration. What is not so clear is the pattern, if one exists, of contacts or relationships between the two administrations and the level of such contacts. I should be grateful if the special representative could throw some light on the subject. He could perhaps define for our benefit the spheres of activity or authority of the two administrations. How is co-ordination between the two achieved? Is the authority of the indigenous administration or administrations supreme in any particular field?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As I have said, the Administration's position in relation to the indigenous administration is a veto and advisory position. I do not think that the functions of the Administrator of a Territory like Ruanda-Urundi are very different from those of the Administrator of British East Africa. Actually, the Administration's role is that of an adviser.

The various activities in the Territory are under the supervision of the chiefs and sub-chiefs, who have agricultural, veterinary and administrative assistants. The Administrator of the Territory and his

(Mr. Reisdorff, Special representative)

assistants are above all advisers. There are meetings of the staff on the Territorial level, during which certain sub-chiefs, notables, discuss the measures to be taken and the future prospects, in order to ensure co-ordination. The chief comes under the Mwami from the disciplinary point of view, but he also comes under the Administrator of the Territory, in his capacity as an adviser and technician.

On the level of the Residency -- that is to say, on the Ruanda and Urundi level -- the Resident and the Mwami have frequent contacts. The Mwami has his own sphere of authority -- and that is in the customary domain. He has legislative authority which he exercises with his Council as regards all matters concerning custom -- that is to say, questions of land tenure, property, personal rights, rights of succession, and so forth. On these questions, the Resident intervenes only if the public order is affected by a decision of the Council approving a decision of the Mwami. But the Resident exercises certain powers jointly with the Mwami in the purely administrative field -- that is, the central administration. Thus, the Resident is the direct head of the administrators, the Mwami being the direct head of the chiefs, who in turn have under them a certain number of sub-chiefs.

Mr. JHA (India): In his statement yesterday, the representative of Belgium said that the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi had just announced a decision to put an end to the administrative centralization which made the Governor-General and his services in Leopoldville a normal part of the machinery for studying and controlling the affairs of Ruanda-Urundi. What is the significance of this? Does it mean that Ruanda-Urundi now functions administratively and politically as a distinctly separate entity from the Belgian Congo? If not, what are the functions, both administrative and political, in respect of which Ruanda-Urundi is still dependent on the governmental machinery in Leopoldville? Does it in any way mean that the pace and nature of political development in Ruanda-Urundi has to be measured and conditioned by political progress in the Belgian Congo?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French):

Ruanda-Urundi has never been a political entity integrated with the Belgian Congo. Since the mandate was established, Ruanda-Urundi has had a particular personality and its own legislation. However, from the administrative point of view, there exists and has always existed a centralization of the various functions at the level of the Government-General. These functions are, for example, the supplying of European personnel, the organization of transportation, customs, the postal system, waterways, and so forth -- fields which are often very important from the administrative point of view and which had been centralized in Leopoldville, together with functions related to questions concerning European personnel, social legislation and labour legislation, which had always been the same for Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo. In all these fields, it has been decided, in order to facilitate Ruanda-Urundi's future development, to decentralize the administration and to attach Ruanda-Urundi directly to the Administering Authority, in Belgium -- the Administering Authority is responsible for the administration of the Territory, as it is indeed responsible in a different way for the administration of the Belgian Congo.

Mr. JHA (India): I should like to ask for one further clarification.

I quite appreciate that, as the representative of Belgium has said, the recent order of the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi makes a change in the existing position. That is to say, the services which were centralized in Leopoldville will no longer be so centralized.

residuary services
What I wish to know is this: After this order, is there any kind of residuary services which are still centralized; that is to say, is there any kind of link which still exists, apart from the co-ordination -- which must, of course, remain because the Territories are neighbouring and have many points in common?

That is what I wanted to know. Perhaps my first question was not very clear. I take it that there has been a complete separation so far as those administrative services are concerned and that the services in Ruanda-Urundi stand on their own legs, if I may say so.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): Beside the co-ordination to which the representative of India has rightly referred, and which will give rise to the creation of consultative bodies on the local level, there will always be co-ordination effected on the level of the Administering Authority which is Belgium. The difference is the following: the centralization, instead of taking place on the level of the Government-General in Leopoldville, will take place in Brussels and the local authorities, the chiefs of services and of political affairs, those dealing with questions of individuals, of labour questions and so on, instead of having recourse to the Governor-General will now be able to communicate directly with the central administration in Brussels.

Mr. JHA (India): I now understand what the significance of that statement was, and I take it that this centralization will be in respect of some common services made, not in Leopoldville but in Brussels, by the Government of Belgium. I believe that is what the position is, and that is the sense in which I understood it. Perhaps that is right.

I will go on to my next question. The character and powers of the *Gen. Council* General Council of Ruanda-Urundi are described in section 20 of the annual report. It is stated that this Council is a consultative organ which examines *power* budgetary proposals and deliberates upon all questions submitted to it by the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi. Presumably the budget referred to is the budget of the Belgian Administration of Ruanda-Urundi. Does this Council have some powers of discussion or decision in relation to the budget of the indigenous wing of the Territory's Government?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The competence of the General Council, if it may seem somewhat limited, is in fact much broader than the text would suggest. In fact, it is not only the items placed on the agenda by the Governor which are debated by the General Council, but also there are all sorts of items which some members raise and which are placed on the agenda by the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi. I have

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

never seen an occasion where a single point, the discussion of which was asked by members, had not been discussed. In other words, the members of the General Council take the initiative in starting a discussion, just the same as the Government itself.

The budget which is submitted to the General Council is in fact the general budget of Ruanda-Urundi. The budget of the Chiefdoms and the budget of the country are budgets which come under the competence of the Council of the Chiefdoms or the Council of the Country, as the case may be.

advice Mr. JHA (India): Elsewhere in the report it is stated that the inhabitants of the Territory are consulted regarding the development and advancement of the Territory to the extent that they participate in the various Councils, such as the General Council. We would be interested to know the extent to which in practice the advice tendered by this Council is accepted by the Administering Authority or is binding upon it in any way.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I am very glad to note the question which was put to me by the representative of India because this makes it possible for me to explain that one of the great advantages of the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi is that as decisions are not taken by the majority, the opinion of the minorities can be followed and can give rise to changes of decisions already taken. In a general way, I have never seen the Administration pass over an important opinion of the General Council. In other words, the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi has always supported the opinions of the General Council on important questions that the General Council had examined and on which it had taken a position.

I can give two recent examples to show to what extent the Administration respects the views expressed by the General Council which really represents, through its different members, the whole structure of society of Ruanda-Urundi.

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

On the question of cities, a question which the Visiting Mission studied, a question which touches on the nerve centre of the representatives of Ruanda-Urundi, despite the fact that the majority of the members of the Council were in favour of transforming Usumbura into a city and adopting a new regime, this project was abandoned in view of the opposition expressed by four representatives of the Council of Urundi.

Quite recently, the Government had proposed to create a coffee exchange. This body would have had the advantage of permitting easier distribution of the Equalization Fund if the price of coffee had fallen below the minimum price. However, while the European and Asian members were in favour of setting up this coffee exchange, the representatives of the Council of Ruanda gave a rather unclear answer, without completely supporting the measure. The representatives of Urundi, for their part, held a view that was unfavourable. The question was referred back to the two Councils of the Countries, because the General Council was fully aware of the fact that this question affected the very structure of indigenous trade and that it should, consequently, be clarified in the light of the views of the Councils of the Countries. In view of the opposition of the Council of Urundi, the General Council thought it would be better to send it back. In fact, the project was finally abandoned by the Government.

I think that these two examples will show the representative of India that the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi actually exerts considerable and decisive influence on the policy of Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. JHA (India): In an earlier question, I referred to the dual European-indigenous character of the Territory's Administration. It seems to us that the continuation of this system is likely to raise difficult problems when the time comes for the final transfer of power to the inhabitants of the Territory. It is obvious that, in view of the general context of African awakening, that time cannot be very far off. At its twenty-first session the Council had recommended, and we think very wisely, that steps should be taken to integrate that dual European-indigenous Administration. Therefore, I

would like to ask the special representative whether the Administering Authority has taken any steps to implement the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council to which I have referred.

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

I have no special information to give here as the integration of the two Administrations is obviously a measure that should be solved within the general framework of the administrative and political reorganization. My predecessor here had occasion to express on numerous occasions the various possible forms of fusion of the Administration. But each of these solutions would have been fundamentally possible only when a certain number of African people had risen to posts previously held by Europeans. So I think that the reply might be formulated as follows:

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

The integration of the two administrations is one of the points that we hope will find a solution in the declaration of the Government. Secondly, this integration will certainly be encouraged by the Africanization of the Administration of the country.

Mr. JHA (India): I should like to invite the attention of the special representative to the following passage in the statement of views of the High Council of Ruanda concerning the co-ordination of services: "All services should remain interdependent, those of the Administering Authority and those of the indigenous administration. Yet each sits in its own sealed compartment and confines itself to its own activities as if the other did not exist and had no part in building the world of tomorrow."

A statute of 1 January 1959 governing all administration officials is briefly mentioned in the additional information. We would like to know in some detail how this statute is intended to rectify the position which was stated in the statement of views to which the High Council of Ruanda has given forceful expression

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

I do not support the interpretation given by the High Council of Ruanda. It is normal for the Council, as with any Council, to want to increase its powers. But I should like to say that there is no lack of co-ordination between the African administration and the central administration, except perhaps in individual cases where the work is not fully understood. As I have already explained, the Administrators, the officials and the Residents fill advisory and technical posts, whereas the indigenous staff does the work on the spot. Therefore, there is no opposition between the duties of the central administration and those of the local administration.

I can assure the representative of India that during the fifteen years that I have worked in the field with various Chiefs, sub-Chiefs and African assistants, I never believed that our functions were parallel. I always had the very strong personal conviction that our duties were complementary and in the interests of the indigenous people themselves.

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

The fact that the central administration should be strengthened by Africans at higher levels is obviously not the solution of the problem of the duality of the two administrations. But it is precisely this problem which was examined by the study group, because it is one of the things that should be changed. I am not in possession of the necessary documentation and I am unable to state what solution will be provided for this problem.

Mr. JHA (India): I am grateful to the special representative for his answer and for his assurance. I asked the question because that seemed to me to be a rather forceful expression of a situation, at least in the view of the High Council of Ruanda. I felt that we should have the reaction of the special representative.

Staff My next question relates to the services. Table I on page 38 of the annual report shows that the number of European administrative personnel has steadily increased from 564 in 1953 to 753 in 1957. Over the same period, the number of junior African personnel increased from 597 to 1,088. While the increase in the latter category of personnel is understandable, it would be normal to expect that as the Territory advanced towards self-government the number of European administrative personnel should steadily decrease. Would the special representative enlighten us on what appears to be a too large increase in the European personnel in this period.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I can assure the representative of India that no post that an African is able to hold is now held by a European. If the European personnel is increasing, it is because the services are being diversified, in large part as a result of the implementation of the ten-year plan.

I was very pleased to be able to announce that the Government now has available a larger number of physicians. We have always been told by the World Health Organization that we had too few physicians.

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Special representative)

In five years -- I shall add to the figures quoted by the representative of India those for the year 1958, namely, 809 -- the number of European officials has increased by approximately 230, while the number of Africans has doubled. I think that this, therefore, is no reason for concern. On the contrary, this shows the effort of the administration of Ruanda-Urundi in trying to develop the Territory in every respect.

Mr. JHA (India): A perusal of the table on pages 52 and 53 of the annual report shows that expenditures on European personnel amount to over 32 per cent of the entire administrative expenditure and exceeds by about 8 per cent the amount of the Belgian subsidy. All these factors appear to indicate the need to replace European personnel by indigenous personnel in high administrative posts, although I quite appreciate what the special representative has said that due to the expansion of services a fairly large number of qualified European personnel had to be brought in. If my information is not up to date, perhaps the special representative might like to explain in the same connexion what steps are being taken to train indigenous people for the jobs which are now held by Europeans, that is to say, the higher administrative and technical services.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): First I should like to point out to the representative of India that it is not correct that the administrative and judiciary services, which contain a sizeable segment of African personnel, is increasing. On the contrary, when compared with the total budget of Ruanda-Urundi, it reflects a decrease. If in 1956 the administrative and judiciary services represented 19.95 per cent of the regular expenditures, in 1957 it constituted only 18.15 per cent, and in 1958 it was 17.15 per cent. While the regular budget is increasing in view of the need to develop the country, the administrative services have remained stationary. On the other hand, what is regularly increasing is the expenditure for instruction and for medical services.

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Special representative)

If we employ European staff in the higher posts, it is because we still do not have any Africans who are capable of filling these posts. I wish to emphasize that this is within the framework of the European administration, because Africans are filling important posts within the framework of the African administration. At the present time the pyramid of education has been built up from the bottom. Primary education has been solidly established; a secondary system has been set up; the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi is now ready to deal with higher education. But we still do not have a sufficient staff of young university people to take over the duties of the European officials.

Mr. JHA (India): It will be recalled that the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi had informed the Visiting Mission in 1957 that a direct election of sub-chiefs and councillors would be authorized by law in 1959. This view was reiterated by the representatives of the Administering Authority at the winter session of the Trusteeship Council last year. The representative of Belgium stated yesterday that elections to the sub-chiefdom councils will take place only in 1960. We should, however, like to know whether legislation has actually been adopted or is proposed to be adopted to authorize direct elections to sub-chiefdom councils on the basis of universal adult suffrage and whether any steps have been taken or are intended to transform sub-chiefdom councils into local government bodies with extended powers. While he is answering the question, perhaps the special representative will also say whether any consideration has been given to the suggestion made in the Manifesto of the Bahutu that, to render the functioning of the council less susceptible to influence, the provincial chiefs should withdraw from the council at the chiefdom level.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that there was an error of interpretation here. The representative of Belgium did not say that elections would be postponed till 1960. I myself specified, I think, today that the elections are scheduled for October 1959 and that the Administering Authority will do everything possible to hold them at that time. However, since the reform of the African Administration and of the general political organization of Ruanda-Urundi is now being studied by the working party, and since the working party would not submit to any conclusions before 15 July, it is possible that the date might be postponed, so that the new elections might take place on the basis of the political and administrative reorganization of the country. That statement, as I stressed, was a personal opinion, since I have no official authority to state this. I believe that this answers the question of the representative of India.

Mr. JHA (India): I am grateful to the special representative for the correction. If it was an error that was made, I am grateful to him for having pointed it out.

(Mr. Jha. India)

[Handwritten signature: Jha]

In answer to a question asked by one of my colleagues here, it was stated there were difficulties in introducing women's suffrage. May I know from the special representative what is the nature of the difficulties?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): These are largely of a social and family nature. In the minds of the people of the Territory, women play a very unimportant role. They must be reserved in their relationships with foreigners and even with members of their husbands' families. I do not know of any case of a woman who has fulfilled an important political role. This does not mean that women are without influence over the behaviour of their husbands; on the contrary, they have an indirect influence that is quite extensive. The woman concerns herself largely with the education of the girls, and the husband deals with the education of the boys. The women are bound to observe great reserve and, particularly among the Batutsi, they are subjected to a regime of semi-claustration. For example, when a woman meets a man in the street -- and I have seen this myself -- the woman would step aside and conceal her features.

Things have progressed. The schools have had some influence on this, but it is understandable that in a society where a woman is held in such a position the Barundi and Banyarwanda are still not convinced that women should be given political rights. On the other hand, it is certain that they will be subject to the influence of their women when they exercise their political rights.

[Handwritten signature: Jha]

Mr. JHA (India): Is there any demand for women's suffrage in the Territory? Are there any women's organizations at all, and, if there are any, demanding this right of women's suffrage? Is there any support for this in the Territory?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): All the actions of the Administration are designed to increase the importance of the role of women in the indigenous milieu, but this is from the social angle. There are great social centres where women learn to keep house, where they get

(Mr. Reisdorff,
Special representative)

the rudiments of education and where they learn baby care and the care of older children. A school for African assistants will soon be graduating its first students, so that they will be able to work better in the indigenous milieu, but this social action has not yet had its effect at the political level.

There is no political association of women, for such a concept would still be incomprehensible to the Barundi and Banyaruanda. Not very long ago, the women were not allowed to attend public functions; women of a certain rank did not show themselves in public.

I think that the road that the Administration has taken is the right one: namely, to have women develop through the family and in the social field. Even the indigenous courts have strengthened the rights of women: for example, as regards rights of inheritance. The Administration and the Bami personally have devoted their attention to increasing the rights of women. As I stated a few minutes ago, the Bami have certain rights with respect to civil and indigenous legislation. The Bami are fully aware of the need to give women more rights. The European advisers and the legal advisers who deal with the affairs of indigenous courts have created a system of jurisprudence to give rights to women, who had practically none whatsoever before. I think this will allow the representative of India to see that we are very far removed from political organization as yet.

public force
Mr. JHA (India): I thank the special representative for his answer. It was not a pretty picture that he has painted of women's organizations and women's rights. I come now to my next question. As the special representative is perhaps aware, this Council has shown considerable concern regarding the facts that the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the Trust Territory rests with the contingent of the public force of the Belgian Congo. It cannot be seriously disputed that training for responsibility for self-government or independence must necessarily comprise training of the people of the Trust Territory in maintenance of law and order. The Council had, therefore, at its nineteenth session recommended that the Administering Authority should take steps to expand the participation of the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi in the force of public order. Could the special representative inform the Council of the steps that have been taken to eliminate this anomaly whereby the people of Ruanda-Urundi are excluded from the responsibility of sharing in the maintenance of law and order in the Territory?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Before giving the floor to the special representative to furnish further details of this aspect of the question, I would, however, like to say the following. The responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the Territory is not the responsibility of the public force; it is wholly the responsibility of the Administering Authority. It is the Administering Authority which, in the exercise of this responsibility, relies upon a whole series of bodies -- the general administration; the territorial services -- and as has been said, these people act largely through the medium of giving advice. The Administering Authority also has available a very small contingent of the public force, about the size of a battalion.

Now, as regards the maintenance of order and the functions of the police, these, for all current matters, are exercised by another body, namely the police. And, they have a larger staff than the public force; it consists entirely of indigenous inhabitants and indigenous officers.

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

I have nothing to add to the statement of the representative of Belgium.

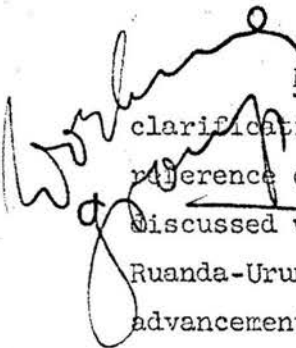
Mr. JHA (India): It is perfectly correct, as the representative of Belgium has said, that the maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the Administering Authority. I have gathered from him that this public force is a special kind of force which is distinct from the normal police force. My point is that considering the fact that the responsibility must devolve more and more into the hands of the people of Ruanda-Urundi -- and that aim cannot be contested by anybody -- considering that, is it not desirable that the public force should be manned by the people of the Territory rather than by the people from another Territory. As far as I understand it, the public force is manned from the Belgium Congo. That is the point that I wanted to know. I would be grateful if -- while I do not dispute the ultimate responsibility of the Administering Authority for law and order -- the special representative, or the representative of Belgium could throw light on the policy which lies behind this. It seems prima facie rather strange that a Territory of over 4 million people, economically fairly advanced, with a commendable record in primary education -- for which the Administering Authority is entitled to take credit -- should not be able to provide for the maintenance for law and order, even if it is something higher than a police force or a para-military force, or something like that. That is what I would like to know. I do not understand the policy of importing a force from the Belgian Congo in the nature of a public force for maintaining law and order.

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

I think that in order to clarify this matter and put it in its true light, we must go back to the foundations. First of all, there is a historic reason. The public force is a body consisting of African members of the Belgian Congo and Belgian officers, which in 1916 occupied Ruanda-Urundi. When Ruanda-Urundi was given by the League of Nations to Belgium as a mandated territory, the clauses of the Mandate Agreement included the following specific text:

"The Mandatory Power should not set up in the Territory any military or naval base, nor shall it set up any fortifications or organize any indigenous military force except to ensure the functions of local police and the defense of the Territory."

This is what the Administration has done. It has organized a police of chiefsdoms. It has organized the general police. But it has left to a small contingent of the public force to constitute the nucleus of a small army which Ruanda-Urundi might need outside its frontiers. As a matter of fact, the public force could be called, and has been called upon to participate in operations during recent hostilities. The recruitment of the public force, therefore, is governed in Ruanda-Urundi by special rules because the indigenous people of this Territory cannot be incorporated into that force. But this did not give rise to any difficulties owing to the fact that the Banyarunda and the Barundi for a long time were not interested in the possibility of entering into the ranks of an army. The position has changed recently. I think, when the Council of the country of Ruanda asked that special legislation governing this public force of Ruanda should be amended to permit the people of Ruanda-Urundi to enlist in the public force. This was the wish of the inhabitants. This question is still under review, and I could not give any information now on this point. But it is certain that the Administering Power would view with some favour the wishes of the inhabitants to participate in this school which would give them valuable training. I am referring, of course, to the public force.

 Mr. JHA (India): I thank the special representative for that further clarification. I will go over to my next question, What are the terms of reference of the working group which has been in the Territory? Have they discussed with the Administering Authority and the General Council, or other Ruanda-Urundi organizations the question of the next stage of constitutional advancement in the Territory as distinguished from administrative adjustments and the structural changes in the relationship between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo? What is the timetable of the report of the working group, and subsequent actions thereon?

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

As was stated by the representative of Belgium, the terms of reference of the working group were very broad. The mission given to this parliamentary group was to inquire into the actions of the organized bodies, as well as of individuals, to the outlook for the political and administrative, and related development of Ruanda-Urundi. The timetable of the group, the only one that I know of, is the declaration of intention. Before the group returned to Belgium it had in mind to submit its report to the Government of Belgium on 15 July. The governmental statement should appear after that date.

note of parties

Mr. JHA (India): I now come to my next question. What is the law regulating the formation of political parties in Ruanda-Urundi? Is the granting or the withholding of permission for the formation of political organizations governed by any principles which have been laid down? Or is this solely in the discretion of the executive to decide? Has a political party which has been refused permission for registration any remedy by way of a plea to judicial or higher executive authority?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There is only ~~one restriction on the rights of association in Ruanda-Urundi,~~ and that pertains to the formation of parties in the extra-customary centres. In the indigenous areas, political parties may form without any prior authorization. Of course, they are responsible under penal law for whatever violations they may commit. In the indigenous sphere, there is no problem and the political parties are free to form without prior authorization.

In the extra-customary centres, the situation is somewhat different for reasons of security and public order. In Ruanda-Urundi the words "extra-customary centres" mean only the centre of Usumbura and two small centres which have only a few hundred inhabitants and are near Lake Tanganyika. In those centres, the formation of political movements is subject to the authorization of the Resident of Urundi. This is merely a question of documentation as far as the Administration is concerned. In such a mixed area where individuals of all races and origins meet it is normal, first of all, to prevent the formation of a party the aim of which is fraud or embezzlement. Some individual could simply collect party dues and then use these dues for his own purposes. The Administration must also have safeguards from the public order point of view.

There is always the possibility of an appeal to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi. There can also be recourse to the Conseil d'Etat. That is all.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 14th Meeting (PM)

PressRelease TR/1496
18 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon began the questioning of Ivan Reisdorff, Belgium's special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, on conditions in that Belgian-administered trust territory, beginning with political conditions.

The first questions were asked by the representative of China.

CHIPING H.C. KIANG (China) noted that there was a considerable spontaneous movement of the population, whether of their own free will or as seasonal workers from Ruanda-Urundi to such neighboring areas as the Belgian Congo, Uganda and Tanganyika. He asked whether the administering authority could give an estimate of the size of this movement during the past three years.

Mr. REISDORFF said the figures given in the annual report on Ruanda-Urundi drew a distinction between emigrants to the Congo and the British territories. The figures relating to emigrants to the Belgian Congo for the years 1956 to 1958 ranged from 5,124 to 2,073. The figures of emigrants to British territories, he said, did not include those who had subsequently returned to Ruanda-Urundi; they ranged from 44,108 in 1955 to 32,956 in 1958.

The figures, he added, concerned emigrants who had left of their own free will or as seasonal workers.

Mr. KIANG went on to ask what effect on the political and social outlook of the people of Ruanda-Urundi had resulted from emigration of people to neighboring areas.

The special representative replied that these people brought back habits, customs and ideas in the regions in which they had lived, in some cases for periods of six months and in others for periods as long as several years.

Mr. KIANG asked what impact such interchange of ideas had had on the political and social evolution in Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. REISDORFF said it was difficult to measure the influence which had been mentioned. He had stated in his opening statement yesterday, he recalled, that a movement involving the emancipation of the peasant classes was taking place in Ruanda-Urundi. It was impossible, he said, to isolate the degree of influence which any particular factor had had in this.

(more)

When asked by the representative of China about the two new political movements which had sprung up in the territory, the special representative said he regretted that he could not give figures on the number of their followers. An indication of that could be gained only after elections had been held, he said. Both movements, he added, defended the idea of the emancipation of the masses.

(The two movements are the Mouvement Social Muhutu and the Association pour la Promotion Sociale de la Masse.)

To another question, Mr. REISDORFF confirmed that the majority of the followers of the two movements were Bahutus.

The special representative, replying to another question by the representative of China, said the date originally set for the completion of the report of the working group set up by the Belgian Government to study the question of the political evolutions in Ruanda-Urundi was 15 July. However, he could not say whether it would be possible to adhere to this date.

ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), speaking for the administering authority, said that on 2 May the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi had announced in the Belgian Parliament the decision to put an end to the administrative centralization which made the Governor-General and his services in Leopoldville a normal part of the machinery for studying and controlling the affairs of Ruanda-Urundi. Beyond this, he had no further information to add on this subject, he said.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 14th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1496
18 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

U TIN MAUNG (Burma), referring to the working group, asked what major changes were envisaged by the administering authority in the political structure of Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT said that the envisaged evolution of the administrative structure probably would entail changes in the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi and in other indigenous councils.

Would the changes affect the very base of the present administrative structure in Ruanda-Urundi, which had been described as a pyramid of indigenous councils extending down to the sub-chiefdom level? the representative of Burma asked.

Mr. REISDORFF said it was difficult for him to foresee the conclusions of the working group. However, as his own personal opinion and without committing his government, he believed that the general policy of the administering authority was to take advantage of existing structures, and to improve and democratize them. Therefore, he personally did not believe that there would be any uprooting of existing structures and their replacement by alien institutions.

GEORGES SALOMON (Haiti) recalled that the Trusteeship Council had in the past considered that politically and economically the two states of Ruanda and Urundi had a common future and had urged that steps be taken by the administering authority toward unifying the two states. He asked what had been done in this direction.

Mr. REISDORFF replied that the government of Ruanda-Urundi had never abandoned efforts for a closer union of the two states, although it was true that the political dualism was deep-rooted.

The two Bami (Kings of Ruanda and Urundi), he said, were opposed to a closer union of their countries and the government must take this into account.

The administering authority, the special representative said, was doing everything possible to encourage a closer union by such means as fostering common organizations and institutions. However, it appeared that the two states tended toward separatism rather than integration.

(more)

Asked whether the working group planned to set any timetable for the evolution of the territory, Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT said the attitude of the administering authority on the setting of abstract timetables was well known to the Trusteeship Council.

Belgium, he declared, did not wish to exercise its authority in Ruanda-Urundi one day longer than it was necessary to achieve the purposes of the trusteeship in conformity with the UN Charter and the freely expressed wishes of the population. However, it was impossible for him at this juncture to say whether the report of the study group would contain anything in the nature of a timetable, although the outlining of interim steps was possible.

Replying to a series of questions by T.P. DAVIN (New Zealand), Mr. REISDORFF gave details concerning the structure of indigenous councils, electoral arrangements, measures to promote a closer union of Ruanda and Urundi, and judicial matters.

Sir ANDREW COHEN (United Kingdom) sought further information about the working group set up to study Ruanda-Urundi's future political changes.

Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT replied that the study group consisted of five members, of whom three were parliamentarians, one was a high-ranking officer of the central African administration in Brussels and another was a member of the Legislative Council which was formerly a body which assisted the King in colonial matters.

The terms of reference of this group, he went on, included inquiring as broadly and as completely as possible into the various problems involved in the present political development of Ruanda-Urundi and the political reforms which were justified. In other words, the terms of reference were very broad; practically nothing was excluded from its purview.

As to the date when the working group would complete its work, Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT said it had finished its work in Africa and had returned to Brussels in May. It had considerable documentation to study, such as the records of meetings totalling over 2,000 pages, and memoranda submitted by individuals. The group, he said, had heard about 700 persons, of whom more than 400 had submitted documents.

(END OF TAKE 2)

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 14th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1496
18 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

C.S. JHA (India) noted that there were two parallel administrations in Ruanda-Urundi, one Belgian and the other indigenous. He asked what the spheres of the two administrations were and what methods of coordination were used.

Mr. REISDORFF said the position of the administering authority in respect to the indigenous administration was one of veto or advice. The chiefs and sub-chiefs of the indigenous administration came under the Mwami (king)* from the disciplinary point of view, although they also came under Belgian officers who served in an advisory role. At the territorial level, chiefs and notables met to discuss steps to be taken and measures of coordination.

Referring to the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi, an advisory body to the Governor of the territory, Mr. JHA asked to what extent the advice of this body was accepted and was binding.

The special representative said one of the great advantages of the General Council was that both its majority and minority opinions exercised an influence in the decisions of the government. The administration, he said, had always supported the important questions on which a decision was taken by the General Council.

Had any steps been taken to integrate the two administrations, as recommended by the Trusteeship Council? the representative of India asked.

Mr. REISDORFF said this was a question which must be solved within the framework of the general administrative and organizational structure. Of importance was the question of the training of Africans for holding posts of higher responsibility; Africanization of the services would aid the process of integration.

The questioning of the special representative for Ruanda-Urundi will be continued by the Council at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

(END OF TAKE 3 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1496)

*Singular