



Fifteenth session
Agenda item 45

QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF RUANDA-URUNDI

Letter dated 24 January 1961 from the Chairman of the Delegation
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the
President of the General Assembly

According to a newsitem emanating from the Belgian news agency BELGA and published in today's press, the Belgian Government has decided to hold general elections in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi before the resumption of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, i.e. before 7 March 1961. The Belgian Government's decision is in direct contravention of General Assembly resolution 1579 (XV) on the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi, dated 20 December 1960, which provides that the general elections scheduled to be held in January 1961 should be postponed "to a date to be decided on at the resumed fifteenth session of the General Assembly".

Furthermore, operative paragraph 1 of the said resolution provides that "the necessary conditions and atmosphere must be brought about expeditiously to ensure that the legislative elections, which will lead to the establishment of national democratic institutions and furnish the basis for the national independence of Ruanda-Urundi in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, take place in an atmosphere of peace and harmony". With those aims in view, operative paragraph 2 of the General Assembly resolution urges the Administering Authority "to implement immediately measures of full and unconditional amnesty, and to abolish the emergency régime so as to enable political workers and leaders who are in exile or imprisoned in the Territory to resume normal, democratic political activity before the elections".

Consequently, the measures enumerated in the General Assembly resolution should be implemented before the elections are held.

In this connexion, it seems to be very necessary and urgent to acquaint all the Members of the General Assembly with the state of affairs concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1579 (XV) of 20 December 1960, and with the results of the recent conference at Ostend (Belgium) which was attended by United Nations observers including Secretariat staff.

I trust, Mr. President, that you will take the necessary steps to obtain the requisite information, if necessary through the United Nations Secretariat, and to have it circulated to all the States Members of the United Nations.

We consider this matter to be very urgent.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) V. ZORIN
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations
