

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL

T/PV.990  
26 June 1959

ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND NINETIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 26 June 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. VITELLI (Vice-President)

(Italy)

1. Request for a hearing concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration 4
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi 5a, 47 (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.990 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## Agenda Item 4

REQUEST FOR A HEARING CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER  
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/1469)

The PRESIDENT: Before we resume the examination of the conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, I should like to inform the Council that several delegations have asked that consideration of the request for a hearing submitted by Mr. Bengamin Ewoudou be postponed until Monday. Is there any objection?

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Is it correct that this is the same request for a hearing which we have already once postponed?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, it is.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In that case, perhaps those who are the initiators of the request to postpone this hearing might explain to us why they wish to have it postponed until Monday.

The PRESIDENT: The Council has just heard the observations made by the representative of the Soviet Union. Does any delegation wish to furnish this information? Since there is none, I think it can be decided along the lines I have just suggested.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The President said that some delegations wish the consideration of this item to be postponed, but ~~why have these delegations decided to remain incognito?~~ If there are reasons for postponing the hearing, then perhaps we should indeed postpone it. But at least I should like to know what the reasons are.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): My delegation is not one of those that informally requested the postponement of the consideration of this request for an oral hearing, but I do so now on the general grounds that it is highly desirable that the representative of the Soviet Union should be allowed to complete the questions which he is addressing to the special representative on the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. I think that we must accelerate the Council's work and give priority to the consideration of Ruanda-Urundi at this time. Delegations need time to prepare their statements for the general debate and Ruanda-Urundi is quite obviously a Territory which should enjoy priority of consideration at this moment.

In making these observations, I also had in mind the fact that the General Assembly has turned its mind fully to the question of the Cameroons. In view of that fact, it would appear that this communication does not call for urgent consideration.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Since we have not heard any serious reasons, and as a matter of fact nobody is endeavouring to adduce such reasons, then I do not understand why we should delay the work of the Trusteeship Council and leave the petitioner in a state of uncertainty. I suggest that we dispose of this matter within the next thirty seconds, namely that we should give the petitioner a hearing and that we should request the Secretariat to inform the petitioner when he should arrive here.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to ask the representative of the Soviet Union whether he is submitting a formal proposal.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Yes, that is a formal proposal.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): At an earlier stage I understood the representative of the Soviet Union to say that if some delegations wished more time, he might be prepared to go along with that. I believe there are some delegation that require more time. That seems to me to be quite enough reason. One does not need to elaborate the reasons. I hope that we do not become divided on this procedural point and that we can agree that the hearing should take place on Monday and should not be postponed again.

The PRESIDENT: Since we have a formal proposal by the representative of the Soviet Union before us, I think the only course left to the Council is to take a vote on it.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Some delegations now seem to be coming forward. It appears that they have not had the opportunity of preparing themselves for this question and they do not wish to discuss it at this stage. We are far from wanting any delegation to take a decision when it is not prepared to do so. We simply wanted to know the reasons for the postponement.



(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

It seems that representatives in the Trusteeship Council are silent, and someone is apparently asking for a postponement, but no one knows which delegations or for what reasons. If we are to defer this matter until Monday, on the condition that on Monday we shall take a decision on it, and if this postponement will assist some delegations in taking a positive position in regard to hearing the petitioner, then indeed there might be some reason for a postponement, and we would not insist on voting on this now if it would indeed place some delegations in a difficult position.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for clarifying his point on this question. I think the Council is agreed that we can, therefore, postpone this question until Monday.

It was so decided.

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. Reisdorf, special representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Social and educational advancement (continued)

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask a question with regard to the observations by UNESCO in document T/1442. On page 12 it is indicated that the Mission schools were given until 1 January 1958 to carry out the requirements regarding the qualifications of students, and it is indicated that if African teachers do not have the requisite qualifications, then apparently these schools will not receive the necessary subsidies from the Government. I should like to know what are

*mission schools*

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

the results that have been produced. Have some schools been deprived of any subsidies as a result of such a measure?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Unfortunately, I do not have this information here. I have indicated to the Council that 200 monitors and 205 lady monitors had started working in 1957, or during the school year 1957-1958; but I do not know whether this is sufficient fully to replace the non-graduate monitors. However, if the representative of the Soviet Union considers that it is important information, I should be pleased to request it from Ruanda-Urundi. If I understood him correctly, he would like to know how many schools are still serviced by non-graduate monitors and, if that is the case, whether they are thereby deprived of their subsidies.

*literacy*  
Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We wish to say that we should be very happy to have any information which the special representative might supply to us at a later stage, perhaps at this session and perhaps also at some later time. On page 302 of the Administering Authority's report it says that there is 60 per cent illiteracy within the area. I should like to know how this ~~percentage has been~~ calculated. Who is considered literate and who is considered illiterate? For instance, if a pupil has studied in a school for one or two years, has then stopped studying and has never studied any further, is he considered illiterate?

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

I believe that illiteracy, if one abides by a common sense definition, is not to know how to read or to write, and not to be able to read enough of the text of a newspaper, nor to be able to write sufficiently the minor letters which the indigenous inhabitants send to each other on daily subjects. I do not believe that there are any tests of education which specify the conditions that indicate illiteracy, or if such tests exist, they are unknown to me. But I believe that the fact of not being able to read a text in the indigenous language -- a current text -- and the inability to write a letter for the everyday needs, are criteria which are perfectly applicable to Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In 1946 the Governor-General Ryckmans, whom all of us here knew as the representative of Belgium for a number of years in the Trusteeship Council, had made a statement in which he promised to eliminate illiteracy in the course of one generation; this approximately by 1970 -- that is the deadline. Within the Trust Territory there is a Ten-Year Plan. Thus, there is still another ten-year interval; and we would wish to know, did the Administering Authority calculate how many elementary and secondary schools were necessary so that all children of school age might attend schools, how many schools are necessary, and what are the financial means necessary for achieving them?

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

The number of schools which will be necessary for the Africans -- I think a rule of three is sufficient if we consider that there will be forty-five students per class. But there are other means whereby the mass of the population may learn to read and to write. The chapel schools and the bush schools have approximately 500,000 adults who follow these courses -- I am giving these figures from memory. For the rest, I have had occasion to show that primary schools, at present, for the first year have just registered a regression for registration.

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

There can be no doubt that at present we could make primary education compulsory; we must continue to encourage school education for a number of years. It is extremely difficult to forecast whether in five, ten or fifteen years we will have solved the illiteracy problem. What we can do is to observe the progress achieved in the field of education. This is a field in which it is the head of a family who has to take the decision regarding the education of the children. There are too many uncertainties for us to be able to arrive at a definite and concrete timing. But I may assure the representative of the Soviet Union that we are making every effort to eradicate illiteracy. A country which devotes an important part of its budget to education, that is to say, 26 per cent in 1960, can certainly not be accused of not making the necessary efforts to solve the problem of illiteracy.

↓  
Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): How much money would be required at this stage in order to build the necessary number of schools, in order to provide schools for all the children of school age at this point. In other words, if the Administering Authority in the Territory were to be given unlimited credits. How much money would you take under those credits in order fully to provide all children of school age with school facilities.

You say that now 26 per cent of the budget is being spent on education. That is a relative figure. On the basis of the number of illiterate people in the Territory, on the basis of the number of children who do not have the opportunity of attending schools, this figure is not adequate -- far from it. Now, if we could have the opportunity of having the necessary funds, how much money would the Administration need? If such calculations have not been carried out, and if the Administration has never actually considered the matter in that light, then I do not wish to press my question at this stage.

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

I believe that there are too many imponderables for us to be able to determine the exact amount of the expenses because it is possible that we may solve illiteracy by the use of the chapel schools, for instance; it is likewise possible that we will have to set up new primary schools in order to solve the problem of illiteracy. On the other hand, a theoretical plan is always an outline based on abstract considerations. We must work with specific concrete facts and know what the Banyaruanda and the Barundi wish. We have to a peasant population and a de facto situation, and I have had occasion to observe hundreds of times that in a Munyaruanda family the father designates certain children who will attend school and the others will take care of the herds. Can we force the father to send all his children to school without providing him with the means to continue with his agricultural life? This is one of the imponderables. Undoubtedly all children should have primary education, and all adults should be able to read. But there are far too many factors of a personal and imponderable character for me to be able to give an amount, or even to ask the Government of Ruanda-Urundi to determine the amount of expenses that would be required.

*question*  
*petitions*

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The representative of the United Kingdom expressed the wish to hear our questions as soon as possible. We are equally eager to hear the representative of the United Kingdom in the general debate. But before going on to the general debate, I should like to know from you, Mr. President, when we shall be able to put a few questions dealing with the petitions and communications which raise general questions. These petitions and communications are enumerated in T/PET.GEN/L.2, 3; T/PET.3/L.9; T/COM.3/L.23 to 25. Should this be done now or perhaps in a little while when the other representatives will have put their questions on the report of the Administering Authority?

The PRESIDENT: I think that we could come to the questioning mentioned by the representative of the Soviet Union once we are through with the questioning on the social and cultural matters concerning the Territory. If the representative of the Soviet Union agrees, this will be done in conformity with the customary procedure in this Council. Does the representative of the Soviet Union wish to continue with his questioning now?

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your clarification. We are prepared to put our questions on the petitions at a time when you will give us the opportunity of doing so.

*labour*

Mr. YANG (China): My first question relates to labour. We have been told that in November 1957, the Inter-Territorial Conference, which was held in Usumbura, decided to introduce a model labour contract which would bind all persons recruiting labour and guarantee respect by the employer of the place of destination and of the principal clauses of the labour legislation. Could the special representative kindly tell the Council something about this model labour contract.



Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The following are the conditions under which this document was drawn up. Several preliminary conferences, as I have already had occasion to indicate, dealt with the question of migrant workers; that is to say, workers who, at their own expense, went to Uganda or to Tanganyika and obtained employment on the spot, of their own free will, with African employers or in plantations which were European or Asiatic, or in commercial enterprises. The workers who are regularly employed sign contracts.

The contracts were drawn up on the following basis. There had to be a parallel between the labour legislation of Ruanda-Urundi, of Uganda and of Tanganyika, and the provisions of the International Labour Organisation Conventions, in such a way that the Ruanda-Urundi workers recruited in Ruanda-Urundi would benefit from the maximum advantages available to workers in the countries in which they render services, and at the same time would benefit from the protection of international legislation. In carrying out this study, the specialists on labour matters realized that basically the legislation was very similar because they were all guided by the provisions of the International Labour Organisation Conventions. So that the following practical steps were taken: the contract which binds indigenous inhabitants from Ruanda-Urundi is drafted in French, in English and in the language of the worker, Kinyarwanda or Kirundi. Before leaving the Territory, if the worker was in a proper state of health, if he had registered his property, if he left behind him no family suits, he would go before the Administrator of the Territory who would ask him whether he had properly understood the contract to which he had committed himself.

It is only when he comes before the Administrator of the Territory that the Munyarwanda or the Murundi knows what are the clauses of his contract, and then the Administrator gives his authorization and permission to leave the Territory. These are the formalities which are laid down in the contract that is now used in connexion with workers recruited in British West Africa.



X Mr. YANG (China): Could the special representative tell the Council if the above-mentioned Conference held its annual session in 1958, and if it did, where? I should also like to know from the special representative whether any important decisions were taken at that 1958 session which would have a bearing on labour legislation in Ruanda-Urundi. To be specific, I should like to know if there were any discussions concerning the workers who migrate spontaneously each year from Ruanda-Urundi to its neighbouring territories. I am sure that the Trusteeship Council would be glad to know whether any measures have been taken on an inter-territorial basis to ensure that these spontaneous migrants are properly employed and their rights as immigrant workers reasonably safeguarded.

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

In 1958 a conference was held in Kampala in Uganda. A second conference of doctors was held at Kisenyi, on the edge of Lake Kivu. The problem of migrant workers has two aspects: the technical aspect of work and the health aspect. Generally, the two aspects are envisaged by a single conference, but this time the doctors met separately because the Medical Service of Uganda wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to consider also the situation of migrant workers from the Belgian Congo into Uganda, and they wanted to consult the doctors in Kivu.

From the point of view of work, the Kampala Conference mainly studied the implementation of contracts. However, it also studied certain very important points concerning parallel payment of indemnities for accidents occurring at work. Let us say that an employee in Ruanda-Urundi -- let us say, for example, a chauffeur -- has an accident in Uganda. The clauses covering indemnities for accidents occurring at work have one scale of payment for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi and another scale for Uganda. The matter is brought before a Uganda court. In this case the problem arose of determining whether the rate of insurance which the employer of the chauffeur paid should be taken into account or whether it was the rate of insurance which was in force in Uganda. It is this type of question which, among others, was examined by the Labour Conference at Kampala.

Then consideration was given to the question of the repatriation of the sick; for example, the transportation of sick people to and from the hospital.

*loc. work's Council*

Mr. YANG (China): My next question is a very brief one. The Council has been told in the past that every establishment employing 100 or more workers is required to have an indigenous workers council. We also know that in centres or areas where the size of the labour force justified such action, the Governor may establish local workers committees. Now I recall that when the Council last examined conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, we were told that there was only one such committee in the Trust Territory; I think it is in Usumbura. Could the special representative tell the Council if there has been any increase in the number of local workers committees during the period under review?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The local workers committees, which were really organized in Usumbura in 1956, have increased in number. Three local workers committees have been set up in 1958: one at Ngozi, another at Nyanza and the third at Ruhengeri.

*rights of workers*

Mr. YANG (China): I should like to refer the special representative to the 1957 report of the Visiting Mission and in particular to paragraph 216. The beginning of this paragraph states:

"The Administration was in the past very optimistic and the Ten-Year Plan stated that the population of Ruanda-Urundi, unusually dense in the heart of the black continent, could become a vital factor in the development of the Territory because of its productivity and consumption potentials; like Belgium, which is a small, densely populated territory unable to feed its population, Ruanda-Urundi, situated in central Africa, would specialize in the import and processing of primary products from the vast territories around it where manpower is lacking; it would be able to found its wealth on the labours of its population which would go into the production of manufactured goods for export; these exports would provide it with the means to obtain from outside the country essential foodstuffs in which it was deficient, as also the goods necessary to its progress and well-being."

(Mr. Yang, China)

In the light of this statement and in view of the fact that there is still a considerable number of migrant workers continuously going into the neighbouring Territories each year to seek employment, I should to ask the special representative if the Administering Authority has any idea as to when the Trust Territory will be able fully to absorb its own labour force and to turn it profitably into an asset in its implementation of its integrated programmes of economic development.

This is a rather general question, but in view of the fact that the special representative knows the conditions in the Territory so well, I think he will pardon me if I put the question in a general way. Whatever information he can give or whatever views he can express on the subject will be very much appreciated by my delegation.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I really do not believe that the ten-year plan obliged any migrant workers to go from Ruanda-Urundi to a neighbouring country. This is what happens in any territory which is over-populated or which has poor natural resources; labour is always exported and this eventually forms a source of wealth for the country itself, on condition of course that the labour is not needed within the country for general development purposes. In Ruanda-Urundi the labour force is abundant and with the exception of two parts of the Territory there is no limitation on recruitment by enterprises situated in Uganda, Tanganyika or the Kivu provinces. Migrant labour is to some extent stabilized in the sense that it is usually seasonal; it is a kind of frontier migration in which workers find a source of fresh money in a neighbouring territory and later come back with their families and benefit their country of origin by investing the money therein.

The main effort of the Administration consists at present of a total reconversion of agriculture; Ruanda-Urundi is an essentially agricultural and pastoral country, but it cannot remain like that and must intensify industrialization. I have already given an account of the hopes we have placed on electrification; we hope to find new minerals to replace those which are no longer profitable and to develop the indigenous artisans. That is why we have set up craft schools. Above all, we hope to improve the value of the soil by introducing new methods and, on the basis of increased agricultural production, to create industries for the processing of agricultural products. These are our objectives at present; whether one day we shall also be able to process raw materials coming from neighbouring countries is a possibility which is not to be discarded but is still only a possibility at this stage.

*compulsory  
labour*  
Mr. YANG (China): My next question relates to compulsory agricultural work, a subject which has already been touched upon by a number of representatives. We all know that this work is unpaid and that it is wholly for the benefit of the population. It was so arranged that no one was obliged to give more than sixty days' work a year. We learn from the annual report that the Order of 10 July 1957 transferred the powers relating to compulsory labour to the indigenous authorities;

in particular, the fruit-growing campaigns were entrusted on a trial basis to the tribal authorities in sixteen chiefdoms in Ruanda and one chiefdom in Urundi. In this connexion my delegation is pleased to note, from the additional information furnished in document T/1452, that in 1959 the Administering Authority believes the indigenous farmers to be sufficiently mature and experienced to enable it to revoke the regulations imposing the compulsory cultivation of minimum areas of manioc and sweet potatoes. What accounts for this sudden maturity, which led the Administering Authority to abolish these regulations, and if this new measure was applied only to the sixteen chiefdoms in Ruanda, what happened about the one chiefdom in Urundi?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The elimination of that regulation applied to all the sub-chiefdoms of Ruanda. The reason for it was that the Administration felt the time had come to make the Africans face up to their responsibilities in regard to the provision of foodstuffs. Compulsory labour was applied in the first place in order to overcome the uncertainties facing the farmers. Indeed, in view of their social organization the farmers at one time were not interested in producing more than their annual consumption, and therefore the slightest irregularity in the climate produced a famine. It was necessary to make the farmers understand where their interests lay by compelling them to grow minimum areas of manioc and sweet potatoes, which constitute a reserve during a drought. Manioc can be kept in the ground for three years and thus for that time it forms a reserve against want. When the Administration realized that there was no longer any difficulty in getting the majority to do this, and when also the mass of the farmers asked that confidence should be placed in them, the Council of Ruanda proposed the measure and the Administration willingly gave its agreement. As I have had the opportunity of explaining, the situation in Urundi is not quite the same, but we hope that the Council of Urundi will send us a proposal in the near future which will make it possible for us likewise to abolish compulsory agricultural work in Urundi.



*Housing*

Mr. YANG (China): My next question relates to the work of the Bureau for African Housing which was established in 1952. In particular, I would like to refer to the Building Fund which grants loans to indigenous inhabitants for the construction, purchase or alteration of houses of durable or semi-durable materials. For the year under review, the Building Fund granted loans amounting to 11,302,128 francs, and for 1958 the amount was 4,504,300 francs. What accounts for this sharp decrease between the figure for 1957 and that for 1958?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): If the loans of the Building Fund have indeed shown a certain drop in the course of 1958 it was principally due to the legislation which modified the King's Fund and which, in the view of many Africans, has now made it more accessible. The situation is the following. The Building Fund works in co-operation with the King's Fund. The Building Fund makes available a sum of money to an African who wants to build a house as the construction of this work progresses, and the King's Fund enters in the financing of the Building Fund by reimbursing approximately one fifth of the advance that was made so that the beneficiary of the King's Fund has to meet only four fifths of the advance. However, it is required that the construction be of durable materials, namely brick and tile. It then appeared that this fund of approximately 11 million francs per year, which gave only 4 million francs to Ruanda and 3 million francs to Urundi in the rural areas, did not in fact meet the wishes of the population, because the population wanted to extend the application of the King's Fund to buildings partly of durable materials, in other words buildings whose base was cement, with the walls made of dry brick and the roof made of tile. This makes the construction very much cheaper and it will still last for several decades.

The King's Fund has agreed to consider these requests and now the King's Fund makes grants to the indigenous population for construction of this type. It grants them 3,000 francs when they have finished the foundation of the house and 5,000 francs when they have finished the roof of the house. Many Africans find it more advantageous to receive these grants rather than to go through the trouble of having to deal with the Building Fund. The only people now who apply to the Building Fund are those who want to build large houses. The ordinary farmer obtains his funds directly from the King's Fund. They must,



(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

of course, add a certain amount of money because one cannot build a house with 8,000 francs. As a result of this procedure, they do not have any debts. Money borrowed from the Building Fund must normally be repaid over a period of five, ten or fifteen years.

Mr. YANG (China): My next question relates to the King's Fund which was set up in 1955. I have before me document T/1452, which uses the word "loan", and document T/L.909, which uses the word "gift". Is it the purpose of this Fund to make gifts to deserving indigenous inhabitants or to make loans to indigenous inhabitants whose incomes are still too low to purchase a house?

*King's  
Fund*

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There are gifts to permit Africans to live in a house; they are not loans.

Mr. YANG (China): I understand that in the four months after the relevant ordinance dealing with this Fund was modified, the Fund made gifts totalling 3,215,020 francs. What was the amount of the gifts made to the indigenous people before the ordinance was modified?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French):  
I have not the breakdown of the previous financial years, but there were only ten occasions when the Fonds du Roi acted in its initial form. That is the reason why it was decided to simplify the formalities and not to connect it to the bulding fund, to convert it into a gift arrangement subject to the condition that the Administration would be certain that the money would be used for the construction of houses meeting the hygiene and health requirements. The gift may be made in terms of either actual money or materials or it may be partly in money and partly in bricks or tiles. In any case, there is a certain control. This money cannot be diverted from its intended purpose. However, to get back to the specific question of the representative of China, I do not have the figures, but the Fonds du Roi does not have an opportunity of operating in its initial form in Ruanda-Urundi, in view of the special nature of the inhabitants.

Mr. YANG (China): I thank the special representative for what he has just said in connexion with the point I raised. I have two more brief questions, one in the same field and the other in the educational field.

*health*  
I should like to draw the attention of the special representative to the concluding part of the paper by WHO on the annual report on the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi for the year 1957. Mention was made in the concluding paragraphs of the introduction of programmes of health promotion into the curative services, and it is the view of WHO that the participation of the people in the health programme should be a basic element in all medical and health planning. In the last paragraph it is stated:

"The establishment of this principle first of all in a pilot area would be desirable, in order that methods best suited to local conditions may be worked out and staff trained for the subsequent extension of the programme to the rest of the Territory. The World Health Organization would be glad to assist the Administration, if so requested, in the planning and organization of such a pilot demonstration and training area." (T/1461, page 5)

(Mr. Yang, China)

It seems to my delegation that this idea is a good one. I would welcome some comments from the special representative on whether that suggestion is agreeable to the Administration, and whether the Administration would take advantage of this offer on the part of WHO in connexion with the planning and organization of such a pilot demonstration and training area.

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

I shall certainly inform the Government of Ruanda-Urundi of the suggestion of WHO, which is constructive and interesting. WHO and the medical and health services of Ruanda-Urundi have collaborated in numerous fields, and I am persuaded that they will find in this an opportunity for further and fruitful co-operation. I have already had the opportunity on an earlier occasion to contemplate, even within the framework of the present attempts of Ruanda-Urundi, the inclusion of an attempt of this kind by the crews which are now or will be set up in the near future in Urundi for trial transformations of the life of a subchiefdom generally, and these crews are called rural promotion crews.

Mr. YANG (China): I thank the special representative for the assurance that the suggestion made by WHO will be brought to the attention of the Administering Authority.

I now come to my last question, which is in the educational field. The special representative in his opening statement made reference to the sharp increase in the number of girls in primary schools. I understand that for the year 1950, of the 8,633 additional pupils attending primary schools, 7,242, or 84 per cent, were girls. Could the special representative give the Council some reasons for this sharp increase in the number of girls attending primary schools?

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

I think that there has not been any peculiar phenomenon in this field. Each thing comes in due course. The general movement towards education first had to express itself through an increase in the number of boys. As I had the opportunity

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

of saying, women and girls are customarily retained within a large reservation. Not very long ago they could not attend public festivities and they were obliged to remain at home as much as possible. Instruction, as far as girls and women are concerned, was a very remote concept. But now, with the modification in the point of view of the Banyaruanda and the Barundi, girls also have found the opportunity of going to school, and I am quite certain that this trend will go on. It is a part of the general evolutionary movement within Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. YANG (China): I have no more questions. I wish to thank the special representative once again for his full and detailed answers to all my questions.

*language*  
Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have merely one question at this late stage, and it relates to the languages in use in the Territory. I would refer the special representative to page 310 of the report, and particularly to paragraph 181. It is said there that the national language of Ruanda is Kinyarwanda and that that of Urundi is Kirundi. It says that both languages have been standardized; that spelling and pronunciation in accordance with this standardization are taught in all the schools in a general fashion; and apparently that the teachers are freed from dialectical and regional differences of pronunciation. It then goes on to say that the two languages have profound resemblances and that the Barundi and the Banyaruanda understand each other's language perfectly. If that is so, I should like to know what differences remain in the two languages. Are they as close, for instance, as dialects of a language like English? Would the difference be greater than would be the case, for instance, when a Lancashire man talks to a Scot? Perhaps he could tell me something of that? Is it necessary to unify them?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): It is quite certain that these are two sister languages, and it is also certain that these languages use different, or slightly different, words for almost all concepts. The languages are palate languages in which some words are almost the same. In all the Bantu languages, the system of sentence construction

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special  
representative)

and the grammar are the same. The words used, whether in Kirundi, Kinyarwanda or Roukiga, which is spoken in Uganda, are similar; however, they are different languages.

In other words, in speaking of these languages, in view of the similarity of the terms, particularly the similarity of the construction one can understand someone who speaks the neighbouring language. Nevertheless, the majority of the words are different with the exception of certain words which then will occur in some twenty Bantu languages; so that in fact there is not only between the Kirundi and the Kinyarwanda the problem of equalization, a sort of practical rule to be found so that the words might be identical. I find it difficult to compare with respect to European languages, because European languages are of different construction from each other frequently, whereas here the system of construction of the language is the same. But I do not think that at the present stage it may be possible to hope or to look forward to having a single language out of Kirundi-Kinyarwanda. I still think they are too far removed from each other for that.

✓ Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I should like to thank the special representative for his reply. I can see that the differences are sufficiently wide to make fusion desirable at some future date. I see also that attempts to fuse the language, which have been made by the Administration, have run into considerable difficulty. However, speaking for myself I hope that they will persevere with that as opportunity offers, because I think it will be a profound force in modifying the separatism of the two States that make up the Territory.

✓ Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): The various problems which arise in the social and educational fields have been sufficiently explored by the representatives who have spoken before me, particularly my colleagues from India and the Soviet Union. Hence, my delegation will put no questions on these subjects. However, I should like to stress a special aspect to which I attach great importance.

My delegation has noted that the legislation of the Territory follows certain criteria which are either vague or difficult to capture, and this is very important because the legislation bears on public liberties.



(Mr. Mufti, United Arab Republic)

To illustrate my point I should like to refer to page 184 of the annual report. Under "Freedom of Association" we read:

"In the extra-customary centres the indigenous inhabitants can only group themselves together in association with the agreement of the Resident. However, the Ordinance of 11 February 1926 provides that this authorization shall only be refused for associations, whose existence might run counter to civilization..."

This is what my delegation was struck by, "associations whose existence might run counter to civilization" or "counteract civilization". Could the special representative tell us what the Administering Authority means by the word "civilization"? And what activities or what associations could fall under this heading?

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

I think that first of all we must interpret this text by reading it from one end to the other: "... which might run counter to civilization or constitute a threat to peace and public order." Therefore, civilization is not to be placed on a philosophical plane in this context. We do not wish to stress the comparative value of this or that civilization. Civilization here simply means a whole group of provisions, and the group of modes of life which are brought to a primitive people to show it the path for better well-being, and towards human progress. Contraventions of what might be called civilization might be vestiges of a barbarian past; without actually disrupting public order, if certain African sects were to regroup themselves, whose practices are contrary to good modes and to the good concepts which are at the basis of progress -- the kind of progress which the Administration has been trying to implant in the Territory -- it is certain that some contraventions would be made of the principle of civilization at the level at which the African population should reach, and the level which we wish the African population to reach.

Let us take the case of the Gicurasi, something typically Murundi; the Gicurasi was the feast of Spring. In its initial form the feast was refused and an association was formed in this field. And if it had so formed, it would have been objected to on the same basis because it contained certain



acts of bestiality; for instance, to fill a trough with beer and to force some unfortunate Batwa to drink with his head in the trough until the moment when he falls down amidst the laughter and general frolicking of the members present. Moreover, there were certain sexual rites which were carried out in semi-clandestine circumstances which were half-concealed from the public but in which the whole of the public took part, if only intellectually. Therefore, it must be considered that an association which would have intended to establish such rites was an association which definitely affected the degree of civilization which the Administration wished to introduce within the Territory.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

I am sorry to say that my delegation is not fully satisfied with this explanation. If we are taking as a criterion the standards of civilization, of a certain culture, it is very difficult to draw the line, especially since we are faced with a statutory text which limits fundamental freedom, such as the freedom of association. Such a text should be more specific. Obviously, one cannot ask persons to violate texts or standards of law unless they are thoroughly understood. That is an elementary condition for the application and implementation of laws.

My delegation would likewise wish to mention another example which appears on page 183 of the annual report, namely prohibiting the publication of newspapers. If the Administration considers that some newspapers run counter to civilization and are dangerous to public order and peace, and harmful to the operation of the Trusteeship System, my delegation would like to know whether information concerning the operation of the Trusteeship System has received proper dissemination in the Territory, so that one could indeed ask the population not to violate the rules governing the operation of Trusteeship.

*Press*

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

I already gave an explanation yesterday regarding the dissemination of information in respect of United Nations agencies. I am somewhat surprised at the intervention of the representative of the United Arab Republic because I had assumed that this concept -- which as a matter of fact was reproduced in the report -- was clear, inasmuch as the Administration, through the schools, the press and publications, had fulfilled the duty of informing the population of the United Nations agencies.

On the other hand, in what respect could a newspaper run counter in its actions to the United Nations? By fomenting racial hatred, by violating all the principles which are at the basis of the very operation and functioning of the collective organs of the United Nations.



Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

Our Organization has received from a certain Mr. Joseph Habyalimana Gitera a communication which was distributed in document T/COM.3/L.24. In this communication the author protests against an article which a certain "J.M. Habyalimana" is alleged to have published in the newspaper Temps Nouveau. In this article of 23 February 1958, the author says in Temps Nouveau:

"In reading all these fine speeches I wondered whether we were not dealing with mad men."

The author of the article was speaking of the members of the Trusteeship Council. Later we find the following passage:

"I do not aver that everything that these speakers said was really sensible, for it is more than likely that none of them has ever set foot in Ruanda-Urundi, but apart from that there is not much to reproach them with ..."

Then he goes on to say what I have already quoted. My delegation would like to know whether the publication of an article in the Territory that includes such passages is in accord with the proper operation of the Trusteeship System in the Territory, and I should like to know what measures the Administering Authority took in order to put an end to the publication of such articles. I should also like to point out that this newspaper appears in the list published in the annual report of the Administering Authority and that therefore it has not ceased publication in the Territory.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The communication in question, in the document to which the representative of the United Arab Republic referred, consists of newspaper polemic, as it were, and the author deemed it appropriate to send a copy of that to the President of the Trusteeship Council. This document, in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, is transmitted for information to the members of the Trusteeship Council. On the other hand, this communication does not transmit the article in full. The communication only chooses certain excerpts. It is not for the Belgian delegation here to comment upon newspaper polemic.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

In any event, I can assure the representative of the United Arab Republic that if the article to which the correspondent in question refers to were to contain any ideas or any acts which came under penal laws, the proper sanctions would have been applied.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

My delegation put a specific question. We should like to know whether any sanctions have been taken with respect to this newspaper. I recall the legislation that exists in the Territory which prohibits the publication of newspapers that are considered to be harmful to the operation of the Trusteeship System, and I have read out the passages of the article in order to show clearly that the members of the Trusteeship Council are spoken of as "mad men". Therefore, it cannot be said that this article is not harmful to the operation of the Trusteeship System, because then we would have to take another position. I should like to know whether any sanctions have been taken in regard to this newspaper.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The representative of the United Arab Republic has somewhat the attitude of adopting the words of the Bible, as mentioned by the correspondent of the letter which was reproduced by the Secretariat. If sanctions -- of which I do not know -- have not been applied, it is probably because the views of Mr. Habyalimana Gitara do not correspond to those of the responsible legislative authorities in charge of supervising the Press.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

I should like to thank the representative of Belgium, but I would like to know whether it is not possible to make available to the Council the article in question so that we may judge for ourselves whether such an article was published in the newspaper or not. That is a request which I should like to address to the Belgian delegation.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Belgian delegation supplies a large number of documents and it does not consider itself bound to supply, on this sort of basis, any articles or all articles appearing in the Ruanda-Urundi press. If some members of the Council are interested in acquiring information regarding the Ruanda-Urundi press, they have every liberty in having these newspapers sent to them.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): I do not know whether this reply is tantamount or not to an acceptance of our request to make the article available to members of the Council. My delegation is particularly interested in this question and I believe other delegations are also interested in this question.

Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I am sorry to say that this reply, in the view of my delegation, does not consist of an acceptance by my delegation to supply that article simply because we do not have it.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation would also like to see that article and would also like to request the representative of Belgium or the special representative to give us the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with that article.

Mr. CIAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I can only reply to the representative of the Soviet Union in the same manner in which I replied to the representative of the United Arab Republic.

WJ  
WJ  
WJ  
WJ  
WJ  
WJ  
7  
WJ  
WJ  
Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): My delegation would like to have some information regarding the Lavigerie Press in Usumbura which publishes two publications in French and three in the vernacular language. We should like to know if this publishing house is not owned, in one way or another, by the Administering Authority.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I can assure the representative of the United Arab Republic that the Lavigerie Press in Usumbura is not run in any way at all by the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi. The Administration of Ruanda-Urundi has the same attitude concerning the Lavigerie Press as it has with respect to any other printers of newspapers. It buys, through the Indigenous Affairs Office, a certain number of newspapers which it makes available to certain interested people.



Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): My delegation would like to know how newsprint is distributed in the Territory. Can the newspapers purchase this paper directly in the market or must they go through administration channels in order to obtain this paper?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The sale of newsprint is free in Ruanda-Urundi just as is the sale of all other commodities because trade is free in the Territory.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): I put a very specific question about newsprint and not of paper in general. I should like to know if the sale of newsprint is free in trade or if the newspapers must import it and obtain import licenses for it.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The importation of paper into Ruanda-Urundi is free, whether it is newsprint or any other type of paper. I must say that I do not understand very well the scope of the question of the representative of the United Arab Republic. The importation of paper is unrestricted, and it is not subject to any quota system or any other requirement on the part of the Administration.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): I apologize for insisting on this question, but I should like to know whether any import licenses are necessary for obtaining newsprint. I am putting a very specific question.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): An import licence for newsprint is not required.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): My delegation has no further questions, and I should like to thank the representative of Belgium and the special representative for the replies they have given. At the same time, I should like to express our regret that the Belgian delegation in this specific case has not given us its co-operation, since it is possible for that delegation to make available to us the text of the article in question, because, after all, it is the duty of the Belgian delegation to put an end to the publication of articles of this kind which are detrimental to the functioning of the Trusteeship System.

The PRESIDENT: There is no one else on my list of speakers, and I think we might take our usual recess.

The representative of India has asked to speak, and I now call on him.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I should like to ask the Committee Secretary through the President whether the Secretariat does receive any newspapers from the Territory, and, if so, whether they are in possession of the particular article to which the representative of the United Arab Republic referred. If they do have it, they could, perhaps, place a copy of it on the table of the Council for perusal by members.

The PRESIDENT: In reply to the questions asked by the representative of India, I can say on behalf of the Secretariat that it does not have this particular paper available. They have several papers of the Territory. They will take the question asked by the representative of India into consideration, and they will inform us later on concerning this particular matter.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): Mr. President, speaking personally, I do not think that any damage can be done to the prestige of the Council or of members by an attack by a newspaper on their calibre or character. I do not think we need to feel too much concerned about that aspect of the matter. However, the issue is that there is a newspaper article about which we have a petition, and

that certain members of the Council wish to see that article. It should therefore be placed within their reach. That is why I suggested that if the Secretariat has a copy of it, it should be placed on the Council table for perusal by members.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of India for his clarification, but that was the sense of my reply to him.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): In view of the statement just made by the representative of India, I believe that it is my duty to give some clarification. My delegation raised this question not because it felt that such an article would be detrimental to the Trusteeship Council but because -- and that is the main reason for our intervention -- sanctions should have been taken against this newspaper since the legislation in force in the Territory clearly provides that such articles shall not be published.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I understand now what the trend of the statement made by the representative of the United Arab Republic is, but I must repeat that the Trusteeship Council is not capable of substituting itself for the organs of justice of Ruanda-Urundi in the case of a newspaper in Ruanda-Urundi. When the representative said that sanctions should have been applied, he knew what he was saying. If the article in question was not the object of sanctions, and I do not even know whether this was the case or not, it is because the responsible authority decided that it did not come under the relevant laws. As a matter of fact, I have made every reservation, as I pointed out earlier regarding this article, since it was contained in a document that the representative referred to and I am not in a position to say whether that document reflects the article in question with sufficient accuracy or not.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If the Council agrees, we can now take our customary fifteen-minute recess, since there are no more speakers.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I understand that the Secretariat is to make some inquiries concerning a newspaper or journal published in one of the Trust Territories. I express the hope that any inquiry that may be made will not convey to any people in any Trust Territory that any members of this Council are disposed to suppress the freedom of the press.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The President stated that there were no more speakers, but I wish to point out that the Soviet Union delegation had asked permission to put a few questions relating to petitions of a general character. Of course that can be done after the recess.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As I said, that can be done after the recess, for which it is now almost time.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I am compelled to ask for the floor because of the remarks made just now by the representative of Australia. As will be recalled, I asked on behalf of my delegation whether the Secretariat had a copy of this particular journal, and if so I suggested that it should be placed on the Council table for the general information of members. I did not at any time suggest that the Secretariat should make detailed inquiries as to why the article was written or suggest that the Council should take measures to suppress of the press in the Territory. There seems to be some sort of insinuation in the remarks of the representative of Australia reflecting on the request I had made through the President to the Secretariat, and that is why I wished to explain the position of my delegation on the point.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I am very grateful for the assurance of the representative of India, an assurance which I personally did not need so far as his delegation is concerned. The Indian delegation is as dedicated as the Australian delegation to the freedom of the press in the Territory, but I did detect in the course of the discussion some references to the possibility of judicial action with respect to some article which I have not seen. I feel that while we ought in principle to take an interest in the press of all the Territories, in taking that interest we must not in any way convey the impression that we want to circumscribe the freedom of the press. I make that statement knowing that the press of certain Territories in which I am interested is quite free with its criticism of the Administration and is on occasion quite freely given to criticism of myself.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I would like to ask the President whether we might now indulge ourselves in the alienable freedom, at any rate of Englishmen, to take a cup of tea?

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French): I regret that the representative of Australia should have decided to distort the question. It was not the freedom of the press which was at issue in the question I raised; my delegation simply asked for the text of the article published in

(Mr. Mufti, United Arab Republic)

the newspaper. That is the only request I made, and I also asked the Administering Authority whether it did or did not take any action against the newspaper which published the article. This has nothing to do with the freedom of the press.



The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In view of the fact that our agenda indicates that we might be considering petitions and communications raising general questions, I should like to draw the attention of the Council to some of these petitions. The first petition (T/PET.3/L.9) is from representatives of the Abarosi Africans of Ruanda-Urundi, who claim to represent 150,000 Africans. They protest against the Ministers' meeting on the grounds that Africans were not invited to participate at that meeting to express their views regarding the development of reforms dealing with the future of Ruanda-Urundi. They indicate that while Ruanda-Urundi is a Trust Territory, no representative of the United Nations was invited to participate in the work of that Committee. They fear that the Government of Ruanda-Urundi, in which Africans are not duly represented, which is conducting the work of the Committee, will conclude that Africans are backward and that it is premature to speak of independence or self-government for Ruanda-Urundi. They request the United Nations to approach the Belgian Government with a view to halting the activities of that Committee until the representatives of the Africans, and also the representatives of the United Nations, are allowed to participate in its work.

We would like to put a few questions in connexion with this petition to the representative of the Administering Authority. A copy of this petition was directed to the Minister of Ruanda-Urundi and to the Governor of Ruanda. Did these officials of the Belgian Administering Authority give any explanation to the Abarosi African Committee?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): Members of the Trusteeship Council have before them the report of the Administering Authority and the series of documents listed in the Journal. Therein are certain general petitions and communications, which are known to the members of the Trusteeship Council. They have had sufficient time to consider the information provided therein and formulate questions on the various matters to address to the Administering Authority during the questioning period. However, since the representative of the Soviet Union is new to the Council and has perhaps omitted certain questions in the general question period, I have, of course, no objections to re-opening the questioning on certain specific points that may be of interest to him. I shall therefore request the special representative to reply to the two specific questions which, as I understand it, were put to the Belgian delegation by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I wish to state to the Council that this letter was not received by the Administering Authority, which has officially advised me of this.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My next question is as follows: Did this working committee at the ministerial level have any contacts with the African committee that I have mentioned with the object that account might be taken of the opinions of that committee in the development of reforms?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I am very familiar with the Muhura hill, near Kigali, because I have lived for a long time in the Kigali part of the Territory. I can assure you that there are no Abarosi in the Kigali part of the Territory, particularly at Muhura. "Abarosi" is not a Ruanda word; it is not in Kinyarwanda. I am surprised that a group of 150,000 people should call themselves Abarosi. Furthermore, the names of the signatories for the most part are not Banyaruanda. Therefore this petition plunges me into an abyss of perplexity because I do not know of this movement, and my first impression is that these are not Banyaruanda.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In spite of the fact that the special representative says that there is no such group of 150,000 Africans at this particular locality, it seems to me that in this particular instance that has no significance. The point is that we have received a petition in which the indigenous population requests to be admitted to participation in the work of a working committee which is developing reforms in respect of Ruanda-Urundi. We have already heard from the statements of the special representative that this working committee did not have any representatives, and we were told that it consulted certain definite groups of the population. That is why I asked the question whether this committee consulted the group that sent the petition to us.

Mr. President, I should like to draw your attention to the communication in document T/COM.3/L.23. In connexion with this petition, I should like to the following question to the special representative. How many Ruanda-Urundi Africans have received higher education, during the time that Ruanda-Urundi has been a Trust Territory under Belgian administration, through the assistance of fellowships or scholarships offered by the Belgian Government?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): In reply to the first remark of the representative of the Soviet Union, I should like to recall that the machinery whereby the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi, and their representative organs, were invited to co-operate in the operation of the working group was explained at great length, sufficiently I believe, in the course of the questionnaire to the Administering Authority and to the special representative, with all the questions that were put by the delegations at that time.

Now, with respect to the question that the Abarosi, or the so-called Abarosi Committee, was not consulted, that is because it was to our knowledge non-existent. The 150,000 persons who were mentioned -- well, if they use a number, they might have said 15,000 or 5,000.

I should like to call on the special representative to reply to the question relating to T/COM 3/L.23.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I have had occasion to clarify in the course of the consideration of the report on the part on education, that there are at present no Africans holding a university degree, with the exception of one African; there is only one African who now holds a university degree, but that there are 119 who are at present in universities or in special schools.

I have likewise pointed out, and I apologize for this failure of my memory, that this year two young persons obtained their teacher's degree at Lovanium University. And I believe we shall have some university graduates who have just obtained their degrees. Some are continuing additional studies; others are already able to render services to their country.

Since I do not have the up-to-date documentation before me, I could bring this information to you on Monday, if the representative of the Soviet Union is interested, and I can then give him exact figures.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In answer to the reply of the representative of Belgium, I should like to say that even if the Abarosi Committee did not exist, it might have been created in the meantime since there is freedom of association in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. Nevertheless, we have the petition, and the Secretariat it seems to me will have to supply some sort of reply to this petition. That is why we have put our questions in this matter.

(Mr. Antonov, USSR)

As regards the reply of the special representative, I should like to clear up a further detail which apparently he has not fully grasped, since I spoke of this right at the very last portion of my statement. How many of this number of students who are now studying, who have already graduated, what number of them received scholarships or worked under fellowships from the Belgian Government, or did they all study out of their own funds?

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

Since the question arises as to those who have completed their studies -- how many have received scholarships -- I do not find that information in the annual report, and I shall have to obtain it from other sources. I am sorry not to be able to give this specific information which I should have liked to have given at once. But may I recall that now there are 119 citizens of Ruanda-Urundi who hold scholarships, most of whom are studying either with Government scholarships or scholarships given by private persons. The figures were given this morning, and I think it would be easy to find them again.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation

from Russian): Mr. Augustine Mutabaruka, in his petition, indicates that in 1947 the petitioner went through six classes of primary school, and he wanted to go on with his education within the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

Specifically he wanted to attend the school at Astrida. Unfortunately, he was not accepted there since his parents were not upright Catholics. I should like to have this cleared up. What is the present situation? What is the position with respect to this matter? Are there any difficulties on religious grounds for entering schools?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I can give complete assurance to the representative of the Soviet Union that the question of religion has never constituted an obstacle to the entry of a student to any school subsidized by the Government or under the Government. In the school group at Astrida, there are two boarding schools: one is Catholic, and one is Protestant.

✓ Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): As we learn from this petition, Mr. Mutabaruka applied to the Administering Authority and also to the United Nations in order that he might be given the opportunity of obtaining this higher education either on the Territory of Belgium or in the United States. I should like to know how does the matter stand at the present time as regards Mr. Mutabaruka? Has he been given the opportunity of obtaining further education, or not? The recommendation in this respect was made at a certain time by the Trusteeship Council; perhaps the special representative might answer that particular question.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I should like to be able to reply having the benefit of checking my data. Since I did not expect to have to reply to questions dealing with petitions, I do not have with me the file of petitions. I should, therefore, like to consult this file in order to be able to give complete information as requested by the representative of the Soviet Union.

However I see no difficulty in saying to him what I know for certain. The Administering Authority proposed to Mr. Mutabaruka a scholarship in order to study at the University of Elisabethville; and the Administering Authority proposed to pay his trip to Elisabethville. Since Mr. Mutabaruka objected that he did not know French, the Administration proposed that he register for a year at the pre-university section; after which, he would have been able to follow the university courses without delay.



Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): On 22 August 1957, the Vice Governor and the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi answered the petitioner to the effect that they do support his request for education under a scholarship at Antwerp University, but that they are awaiting a reply from the Colonial Ministry in Brussels. On 28 January 1958, the petitioner still had not received any reply on the matter. I should like to know whether any reply did come to the petitioner from the Minister of Colonies in respect of his studying in Brussels.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I should like to consult the file of this person before replying.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I would be grateful if the special representative could give me some information on this subject at another time inasmuch as he does not have the necessary data at this stage. I should now like to go on to the next petition, T/CCM.3/L.25, which comes from the head of the Hutu Party, Mr. Gitera, who has already been mentioned today by us. Why did the Hutu Political Party exist until 15 November 1959 in a clandestine way, whereas in a decree of 15 February 1957, freedom of association had been granted to all?

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Might I ask the representative of the USSR to what part of the communication he is referring because I do not have the time to study the petition and would like him to assist me in finding the proper passage.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): This information is to be found on page 3, the sixth paragraph, of document T/CCM.3/L.25. It states that this happened on 15 February 1959 and that the party existed only in secret.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I read the communication but I fail to see any mention of this clandestine character. I am wondering whether it has been properly translated. In English it says "existed only in secret". I am asking for this clarification because I am extremely surprised to hear such a statement.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The information is to be found on page 3 of document T/CCM.3/L.25. The paragraph reads:

(spoke in English)

"It is thus that the Bahutu, members of APROSCMA, held a very important meeting and by a solemn vote established the HUTU POLITICAL PARTY, which had until this day, 05 February 1959, existed only in secret..."

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative)(interpretation from French): It is just as I thought; it is a mistake in translation. The word "latent" is not "secret". It is "potential". The political party was in the process of being organized, or existed, but it was not made manifest by a public meeting. There is no question of any secrecy in the French text.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My next question is, what reply was given by the King of the Belgians to this petition?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): This letter is a statement of views addressed to the Belgian authorities. We receive hundreds if not thousands of them at all times and they do not necessarily call for a reply. The author of such a communication, in addressing it to the authorities, does not ask for any reply. He simply wishes to give his views. The Belgian delegation would not wish to enter into any polemics regarding the views expressed by Mr. Gitera in a communication against the Belgians and against possibly the President of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I should like the representative of Belgium to consider the first part of the petition, pages 1 and 2, where the petitioner requests the King of the Belgians to save the people of Ruanda-Urundi from those sufferings and that slavery in which the people of Ruanda-Urundi find themselves. In the second part of the petition, where the programme of the Hutu Party is being laid out, steps are proposed which might improve the lot of the population of Ruanda-Urundi, and it seems to me that there is a direct appeal to the King of the Belgians, as the supreme Belgian authority, to consider the situation of the people in Ruanda-Urundi. Therefore, it seems to me that the Administering Authority and the Belgian Government were obliged to give a reply to this petition.

My second question consists of the following. What is the view of the Administering Authority regarding the programme of the Hutu Party, particularly in respect of giving Ruanda-Urundi a constitution prior to giving it independence or self-determination, as regards the democratization of the political life and political institutions, as regards the Africanization of the administrative system in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, as regards the division between the judicial and administrative authority, and also in respect of a number of other questions that are touched upon in this petition and which, for the sake of time, I do not wish to enumerate here.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The views of the Administering Authority regarding the evolution of the institutions and of the political structure in Ruanda-Urundi have been stated during the present general debate on the political situation. I should therefore like to request the representative of the Soviet Union to refer to these statements.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): If I pose this question, it is because our agenda includes a separate item called "petitions and communications raising general questions". Therefore, I think that I have the right to put questions and I am availing myself of that right.

I have no further question to put to the special representative and I thank him for the replies he has given. However, I should like to make a comment with regard to the petition contained in document T/PET.GEN/L.2. This petition covers a number of Territories within the Trusteeship System, and we consider that this petition will be included on the agenda when we consider the reports of Administering Authorities of other Trust Territories. As a matter of fact, the consideration of this petition does not confine itself to Ruanda-Urundi alone.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to point out to the representative of the Soviet Union that our agenda includes a general study of the situation in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and not a general study of the petitions. It could not be otherwise. Taking into account the rules of procedure, petitions are considered, first of all, by the Standing Committee on Petitions, and once the report of this Committee comes before the Council, we then examine the petitions. Petitions of a general character and communications are annexed for information purposes, and it is for that reason that I have not objected to having these questions continued on the general situation in order to permit delegations which have not taken account of certain documents, which have not been furnished to them, delegations that wish to prolong the debate, to put questions on matters that have already been discussed.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As I have already said, I have finished putting my questions to the special representative. However, I should like to say, in spite of the view of the representative of Belgium, that agenda item 1 (b) on today's agenda reads: "petitions and communications raising general questions".

(Mr. Antonov, USSR)

These may be examined at the time of the examination of the annual report or they may be examined separately. I simply wish to stress that I should like to put these questions since you yourself have pointed out on numerous occasions that this not the proper time for considering this matter. It seems to me that your opinion is not fully justified in this respect.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

I should like to add to the statement just made by the representative of the Soviet Union that if petitions that give rise to general questions can be discussed by the Council, they can also be the subject of direct action by the Council. This is an additional clarification which I want to make to the statements which have been made concerning petitions on general questions.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes the question period, and we now begin the general debate.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

I think that it is time for the General Council to take up the general debate and I would not wish to delay it. However, I should like to have a certain clarification. My delegation, as well as others, has put a certain number of questions to the special representative of the Administering Authority, and the special representative promised to give us additional information. This additional information has not been supplied, and I fail to see how the Trusteeship Council can begin the general debate without having this information. It is possible that certain delegations are in a position to speak now, and I would certainly not wish to comment on the position of those delegations because that is not the concern of our delegation. However, I should like to know whether the special representative is in a position to give my delegation the additional information I asked for.



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

Since the information that was requested of me must come to me from Ruanda-Urundi, it is obvious that I am unable to set any date when I shall receive that information.

Thus I cannot give the date when it will be possible for me to provide clarification to delegations on points which were not contained in the report of the Administering Authority. All that I can do is to undertake to supply this information as soon as it is communicated to me.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French):

If my delegation has raised this question, it was with the obvious concern to avoid making statements in the Council which would not reflect the situation in the Territory. We wish to act in full objectivity and to do justice to the Administering Authority. Therefore, it is in the interests of the Administering Authority to furnish the delegations with the clarifications that they have asked. If this information cannot be provided, then my delegation will take due account of this fact in its general statement.



The PRESIDENT: This concludes the question period.

General debate

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): When each year we come to examine the affairs of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, I think we are struck particularly by three things: first, the great physical problems of the Territory which the Administering Authority and the people of the Territory are facing; secondly, the great promise of these people in their movement towards nationhood; and, thirdly, the vigour and imagination with which the Administering Authority invariably tackles the acute problems which are in front of it, problems as acute in this Trust Territory as in any Territory with which this Council is concerned.

Those who have had the privilege of visiting the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi are invariably struck by its great beauty. No one, I think, now would call this Territory a sleeping beauty, but some of us might call it a waking beauty. It is, I think, now somewhat in the position of a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis. I think this Territory has been in the formative years of its chrysalis and this time is now passing.

May I first say something about the political problems of Ruanda-Urundi. These emphatically are not problems of race. I believe that Ruanda-Urundi is a model in racial questions, certainly in the policy of introducing integrated schools, which has been introduced by the Administering Authority.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

Sometimes when I listen to questions on this subject I am reminded of the French proverb, "Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien". Of course, there are problems relating to the introduction of integrated schools, and very often those problems become more difficult when it is done than when it is not done, but I am sure that this Council must warmly congratulate the Administering Authority on the actions which it has taken in this respect. They are indeed, I believe, a model to many. In the Athenée Royale in Usumbura we have a remarkable example of this policy, a school which is open to boys and girls; the boys and girls are there, and there are Africans, Asians, and Europeans. There are pupils from Ruanda and from Urundi; there are pupils who are Batutsi and pupils who are Bahutu -- a sort of multiple integration. The problems of Ruanda-Urundi in the political sphere are not, as I have said, problems of race; they are first of all problems which are common to many parts of Africa, the problems of the tribe and the nation. In the Banyaruanda and in the Barundi we have examples of tribes which are known to anthropologists as inter-lacustrine Bantu. These tribes are large; they form roughly half the population of the Trust Territory. The Trusteeship Council has frequently considered the relations of Ruanda and Urundi to the Trust Territory as a whole. Last time, the Council came to the following conclusion:

"The Council considers that from the political and economic viewpoint Ruanda and Urundi have a common future; that, in the interest of the Trust Territory as a whole, efforts to strengthen the relationships between the two States must continue; and that, without minimizing the difficulties, ways of doing this will be to encourage the establishment and development of common political, economic, social and educational institutions."

(A/3822, page 39)

If I may say so, those are sentiments which are easy to draft but less easy to carry out, particularly when the wishes of the people have to be carried out and those wishes are perhaps not at present entirely in accordance with the sentiments of the Trusteeship Council -- sentiments which, I may say, my delegation entirely shares.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

How can these things be done? Only by the gradual broadening processes of educational development, particularly in the sphere of higher education; of economic development, particularly in the sphere of the production of a middle class of farmers, traders and professional men, men who are bound to take a broader view, and also by action in the political sphere. Here it is interesting to note the decision of the Belgian Government which was referred to by the representative of Belgium in his opening statement. He said that the Minister for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi had just announced his decision to put an end to the administrative centralization which had made the Governor-General and his services in Leopoldville a normal part of the machinery for studying and controlling the affairs of Ruanda-Urundi. He went on to say that the authorities in Ruanda-Urundi would deal directly with the Belgian Government in Brussels. This is one way, I think, in which the nationhood of Ruanda-Urundi is being emphasized. Of course, another way in which this can be done is by elections to a central organ of the State in Ruanda-Urundi, and by giving to that central organ a legislative function instead of a purely advisory function, however important that might be.

The representative of Belgium had some very important things indeed to say on this subject in his opening statement. He told us of the setting up of a study group, a very distinguished study group, by the Administering Authority to make contact with the population of the Territory and learn its views on the development of the future institutions of the country. He said:

"The analysis of the aspirations of the inhabitants of Ruanda and Urundi which it will make, the proposals it will submit regarding political reforms and all its recommendations will be the subject of a study in a report to the Minister." (T/PV.979, page 61)

It is clear from what the representative of Belgium said in reply to questions by my delegation that the study group has made considerable progress; that it has been in touch with the people, that it has evoked a very widespread interest on the part of the people of the Trust Territory, and in fact has received very large numbers of communications and representations from them. It is also

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

clear from his replies that the terms of reference are comprehensive. He gave in his speech some reflexions on the possible conclusions which might come from the study group; in some cases he indicated certain lines and in others he indicated certain questions which would have to be answered by the study group and indicated decisions which would ultimately be taken by the Administering Authority. I do not think there is much more I can say on this subject, but I would again like to emphasize the importance which the Council must obviously attach to this statement by the representative of Belgium. It is clear that the Council at this session must not, indeed cannot, do anything to prejudge this process of consultation between the Administering Authority and the people which have been put into operation through the means of this study group. Obviously very important conclusions are likely to be indicated to us at some future stage, after the Administering Authority has considered the matter and taken its decisions, but at this stage we cannot prejudge what those conclusions may be.

May I turn now to another matter which has often engaged the attention of this Council in the past, namely the relations between the Batutsi and the Bahutu. I was very much interested in what the special representative said on this subject. He said:

"It is certain that a rapprochement will take place between the Tutsi and Hutu younger generations as a result of common education."

(T/PV.979, page 67)

This is a clear illustration of the importance of common education in the solution of political problems, and it is certainly to the younger generation that we have to look for the broader view which integration demands. I think we shall all carry in our minds the graphic remark made on this subject by the special representative for Western Samoa when we were discussing the problems of agriculture in that Territory; I do not think I need repeat that remark.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

It seems to me that advancement in this particular problem must be an index of the success of political integration in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, and as individual Bahutu emerge as leaders in public life, in economic life and in other fields, one will be able to say that success is being achieved. This is not a process which can be measured statistically, as the special representative made clear in replying to another question which I put to him. Since the policy is to integrate, separate statistics are not kept -- and rightly so.



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

In the sphere of local government, it is encouraging to learn from the special representative that, in his prognostication, which he made clear was his personal prognostication, elections to sub-chiefdom councils are likely to take place directly in the near future. This also is in accordance with the recommendation made by the Council at its last session. If it is felt that we can legitimately take note of this personal expression of opinion, as I believe we can, seeing that it comes from an authoritative source, this is something which I think the Council should welcome.

May I turn from this to the subject of training to which my delegation would attach very great importance. It is clear that the younger generation in Ruanda-Urundi is going to play an increasing part in the building of the new State, and that unless they can play such an increasing part in this process, the building itself will be seriously impeded. It is therefore encouraging to know, for example, that 213 African officers have been appointed to positions in the service of the Government which were previously held by Belgians. As the total number of officers is under 800, this is a significant number. I think I would be right in saying that at the present time most of these officers who have been promoted, have been promoted to the level immediately below the top. Naturally the Council is interested in seeing inhabitants of the Territory promoted to the top level of the administration and technical services. For this purpose, of course, higher qualifications are needed. I was very grateful to the special representative for the particulars which he was good enough to give me of the 119 students from Ruanda-Urundi who are now taking university and higher studies. This is a good number and it is a good start. I would say that the progress which has been achieved is worthy of the Council's warm appreciation, which might be accompanied, in the view of my delegation, by encouragement to further and even more vigorous efforts in the future.

The year 1958 has seen further development in higher education in the Territory itself. In 1957, the pre-university course for the Agronomy and Animal Husbandry Institute at Astrida, which is part of the State University



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

of the Belgian Congo in Ruanda-Urundi, was opened in the Territory. We have now heard that the Institute itself started its first class with four students in October 1958. This is a beginning and it is very appropriate, in my view, that the first higher educational facilities provided in the Trust Territory should deal with the vital subject of agriculture and animal husbandry. In some higher education institutions which I have known in Africa and elsewhere, the sciences and arts of tilling the soil and of farming and animal husbandry did not at first receive so much attention as some other arts and sciences more remote from the soil. It is to be hoped that there will be a rapid growth in this Institute, which is undoubtedly destined to be of great benefit to the people of the Trust Territory.

It is also encouraging to learn of the progress made in secondary, professional and technical education. These provide the base for the institutions of higher education. While expressing our appreciation of the progress so far made, I think we may legitimately express the hope that the expansion of these services will be steadily kept up. It is from these that the leaders of the future will come among the Banyarunda and the Barundi.

In teacher training, the interesting observations of UNESCO show that although steady progress is being made in the training of certificated teachers, the percentage of uncertificated teachers among the teachers of the Territory remains very high, in fact over 50 per cent if I am not wrong. There are tables on pages 11 and 12 of UNESCO's observations which illustrate this point. I would like to stress the particular importance of teacher training, the machine tools of education, and I would like to express the hope that vigorous efforts will be made, as I am sure they will be, to increase the number and the proportion of certificated teachers.

May I turn from this to the economic field. The special representative stated in his report to the Council that there had been some economic regression during the year owing to the fall in world prices, over which neither the Trust Territory nor the Administering Authority can be said to have any control.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

But in spite of this, there has been a steady growth in the proceeds of the cotton industry and in the number of coffee trees planted. But more important than the year to year progress in economic and financial affairs, I would venture to suggest, is the progress made in dealing with the basic economic problems of the Territory. The Council is only too well aware of the great difficulties created in this field by the formidable terrain of the Territory and the heavy over-population in many areas. We have watched with interest the steady and remarkable progress made in dealing with these problems by the Belgian Administration and the people of the Trust Territory in partnership under the leadership of that distinguished administrator and scientist, the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, Mr. Harroy. We are aware of the progress being made -- the documents and the reports show it -- in the paysannat, the secteur pilote and the programmes against soil erosion. I think it may be stated that the problem of saving the soil in the Territory by means of anti-erosion measures has been successfully dealt with although, of course, it must continue to require constant vigilance. But the problem which remains and which is in the process of being solved is the problem of the correct use of the land in accordance with modern scientific knowledge and techniques. To deal with this problem, the Belgian Administration, in association with the people, is engaged in a process of rebuilding the whole of the farming and livestock industry from the bottom. This is a formidable programme of great magnitude based on the excellent research services of the Territory. It is a programme requiring an infinite knowledge of the people, close consultation with the people and an understanding of their wishes and their way of life, and leadership by those who are in charge of these programmes.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

I have been privileged to see something of these programmes going forward on the ground, and I have seen the quality of those young people and more experienced people who are engaged in working with the Banyaruanda and the Barundi in these matters. The success already being achieved in this work is illustrated by what the special representative told us about the progress made during 1958 in two of the zones d'action rurale. The details of these are given in the record of the special representative's opening statement.

The importance of this whole agricultural programme which has been in progress in the Trust Territory cannot be overestimated. It provides the basis for everything that is being done in Ruanda-Urundi, and if this programme is not vigorously pursued other things cannot advance successfully. It is, therefore, I think, a matter for congratulation to see the remarkable progress which has been made. It is encouraging to know that the work being done is in accordance with the views held in this Council and the views which have been formulated by our Rural Economic Development Committee.

Of course, we learn from what happens in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. It is perhaps one of the foremost workshops in the world for how to tackle the physical problems of an overpopulated territory with difficult soils and difficult terrain. In this Council I am sure that we must express our appreciation to the Administering Authority for the work it is doing and give every encouragement that we can to the Administering Authority to carry on with this vital work.

I deliberately end this statement with a reference to the vital economic problems of the Territory. May I, however, in closing, express my admiration to the representative of Belgium and the special representative for the remarkable patience, skill and lucidity with which they have dealt with what, I think, has been an unprecedented barrage of questions.

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I must draw the attention of the Council to the delay incurred in the work of the Council. Despite the scheduling of additional meetings, the Council has fallen behind in its time-table by more than three days. In order to reduce this delay, or at least to prevent it from increasing further, the Council will have to continue to meet twice a day during most of the next week, and indeed during most

(The President)

of the remainder of the session. I am sure that all delegations will see the necessity for this measure and will agree to it.

But that is not all. In the past week, meetings of certain Committees had to be cancelled, when the Council met twice a day because some delegations found themselves unable to serve on the Council and on those Committees at the same time. Thus, the Drafting Committee on Nauru held only one meeting this week, and the Standing Committee on Petitions only two. In order to expedite the work of the Committees, it is essential that the Committees should be able to meet as often as possible, regardless of the meeting schedule of the Council. I hope that delegations will make every effort to provide the necessary staff to serve on the Committees to which they are appointed.

The Council will hold two meetings on Monday, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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, 24th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1507  
26 June 1959

JUN 29 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued the questioning of Ivan Reisdorff, the special representative of the administering authority, on social and educational conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, administered by Belgium.

VALENTIN I. OBEREMKO (USSR) noted that, according to the annual report, 60 per cent of the African population were illiterate. He recalled that in 1946 the late Pierre Ryckmans, then governor of Ruanda-Urundi, had promised to eradicate illiteracy in the territory within one generation. The territory, he noted, had a 10-year plan, and that left another 10 years to go. How many elementary and secondary schools would be necessary to achieve this goal? he asked.

Mr. REISDORFF replied that, by the rule of thumb, it was possible to estimate the number of schools required. He pointed out that, besides schools for children, there were other ways to teach people to read and write. He referred to chapel and bush schools for adults, as an example.

The existing enrollment in primary schools, the special representative said, showed that continued efforts were still required to encourage parents to send their children to school. This, he said, depended on the decision of the heads of families.

Mr. REISDORFF said it would be "extremely difficult" to say how many schools would be required in the next 10 years. There were too many "uncertainties" to permit an estimate of the time required to eradicate illiteracy in the territory.

The administration, he added, was making every effort to deal with the problem, and had proposed that 26 per cent of the 1960 budget be allocated to education, he said.

HSI-KUN YANG (China) asked for information on the nature of contracts made with workers recruited from Ruanda-Urundi for employment in other territories. In each case, the special representative stressed, the conditions for such employment had been made clear to the employee concerned before his departure.

Mr. YANG then recalled that the Trusteeship Council had been told that every employer employing 100 or more workers was required to establish an indigenous workers' committee. How many such committees had been organized? he asked.

The special representative said that three such committees had been organized.

(END OF TAKE 1)





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, 24th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1507  
26 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

Mr. REISDORFF, the administering authority's special representative of Ruanda-Urundi, explained that because of the population increase, the territory had a large labor force which resulted in the migration of workers. The administration was promoting far-reaching agricultural reforms which, it was hoped, would lead to the absorption of available manpower.

Noting the "sharp increase" in the number of girls attending primary schools, Mr. YANG (China) asked what the reason was for this trend.

The special representative said it was part of "the general evolution" of the territory. Women were more emancipated and were "coming out of their isolation."

In reply to a question by T.P. DAVIN (New Zealand), the special representative explained that the differences between the language of Ruanda and that of Urundi were too great to permit a fusion of the two languages for the time being.

JAWDAT MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked about restrictions on the freedom of association.

The special representative said these restrictions would only be applied in the interests of law and order or to prevent the resurrection of certain barbarian rites.

Mr. MUFTI then referred to an article (see Doc. T/COM.3/L.24) which had allegedly appeared in the Ruanda-Urundi press and which described United Nations members as "madmen" who "have never set foot in the territory." He asked whether sanctions had been taken against the author, and he requested the Belgian delegation to make the article available.

ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said his delegation was supplying "a mass of documentation" but "we are not obliged to provide press reports." Any person interested in the article could write for it directly, he said. "We just do not have it," he added.

VALENTIN A. ANTONOV (USSR) supported the request of the representative of the UAR.

M. RASGOTRA (India) then suggested that, if certain members wished to see this article, perhaps the Secretariat could make it available.

(more)

The Acting President of the Council, GIROLAMO VITELLI (Italy), said the Secretariat would consider the question. It did not have a copy here now.

Mr. MUFTI (UAR) said he wished to know whether proper sanctions had been taken.

The representative of Belgium declared that he did not know the answer but that this matter was entirely up to the judicial authorities of the territory. The Trusteeship Council could not substitute itself for these authorities.

KEVIN T. KELLY (Australia) warned that an inquiry by the Secretariat must not give the impression of interference with the freedom of the press.

Mr. RASGOTRA made clear that he did not wish to question that freedom. He had merely wanted to meet the wishes of some delegations which seemed interested in the matter.

Mr. KELLY replied that he had not meant to cast doubts on the motives of the Indian delegation.

Mr. MUFTI declared that "this has nothing to do with freedom of the press." He said there was a law forbidding propaganda harmful to the trusteeship system, and his delegation wanted to find out whether sanctions had been taken.

(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, 24th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1507  
26 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

Mr. ANTONOV (USSR) referred to a petition (Doc. T/PET/3/L.9) signed by a committee claiming to represent 150,000 Abarosi Africans. The petitioners, he said, asked to be represented in the work of the working groups recently set up by the Belgian Government to study Ruanda-Urundi's future political evolution. He asked what action had been taken in this regard.

Mr. REISDORFF, the administering authority's special representative, said the letter contained in the document had not been received by the administering authority. He added that he knew the Muhura area well, and he had never heard of any Abarosi Africans living there.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) added that, during the questioning stage, he had explained in detail how individuals and local bodies in Ruanda-Urundi had cooperated in the work of the working group. The reason the "so-called Abarosi committee" was not consulted, he said, was because the administration did not know of the existence of such a group.

Mr. ANTONOV commented that it was possible that, if the Abarosi committee did not exist at that time, it might have come into being in the meantime.

The Soviet representative then referred to another petition (Doc. T/PET/GEN/-L.3) from the California-Nevada Conference of the Methodist Church, San Francisco. The petition urged the Trusteeship Council "to accelerate the progress toward independence of the underdeveloped countries under their supervision."

Mr. ANTONOV asked how many people of Ruanda-Urundi had received higher education, during the period of the trusteeship, under scholarships granted by Belgium.

Mr. REISDORFF said he had explained that at present there were no Africans holding university degrees except for the one African he had mentioned on an earlier occasion. There were at present 119 nationals of Ruanda-Urundi attending universities or special schools, and this year two students had received a teacher's degree. If the Soviet representative wanted more detailed information, he would have to look up the records and reply at a later meeting.

Mr. ANTONOV also questioned the special representative concerning several other petitions relating to Ruanda-Urundi which were listed on the agenda, and replies were given by Mr. REISDORFF.

The Soviet representative expressed the opinion that a petition (Doc. T/PET/GEN/L.2) from the International League for the Rights of Man, New York, concerning freedom of speech and association in trust territories, should be examined by the Council in respect to every trust territory.

There being no further questions, the Acting President, Mr. VITELLI (Italy), said the questioning stage was completed.

(END OF TAKE 3)



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, 24th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1507  
26 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 4

The Council then began the general debate on Ruanda-Urundi with the representative of the United Kingdom as the first speaker.

Sir ANDREW COHEN (United Kingdom) said that remarkable progress had been achieved in the territory. There was no problem of "race"; Africans, Asians and Europeans mingled freely in schools and elsewhere, he said. However, there was a problem of "nationhood," of "unity between the diverse tribes."

These problems, in his view, could best be met by the broadening process of education, and particularly by the evolution of a middle class.

The administering authority, he said, encouraged consultations and various reforms, thereby promoting the goal of a common nationhood of Ruanda and Urundi.

This process of "political integration" was well under way although it could not be measured statistically.

The young generation was playing an increasingly important part in preparing to build the new state, said Sir ANDREW, and it was significant that 213 African officers were holding government jobs formerly filled by Belgians.

The representative of the United Kingdom also referred to "the steady growth" in the economic field despite the "formidable" obstacles of the terrain of the territory and the problem of overpopulation. The Belgian administration had undertaken "a program of great magnitude to rebuild agriculture and the cattle industry," he said.

The Trusteeship Council should express its appreciation to the administering authority for the vital work it was doing and give it every encouragement to continue this work, Sir ANDREW concluded.

The Council will reconvene at 10:30 a.m. Monday, 29 June to continue general debate on Ruanda-Urundi.

(END OF TAKE 4 AND PRESS RELEASE TR/1507)