



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Seventeenth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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**President: Mr. Mason SEARS**  
(United States of America).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

**Examination of petitions (*continued*)**

[Agenda item 4]

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (T/1225, T/PET.5/L.75, T/PET.5/L.76, T/PET.5/L.84, T/PET.5/L.86) (*continued*)

1. M. ASHA (Syria) proposed that the Council should grant a hearing to the persons claiming to represent the members of the three organizations proscribed by the Administering Authority (T/PET.5/L.75, T/PET.5/L.76, T/PET.5/L.86). It was the Council's duty to examine petitions dealing with the legislation in force in a Territory whenever they suggested that the legis-

lation did not conform to the principles of the Trusteeship System. No one could deny the right of the inhabitants of Trust Territories to petition the United Nations with regard to the dissolution of their political parties or to any other grievance. If the Council was unable to hear those persons as representatives of political parties, it could inform them that, if they wished, it would hear them in their capacity as private individuals.

2. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that the major objection which had been raised was that the political organizations in question had been dissolved. The requests for hearings should be regarded as coming from former members of political organizations which had legally ceased to exist. The petitioners would therefore speak only in their individual capacity.

3. Mr. BARGUES (France) replied that the Council could not give the petitioners a status which they themselves did not claim. They had made their requests for hearings as representatives of political parties, disregarding the fact that those parties had been dissolved. The Council was not competent to interpret the requests: it must consider them as they stood and either accept or reject them.

4. Mr. ASHA (Syria) formally proposed that the Council should authorize the petitioners to speak in their individual capacity. To simplify matters, it might be well to inform them that the Council was prepared to hear them on that basis, since the political parties to which they belonged had ceased to exist.

5. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) thought that the question was very simple and that the members had had sufficient time to consider the scope of the requests. He therefore asked the President to put the question to the vote.

6. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to vote first on the Syrian representative's proposal.

*The proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

7. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the first request for a hearing, submitted by the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises (T/PET.5/L.75).

*The request was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

8. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the second request, from the Chairman of the Union des populations du Cameroun (T/PET.5/L.76).

*The request was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

9. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the third request, from the Chairman of Ngondo, Traditional Assembly of the Douala People (T/PET.5/L.84).

*The request was approved by 10 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.*

10. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the fourth request, from the General Secretary of the Jeunesse démocratique du Cameroun (T/PET.5/L.86).

*The request was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.*

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.627)

11. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to vote on the recommendation in paragraph 10 of the one hundred and forty-third report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.627).

12. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the established procedure should be applied to the petitions enumerated in paragraph 4 of the report.

13. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to vote first on the recommendation in paragraph 10 of the report and then on the USSR representative's proposal.

*The recommendation in paragraph 10 of the report (T/L.627) was adopted unanimously.*

*A vote was taken on the USSR representative's proposal.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against.*

*After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against. The proposal was not adopted.*

14. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the established procedure should be applied to the petitions enumerated in paragraph 5 of the report, as also to those in paragraph 6.

*A vote was taken on the USSR proposal that the established procedure should be applied to the petitions listed in paragraph 5 of the report.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against.*

*After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against. The proposal was not adopted.*

*A vote was taken on the USSR proposal that the established procedure should be applied to the petitions in paragraph 6 of the report.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against.*

*After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.*

*There were 7 votes in favour and 7 against. The proposal was not adopted.*

PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH RECENT COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

15. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) felt it to be his duty to bring to the notice of the Council a serious problem with which the Secretariat was confronted. During the past few weeks, more than 20,000 communications relating to the Cameroons under French administration had arrived at Headquarters. In the normal course of events, those documents would first be classified and then translated, reproduced and distributed. The services responsible for that work were, however, already heavily burdened. Unless additional staff and equipment were provided,

for which large additional funds would be required, the processing of the communications would be spread over so long a period as to nullify their usefulness.

16. He hoped that the Council would consider the matter at an early stage and give the Secretariat the benefit of its advice.

17. Mr. ASHA (Syria) agreed with the Under-Secretary that the vast number of communications received presented a serious problem. He was sure, however, that the members of the Council would wish to know the contents of the communications, which should be classified and dealt with in the shortest possible time if they were not to be deprived of all value. Naturally, additional funds and personnel would be required. As, however, few meetings were being held at Headquarters at present, the Under-Secretary could call on his colleagues to ascertain how many officials who were not fully occupied could be loaned from other departments. Moreover, the Secretary-General had the authority to provide funds in such emergencies. He thought that the Secretariat should make every effort to classify the communications within the shortest possible time.

18. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) pointed out that since the establishment of the Council the number of petitions it had examined amounted to less than 8,000, whereas it now had 20,000 communications before it for a single session.

19. He would approach his colleagues in the Secretariat, as the Syrian representative had suggested, but he did not think it would be possible, at present, to have funds that had already been allocated to other services transferred for the processing of the petitions, unless the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were to give its consent.

20. Mr. ASHA (Syria) acknowledged the soundness of the Under-Secretary's remarks but pointed out that funds for temporary assistance were provided in the budget. Moreover, the Secretary-General had always made a point of flexibility in the use of staff and in many cases staff had been lent from one department to another. The Secretariat now had an excellent chance of showing that it could operate efficiently in an emergency.

21. He could not speak on behalf of the Advisory Committee, although he was a member of it, but he was sure that it would do everything in its power to help the Trusteeship Council.

22. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that the Under-Secretary's statement seemed to indicate a strange and unprecedented situation in the Cameroons under French administration. The classification of 20,000 petitions and communications was admittedly a colossal task. It should be borne in mind, however, that the annual report on the Trust Territory was to be considered at the present session. As all the members of the Council would naturally like to know something of the contents of the communications, the Secretariat could perhaps carry out a kind of sample survey, which might show that most of the communications were merely copies of the same document.

23. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that the petitions which had been examined so far had proved to be very varied in character. He did not think it would be possible to complete the

task before the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 1955, came before the Council.

24. The PRESIDENT remarked that the question, which was one of importance, could be taken up again at a later date.

25. Mr. ASHA (Syria) asked the Under-Secretary whether action of some kind could not be taken immediately. The Secretary-General could be consulted by telephone or telegram and the Under-Secretary could inform the Council of the results as soon as possible. It would then be possible to discuss the question in full knowledge of the facts.

26. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that it was not only a question of work for the Secretariat. He asked the Syrian representative how he proposed to organize the work of his delegation so as to read 20,000 communications. As far as his own delegation was concerned, he and his colleagues would be unable to accomplish such a task. The flood of communications which was overwhelming the Council had never been intended or anticipated by the authors of the Charter. He had already warned the Council long since against the error of examining communications which were supposed to be petitions but generally were not. He would abstain from making any proposal on the point, for he feared that any proposal from the representative of an Administering Authority might be interpreted as an attempt to stifle the right of petition, but he appealed to his colleagues to be realistic and objective. The members of the Council could not consider 20,000 communications every year.

27. Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) said that the remarks he had intended to make were very similar to those of the representatives of Belgium and India: the Council and the Secretariat must seek some solution of the problem.

28. The solution must be practicable for both the Secretariat and the delegations and it might be preferable not to take a final decision for the time being, but merely to exchange views. In the light of the suggestions made, the Secretariat might try to obtain the necessary funds and staff to carry out the sample survey proposed by the representative of India. Another possibility was that the 20,000 communications might be made available to delegations. None of the proposed solutions was entirely satisfactory and the Secretariat should naturally continue its efforts to solve the problem.

29. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said he would not reply in detail to the questions he had been asked, but he pointed out that his delegation was not asking for the impossible. The Guatemalan representative had made a useful suggestion. Furthermore, the delegations could divide the work, each delegation examining only two or three thousand petitions. The Syrian delegation was prepared to work sixteen hours a day.

30. As the Council was under no obligation to conclude its work on a specific date, the current session might be extended; no additional funds would be required.

31. The PRESIDENT said that it was not possible to accept the Syrian representative's suggestion.

32. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) asked the Secretariat how many petitions were at present before the Council, apart from the 20,000 petitions from the Cameroons.

33. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that there were 731 petitions under active consideration.

34. The PRESIDENT said that the matter was one of considerable importance and could be taken up again at a later date should the Council so desire.

### **Revision of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/1224)**

[Agenda item 12]

35. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) proposed that a committee should be set up to make the changes in the Council's rules of procedure made necessary by the fact that Italy had become a permanent member of the Council. Those changes would probably involve the deletion of supplementary rules A to H and an amendment of rule J.

36. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) thought it would be simpler to ask the Secretariat to draw up proposals for amendments.

37. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) accepted that suggestion.

*It was so decided.*

### **Report of the Trusteeship Council covering the period from 17 July 1954 to 22 July 1955 (General Assembly resolution 948 (X))**

[Agenda item 10]

38. Mr. JAIPAL (India) pointed out that in resolution 948 (X) the General Assembly recommended that the Trusteeship Council should take into account the comments and suggestions made by the Fourth Committee. He proposed that the Secretariat should be requested to prepare a document summarizing the comments and suggestions. Such a document would be invaluable, for it would enable the members of the Council, in examining the situation in the different Territories, to keep before them the comments made in the Fourth Committee.

39. In reply to a question from Mr. PLAJA (Italy), Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that the Secretariat would be happy to prepare such a document.

40. The PRESIDENT put the Indian proposal to the vote.

*The proposal was adopted by 7 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.*

41. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) explained that he had voted against the proposal, because he considered that the members of the Council should read the summary records of the debate on that item in the Fourth Committee.

### **Attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence (General Assembly resolution 946 (X))**

[Agenda item 9]

42. At the request of the PRESIDENT, Mr. WIESCHHOFF (Secretary of the Council) read out General Assembly resolution 946 (X).

43. Mr. JAIPAL (India) recalled that the Indian delegation had always taken an active interest in the

question. As, however, it was still being studied by the Indian Government, he proposed that discussion of the item should be postponed until a later meeting.

*It was so decided.*

**Statement by the representative of the International Labour Organisation on the problem of migrant labour and penal sanctions for breach of labour contracts by indigenous workers**

44. Mr. METALL (International Labour Organisation) recalled that at its eleventh session (449th meeting) the Trusteeship Council had heard a report by the representative of the ILO on the action which the ILO had taken on the question of penal sanctions for breaches of contract by indigenous workers and on the question of migrant labour.

45. By a decision of the Governing Body of the ILO, based on the recommendations of a Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories, the question of penal sanctions had been placed on the agenda of the 1954 and 1955 sessions of the International Labour Conference. The Committee of Experts had envisaged the adoption of a recommendation to supplement the Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939. That recommendation provided for the immediate abolition of penal sanctions in the case of certain categories of indigenous workers and in respect of certain types of breach of contract; in particular regions, all penal sanctions would have been abolished not later than 31 December 1955. Consultation with Governments and a first discussion at the 1954 session of the Conference, however, resulted in the submission to the 1955 Conference of a proposal for a recommendation supported by a resolution. Under that recommendation, all penal sanctions for breach of contract were to be abolished immediately. Where the competent authorities did not consider such immediate abolition practicable, appropriate measures were to be taken in all cases for the progressive abolition of penal sanctions in the case of particular categories of workers, particular types of breaches of contract, on the understanding that all penal sanctions would be abolished as soon as possible and not later than a definite date to be fixed by the competent authority. The supporting resolution indicated that the Conference was convinced that the time had come for the immediate abolition of all penal sanctions and considered that the abolition should be effected everywhere not later than one year after the date of the adoption of the resolution.

46. When the International Labour Conference had reconsidered the question at its 38th session in June 1955, it had adopted, not a recommendation, but a convention. Under that instrument, the competent authority in every country where there existed any penal sanction for any breach of contract of employment, as defined by the Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939, was required to take action for the abolition of all such penal sanctions by an appropriate measure of immediate application; where that was not practicable, it was required to take measures for the progressive abolition of such sanctions, in any event not later than one year from the date of the Convention's ratifications. Furthermore, with a view to abolishing discrimination between indigenous and non-indigenous workers, the Convention further provided that penal sanctions for breaches of contract of employment, other than those covered

by the Convention, which did not apply to non-indigenous workers should be abolished for indigenous workers.

47. The adoption of the new Convention had given strength and precision to the principle on which the 1939 Convention was based, which was simply that all penal sanctions for any breach of contract should be abolished, immediately in the case of non-adults, and progressively and as soon as possible in the case of adults. The actual progress which had been made in recent years towards the abolition of penal sanctions in law and in practice was of even greater importance. So far as Trust Territories were concerned, no such penal sanctions existed in Territories administered by Australia, France, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. In Ruanda-Urundi, while the breaches of contract specified in the Decree of 15 March 1922 still entailed penal sanctions, a Decree of 30 June 1954, applicable as from 1 January 1955, provided that imprisonment would no longer be the principal punishment.

48. The ILO would of course continue to follow the progress of the question.

49. The Governing Body had also placed the question of migrant labour on the agenda of the 1954 session of the International Labour Conference. It considered that the problems involved concerned not only non-metropolitan territories, but also under-developed countries and territories. At its 37th and 38th sessions, the International Labour Conference accordingly examined the question in that context and in June 1955 adopted a recommendation entitled "Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped Countries) Recommendation, 1955". The recommendation was so drafted as to secure comprehensive protection for migrant labour; it dealt with the protection of migrant workers and their families during their outward and return journeys and prior to the period of their employment and included provisions concerning transport, rest camps, payment of travelling expenses of the workers and their families in appropriate cases, free medical examination of workers on departure for (or commencement of) employment, completion of employment and during the acclimatization period. Provisions for repatriation, at the expense of the recruiter or employer, were set forth in detail. A provision was also made for the establishment of a public employment service for the proper placing of migrant workers. That service would also collect information on employment opportunities prevailing in various areas of immigration. The recommendation enumerated the measures which should be taken to discourage migratory movements regarded as undesirable in the interests of the migrant workers and of the communities and countries of their origin. Some of those measures provided for improving living conditions and raising living standards in areas from which the migrations normally started. It was specified that the Governments concerned, while working towards the progressive reduction of undesirable migratory movements which had not been subject to regulation, should, as far as possible, try to secure the protection provided for in the recommendation for workers who migrated in such conditions.

50. The recommendation then dealt with the protection of migrant workers during the period of their employment. The general policy to be followed should be to try to assure to migrant workers as favourable

living and working conditions as those provided for other workers engaged in the same employment and also the standards of protection set out in other parts of the recommendation. The measures to be taken in the interests of migrant workers included arrangements relating to housing, wage-fixing, minimum wage rates, records of wage payments and deductions, payment of wages in legal tender, periodicity of wage payments, prohibition of the substitution of alcohol or any other harmful substance for all or any part of wages, and so forth. An important group of provisions concerning access to skilled jobs without any discrimination provided that the principle of equal opportunity for all sections of the population, including migrant workers, should be accepted. Subject to the application of national immigration laws and of special laws concerning the employment of foreigners in the public service, any discrimination preventing any section of the population, including migrant workers, from access to particular types of work or employment should be deemed contrary to public policy and the principle of the abolition of such discrimination should be accepted. Measures should be taken immediately to secure the application of those principles in practice and to promote the increased performance of skilled work by the least favoured grades of workers.

51. Migrant workers' rights of association and of freedom for all lawful trade-union activities should be recognized and all practicable measures should be taken to assure to trade unions representing the workers concerned the right to conclude collective agreements. Other provisions of the recommendation related to the supply of consumer goods, social security, medical care and industrial hygiene, prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and arrangements enabling migrant workers to maintain contact with their families and areas of origin. With regard to the welfare of migrant workers, voluntary forms of thrift should be encouraged, the workers should be protected against usury and educational facilities should be ensured for their children.

52. The final part of the recommendation dealt with the stabilization of migrant workers. Except where the permanent establishment of the migrant workers was clearly against their interest and that of their families or of the economies of the countries or territories concerned, the general policy should be to seek the stabilization of the workers and their families in or near the employment centres. Arrangements should include the recruitment of workers accompanied by their families and the granting of facilities at or near the place of employment for appropriate community organizations; migrant workers should be provided with enough land for production of foodstuffs and, in certain circumstances, villages or settlements of retired migrant workers should be established in places where it would be possible for them to contribute to their own subsistence.

53. Action by the ILO to establish internationally acceptable standards was, however, merely the beginning of a long process, which could be completed only by the actual application of those standards in countries and territories. The ILO would welcome any co-operation which the Trusteeship Council could give it in attaining its objectives.

54. Mr. JAIPAL (India) congratulated the representative of the ILO on his very interesting statement, which had been particularly welcome to the

Indian delegation in view of the suggestion it had made at the Council's last session that the ILO should make a greater contribution to the Council's work. His delegation had been gratified to learn that penal sanctions for breaches of contract had been completely abolished in all the Trust Territories. It hoped that co-operation between the ILO and the Council would become increasingly close. It attached great importance to labour conditions in the Trust Territories.

55. Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) associated himself with the tribute paid to the representative of the ILO by the Indian representative.

56. The PRESIDENT thanked the representative of the ILO on behalf of the Council.

#### **Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi:**

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1197, T/1201, T/1223);**
- (ii) **Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.3/L.5, T/PET.3/L.6)**

[Agenda items 3(b) and 4]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, took a place at the Council table.*

#### OPENING STATEMENTS

57. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that the Belgian Government submitted the report on the administration of Ruanda-Urundi for 1954<sup>1</sup> with a feeling of confidence. Ruanda-Urundi was continuing calmly along the path of progress. Its new political institutions had begun to function. The population was being initiated into the management of public affairs and the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the Council of the Vice-Government-General would soon be increased.

58. In the economic field, the execution of the ten-year plan was proceeding satisfactorily. The Ruzizi plain had been occupied by inhabitants from overpopulated areas, which had made it possible to provide land for more than 4,000 families. One hundred and fifty-five kilometres of irrigation canals had been dug. The total length of anti-erosion hedges and ditches had reached the figure of 325,000 kilometres, which provided protection for more than 400,000 hectares of threatened land. Drainage and irrigation had brought more than 100,000 hectares of previously uncultivated land under the plough. The 1955 harvest had shown the effectiveness of the measures taken to replant old coffee plantations.

59. In the social field, the Congo Indigenous Welfare Fund had devoted more than 400 million francs to welfare undertakings in Ruanda-Urundi between 1948 and 1954. The network of hospitals and dispensaries was being completed. Three hospitals and fourteen dispensaries had been opened or were under construc-

<sup>1</sup> *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1954*, Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muysewinkel, 1955 (Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1201).

tion in 1954. The scale of the medical treatment provided was illustrated by the fact that during the year under review the services concerned had granted more than 11 million consultations.

60. In 1955, the Administering Authority had made considerable efforts in the field of education. It had opened several government schools and establishments on the university level, which were open to all sections of the population, and also the interracial college at Usumbura. Generally speaking, without being spectacular, progress continued steadily from year to year, a fact of which the population was well aware, as witness the unforgettable welcome given to the King of the Belgians during his visit in 1955.

61. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said he would like to supplement the information given in the report by a brief description of developments in 1955.

62. In the political field, the outstanding event had been the visit of the King of the Belgians, whom the population had welcomed with an enthusiasm testifying to its attachment to Belgium and its Royal Family. In conformity with the Council's recommendations, several reforms had been, or were being, introduced. First, the Council of the Vice-Government-General would examine the question of changes in its membership at its next session, which was due to open on 16 April. The Administration's aim in proposing that reform had been to increase the membership of the Council and the proportion of indigenous members so as to make it more representative of the various elements of the population and of the various interests. A second reform, which had already been carried out, concerned the remuneration of the customary authorities. The standards previously applied had been discarded. In future, the salary of chiefs and sub-chiefs would be fixed by reference to the following elements: a basic salary, a seniority allowance, annual increments depending on the chief's rating, and family and housing allowances. In the case of chiefs, there would also be travel allowances and allowances for the use of private vehicles for official purposes. The system, which might appear somewhat complicated at first sight, had been adopted by the authorities on the advice of the indigenous councils and was based on the system applied to Belgian officials. The indigenous councils constituted in 1952 had continued to function; in particular, the two High Councils of Ruanda and of Urundi had been very active and had shown a great interest in the administration of local affairs.

63. The year 1955 had been satisfactory from the economic point of view. The economic life of Ruanda-Urundi depended to a large extent on the production of arabica coffee and hence upon the size of crops and sales and the world market situation. In 1954, a substantial drop in prices had seriously affected, not the indigenous producers, who had sold before the drop occurred, but the exporters. In 1955, the crop had been excellent (15,600 tons as compared with 13,600 in 1954) and transactions had been cautious. Consequently, the trade situation had been healthier than in 1954. One thousand five hundred and ninety-three traders, including 1,453 indigenous inhabitants, had applied for inclusion in the trade register. The ordinary budget provided for expenditure of approximately \$15 million in 1956 as compared with \$13,500,000 in 1954.

64. The Indigenous Welfare Fund, in which Ruanda-Urundi participated only because of its administrative union with the Belgian Congo, had, according to its last report, paid Ruanda-Urundi about \$1 million in 1954 (50 million francs) of which 7 million francs had been spent on the tuberculosis campaign, 4,600,000 million francs on the construction of teacher-training and trade schools and 40 million francs on water works.

65. There had also been considerable progress in agriculture. A total of 5,654,000 new coffee shrubs had been planted, covering an area of 8,732 acres. Irrigation works, the drainage of marshes and soil protection were being actively pursued. Two pilot projects had been started, one in Ruanda, the other in Urundi, to study the problem of establishing a biological equilibrium between man, earth, vegetation, water and cattle; to determine how many live-stock the land could support; to consider the measures to be taken to eliminate surplus cattle, to channel them towards consumption centres and to improve the quality of the remaining cattle.

66. In 1955, important building projects had been carried out such as the radio station buildings at Kigali and Ruyigi, a 58-metre bridge over the Nyarwongo, the completion of the Astrida-Shangugu road, the construction of a landing wharf for tenders at Kisenyi, a laboratory at Usumbura, a hospital at Rwibaga, and medical and school buildings, including temporary premises for Athénée, a pre-university institute, and the enlargement of the Astrida school group, at a cost of 21 million francs.

67. In the social field, a trade union of auxiliary administrative personnel had been granted recognition on 19 August 1955. Following the royal visit, a King's fund had been founded. It amounted to 2,000 million francs for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, of which 200 million francs were for Ruanda-Urundi, which would bring in an annual income of 8 million francs or \$160,000. The fund was to be used for the improvement of housing conditions for the indigenous inhabitants.

68. Indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants were now placed on the same footing as regards the sale of wine and beer but, by virtue of the Convention signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1919, the consumption, possession of and trade in distilled alcoholic beverages remained prohibited for the indigenous population.

69. In the educational field, a pre-university institute had been set up at Usumbura, which formed an essential link between secondary studies and higher education of European standard. The Belgian Government had decided to establish a government university at Elisabethville and special schools in other localities. One of those schools would very probably be opened in Ruanda-Urundi. The royal Athénée, an interracial mixed school, had been opened at Usumbura in September 1955. Its pupils (thirty-one Europeans and twenty-one indigenous inhabitants) were now offered two years of classical and modern studies and a preparatory course. An intermediate interracial section for girls had been opened at the Stella Matutina school at Usumbura, which had at present fifteen European and four African pupils. The interracial college of Usumbura, maintained by the Jesuit Fathers, had 159 pupils, including 129 indigenous inhabitants. At Ngagara, an official lay school group had been

established for indigenous inhabitants comprising 12 primary classes, one year preparatory to secondary studies, and a first year course preparing pupils to be instructors (*moniteurs*). The establishment now had 639 pupils, including 100 girls. At Kitega a government primary school with two classes had been opened. Evening classes had been started for indigenous in-

habitants, and courses were given in French, shorthand, typing, commerce and accountancy; there were now 265 students.

70. The PRESIDENT thanked the special representative.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.