



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Nineteenth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Wednesday, 20 March 1957,
at 2 p.m.

NEW YORK

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President: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

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; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Examination of petitions (*continued*)

[Agenda item 4]

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (T/PET.5/L.433)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the members of the Council that a request for a hearing had been received from the Union des associations traditionnelles, an organization of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration (T/PET.5/L.433). In view of the fact that the Council was to begin consideration of the annual report on the Cameroons under French administration in a few days' time, a reply should be sent without delay.

2. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that the French delegation had no objection to the granting of the request.

3. The PRESIDENT said that in the absence of any objection the petitioners would be informed that their request had been granted.

It was so decided.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi for 1955 (T/1282, T/1304) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 3 (a)]

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.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (*continued*)

Economic, social and educational advancement

4. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) asked whether the special representative could give the Council any information about anticipated measures under the ten-year development plan which would help the Territory to increase its economic and hence its financial resources and so help it to carry the burden of administrative expenditure in the future.

5. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that the resources of the Territory barely sufficed for expenditure under the ordinary budget. A deficit of some 120 to 130 million Belgian francs was anticipated for 1957 but that deficit might be covered by the surpluses placed in reserve in previous years. Nevertheless, if expenditure continued to increase, those reserves would be exhausted by the end of 1957, or by the end of 1958 at the latest, and the Territory would have, so to speak, to live from hand to mouth. Fresh resources would therefore have to be found in the Territory and, as the Council was aware, the ten-year plan included programmes for the development and acquisition of such resources.

6. Those programmes included the extension where possible of cash crops. Coffee production in the Territory had doubled in less than ten years and was continuing to increase. Each year from 5 to 9 million new bushes were planted. Cotton cultivation, too, was being encouraged. As the Council was aware, cotton could be cultivated only in the low-lying areas to the west of the Territory, but an attempt was being made to introduce it in the Mosso region, in the eastern part of the Territory. It was as yet too soon to say whether it would be successful. Extensive reafforestation had been carried out and the possibilities of tea planting were being considered.

7. In addition there was a large-scale programme of industrialization, including the plans for the electrification of the Ruzizi region, of which the Council had already been informed. A large sugar factory was being established in the Ruzizi plain, in the Belgian Congo near the frontier of Ruanda-Urundi, which would have a favourable effect on the Territory's resources.

8. Furthermore there were the great extension of fisheries, improvements in cattle-breeding and the constant endeavour to introduce new industries and to improve the products of the Territory.

9. In view of all those facts it appeared that the Territory would be able to meet the requirements of the years to come.

10. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) asked whether the special representative could give any information concerning the use of the funds being allocated by the interest-free advances from the Belgian Parliament during the remaining period of the ten-year plan, in addition to the figures given in the working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.735).

11. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that the ten-year plan was rather a general scheme for the development of the Territory than a rigid programme. In 1956, five years after the commencement of the plan, the officials concerned had made a kind of inventory of what had been accomplished and what

remained to be done. As a result the plan had been modified to a certain extent. For example, expenditure on education had increased unexpectedly in recent years and would presumably continue to do so. There was a budgetary allocation of about 185 million francs for education which would probably have to be considerably increased in the near future. The Administration would therefore be obliged either to restrict progress in other spheres of activity or to rely on outside capital and loans.

12. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) wondered whether the Administration envisaged other sources of finance for the development budget.

13. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Territory's principal external resource was the 400 million francs, or about 8 million dollars, placed at its disposal each year by the Belgian Government. If that sum proved insufficient a loan might be obtained from some other source. For example, in October 1956 the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had sent a mission to the Territory to investigate on the spot the possibility of contributing to the functioning of the ten-year plan. The Bank had not yet come to a decision on the question.

14. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) asked for information about the association of the very complete network of councils, from the sub-chiefdom councils upwards, with the implementation of the various forms of development described by the special representative.

15. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the indigenous councils were naturally concerned to a certain extent in development plans, but as they had not been long in existence and the greater part of the capital came from outside the Territory, the organization of the work, decisions with regard to expenditure and the carrying out of the programmes were largely in the hands of the European Administration. Nevertheless the indigenous councils decided how agricultural work should be divided between communities and individuals; the High Councils of the states (*pays*) and the chiefdom councils in particular took an active part in the extension of food crops and coffee cultivation. They had also played a large part in the establishment of indigenous peasant settlements in the areas which had so far been left uncultivated owing either to lack of water or to cattle disease. Those conditions had now been remedied thanks to irrigation and to the efforts of the veterinary service, and over 8,000 cultivators had settled in the areas in question. One of the settlements was near Usumbura, a second in the Mosso region and a third in Ruanda. The people there were rapidly abandoning their ancient tribal traditions and achieving a more highly developed social life.

16. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) recalled that in his opening statement (754th meeting) the special representative had said that a savings bank had been opened in 1951 and that at the end of 1956 deposits had amounted to almost \$2 million. He wondered whether the experience gained was considered encouraging and what were the future plans for the development of the movement.

17. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the experience had undoubtedly been most encouraging. As he had already informed the Council, 97 million francs had been deposited in the savings bank in recent years, of which nearly 46 million francs had been deposited by 47,086 indigenous inhabitants. Those

savings constituted a useful reserve, and moreover a habit of saving was fostered among the people.

18. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) asked whether the Administration regarded a drift or potential drift to the towns a serious problem in the Trust Territory.

19. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that so far there was no serious trend in that direction in Ruanda-Urundi because there were very few towns. The only town of any size was Usumbura, which had a population of about 45,000. There could be no doubt, however, that the problem would arise, for experience had shown that wherever in Africa there was an appreciable number of industrial workers or office employees, all kinds of parasites gathered to batten on the active population, with the inevitable consequences of impoverishment of the workers, overcrowding and the growth of slums. That was why the Administration did its utmost to discourage the settlement in the extra-tribal centres of people who had no need to be there.

20. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) said he had been much interested in the special representative's statement that the secondary schools in the Territory had reached the level of schools in Belgium and that pupils would be able to go direct from them to universities without any special training. The question of the gap between secondary education and university education was one which concerned all Administering Authorities and he wondered whether the special representative could give any further information on the subject, with possible reference to any implications with regard to the future of the Pre-university Institute referred to in the working paper.

21. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Pre-university Institute no longer existed. It had been established in 1955 because there had been a need for it at that time. The only university then available had been Lovanium, at Leopoldville, and one year's pre-university training had been provided at Usumbura for the benefit of pupils leaving school who required further coaching before they would be able to follow university courses. In 1956 the official university at Elizabethville had been opened. Moreover it had appeared that the majority of pupils at the Pre-university Institute at Usumbura were Congolese. The Institute had therefore been transferred to Elizabethville and attached to the university. There was no longer any need for a pre-university institute at Usumbura since pupils leaving the secondary schools were now ready to enter a university. In addition to its other advantages, the transfer of the Institute had relieved the Territory of a considerable expenditure.

22. Mr. KIANG (China) recalled that in his opening statement the special representative had informed the Council that a natural region in the Territory would be selected where agricultural propaganda for food cultivation would be carried out by the indigenous population. He would like some further information about that experiment and asked whether there were enough indigenous experts to carry it out.

23. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that, as the members of the Council were aware, it had always been necessary to compel the indigenous inhabitants to cultivate food crops, in order to avoid famines and improve the standard of living. Until the end of 1952 the European Administration had taken the initiative; from 1953 onwards it had confined itself to drawing up a programme and had left it to the indigenous authorities to supervise its execution. The

Agricultural Service comprised European agronomists and agricultural assistants, who were indigenous inhabitants. The work of agricultural propaganda and the supervision of plantations was carried out jointly by the Territorial Service and the Agricultural Service. Studies were made of the best means of production, the distribution of seed and methods for improving crops. The Residents of Ruanda and of Urundi had each chosen a natural region, including one or two chiefdoms, in which all agricultural activity had been left to the indigenous inhabitants. The chiefs in question had naturally been carefully chosen for their energy and experience. The Administration felt sure that the experiment would be successful but the results would not be seen before the end of 1957 or the beginning of 1958.

24. Mr. KIANG (China), referring to the working paper, drew attention to an apparent discrepancy between the first paragraph under the heading "Commerce and trade", which stated that there was growing indigenous participation in retail trade as a result of the increase in the number of trading centres, and the first paragraph under the heading "Labour", from which it appeared that the average number of indigenous workers employed in commerce had decreased from 12,000 in 1954 to 11,000 in 1955.

25. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought there must be some mistake. He could state categorically that there had been no decrease in indigenous commercial activity. In the trading centres indigenous inhabitants had occupied 253 lots in 1950, 469 in 1951, 936 in 1953, 1,032 in 1954, 1,180 in 1955 and 1,319 in 1956.

26. In the commercial centres two buildings had been occupied by indigenous inhabitants in 1950, seventeen in 1953, twenty-two in 1954, thirty-two in 1955, and thirty-nine in 1956. It was therefore clear that there had been a continuous increase in indigenous commercial activity over a number of years.

27. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) added that one possible explanation of the seeming discrepancy was the great increase in the number of indigenous traders, which might involve a corresponding decrease in the number of indigenous inhabitants in salaried employment. Moreover, as a result of the Administration's pressure for higher wages, a number of European, Asian and even indigenous traders had been obliged to reduce their staffs. The total number of indigenous inhabitants engaged in commerce on their own account had increased considerably.

28. Mr. KIANG (China) said he had compared the working paper carefully with the annual report¹ and did not agree that there was a mistake in the figures. He pressed for an explanation of the decrease in indigenous participation in import and export or wholesale trade.

29. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said he would look into the matter further and reply at a later meeting.

30. Mr. KIANG (China) said that his delegation was happy to note that the time-limit for the existence of the indigenous co-operatives had been extended from five to thirty years. It wished to know, however, what

were the important decisions for which approval by the Governor was still necessary.

31. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the main changes in the legislation relating to co-operatives were the extension of the time-limit for co-operatives and groups of co-operatives from five to thirty years, and the fact that it was now possible for people from neighbouring countries to join a co-operative if they could prove five years of continuous residence in the Territory. Moreover, under the new legislation the Administration's supervisory powers over co-operatives were considerably reduced. Whereas supervision had hitherto been exercised by the Residents, it was now confined to the Governor. In general, all important decisions were now made by the co-operatives themselves; he could not say offhand which decisions still required the Governor's approval but he thought it was only decisions which entailed expenditures above a certain sum. He would try to answer the question more specifically at the next meeting.

32. In reply to further questions by Mr. KIANG (China), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that three consumers' co-operatives had been functioning satisfactorily at the end of 1955. The oldest of them, the Kigali co-operative, served a rural community, while those of Rutongo and Rwinkwavu were in mining centres. There had also been two agricultural co-operatives at the end of 1955. With the increase in coffee cultivation, two coffee planters' co-operatives had been established during 1956, while another consumers' co-operative had been formed in February 1957.

33. Although the number of co-operatives might appear small it had always been the Administration's intention to develop and encourage them. Up to the present, however, the Africans had not understood or accepted the idea of co-operatives, and in practice the co-operatives which operated satisfactorily were those in which there was a European on the committee to direct operations.

34. Mr. KIANG (China) asked for further information on the results of the study visit made to the Territory in December 1955 by representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

35. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said he understood that a report had been made on the visit and that its conclusions had been rather negative. Representatives of the Bank had visited the Territory again in October 1956 and it seemed that their conclusions had been more favourable. He had already mentioned the projects in which they had been particularly interested. It was hoped that as a result of their latest visit the International Bank would find it possible to advance funds to Ruanda-Urundi.

36. Mr. KIANG (China) asked for further information on the two pilot projects inaugurated in 1955 to study problems connected with the breeding of livestock. He inquired whether any more of those projects had since been established.

37. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the two pilot projects were operating very satisfactorily but it was far too early to expect any major results from them. No new projects had been inaugurated, the two now in operation being adequate for the research undertaken.

38. Mr. MAHEU (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) introduced the observations of UNESCO concerning the annual re-

¹ *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1955* (Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muysewinkel, 1956). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1282.

ports for 1955 on five Trust Territories (T/1304). The introduction to the document, which contained general remarks referring to those Trust Territories, should be taken into careful consideration because it indicated the main conceptions which had guided UNESCO's examination of the reports. Moreover, in some cases the introduction contained suggestions or recommendations relating to special techniques with respect to teaching, culture or information.

39. In connexion with Ruanda-Urundi, UNESCO pointed out in its observations that it seemed desirable to increase the number of primary school inspectors, since supervision was an essential instrument in the development of teaching. The constant increase in the funds allotted to education since 1951, and the steady increase in the number of schools and students, were very satisfactory. The extension of primary schooling still constituted a serious problem, however, and the figures given in paragraph 15 of UNESCO's observations made it clear that even greater efforts were needed to deal with it.

40. Although the number of indigenous girls attending primary schools had practically doubled in five years, the proportion of girls attending school as compared with boys was still very small and had remained comparatively stable. UNESCO felt that more action should be taken to increase that proportion and that it would be desirable to arrange for a selected upper course for girls, as was provided for boys, from which they could go on to secondary school.

41. Another question which had interested UNESCO was the extent to which primary schools were able to retain pupils for the complete six-year cycle of studies. Its conclusion had been that the retention index, or the proportion of children who went from the first year to the second, from the second to the third, and so on, was in fact very low: 460 per thousand for the second year and 27 per thousand for the sixth year.

42. In its observations, UNESCO also suggested that in the next report statistics should be furnished on the number of students who went from the first stage of primary education to the upper "selected" four years. It had been happy to note the steady increase in the number of secondary establishments and hoped that that effort would be further intensified.

43. With regard to vocational and handicraft education, which was of the utmost importance in the Territory, UNESCO had noted the progress accomplished but had pointed out that the number of students was still very small. The Administering Authority's plans led UNESCO to hope that that number would be rapidly increased. In higher education, the number of students was of course very low; nevertheless UNESCO had taken note of the efforts made to enable students to continue their higher studies outside the Territory and hoped that those efforts would be accompanied by an increase in scholarships.

44. There had been a steady increase in the number of teachers; the fact, however, that in 1955 qualified teachers represented only 27 per cent of the entire teaching staff constituted a very important problem. UNESCO felt that a special effort should be made in that key field.

45. In connexion with fundamental education, UNESCO had once again expressed the wish that the Administering Authority would consider the possibility of making some experiments in that field, since it represented the type of education which was particu-

larly useful under the conditions prevailing in the Territory.

46. In connexion with science and culture, UNESCO had noted with great interest the information furnished in the 1955 report, particularly that concerning the activities of the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa.

47. In the field of culture, UNESCO had expressed the hope that the authorities would consider the possibility of encouraging the constitution and development of ethnographic collections. Exchanges might be undertaken with foreign museums, especially those specializing in African ethnography.

48. UNESCO considered that media such as the radio and the cinema could be very effective instruments for the cultural and educational development of populations like those of Ruanda-Urundi. It hoped that the Administering Authority would consider the possibility of providing more detailed information with respect to the use of those two media in its next report.

49. Mr. KIANG (China) thanked the representative of UNESCO for his observations on educational advancement in the Territory. All members of the Council would agree that general progress had been made in that field and that the rapid tempo of the educational programme was fully reflected in the Territory's current budget. He would be glad if the special representative could tell the Council what progress had been made in the matter of school inspectors.

50. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the number of inspectors had not greatly increased. There were still several inspectors who were attached to the Education Service itself and who were officials; in addition, there were six missionaries who inspected schools in the interior of the Territory.

51. Great efforts had been made in the field of education in 1955 and 1956. Educational expenditure had accounted for 20 per cent of the total budget, a figure which would be very difficult to increase. Although the Administration intended to go on promoting and developing education it would be over-optimistic to hope that the accelerated movement of the past two years could be maintained. Moreover, finance was not the only problem: there were certain natural limitations which made rapid progress very difficult. A certain period of time was required for a student to complete his education and teachers could only be assigned a limited number of pupils without impairing the quality of the instruction given. It was necessary to train teachers and to have the staff to train them. That was a long process which would necessarily be slow and unspectacular. An increase in the number of the inspectors would necessarily mean a reduction in the number of persons directly engaged in teaching. It was a question of both financial and human possibilities.

52. Mr. BARGUES (France) asked for further information on the migration towards the Kivu region. Referring to a study of the Territory recently published by Lovanium University, in which it was suggested that the Administering Authority should adopt a policy of systematic resettlement in order to help solve the problem of overpopulation, he asked whether the special representative could comment on that suggestion and whether the Administering Authority had worked out any plans in that respect.

53. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that although the population movement into the Kivu area, and particularly towards Gishari, had been encouraged

and assisted by the Administration it was essentially a spontaneous movement. The Administration had not transferred anyone but it had encouraged and assisted the departure of those who wished to leave.

54. Only 1,122 families had emigrated to the Kivu in 1955, because the areas suitable for occupation had become more or less saturated. The number of inhabitants of Ruanda and Urundi who had formed indigenous communities in the Gishari area was probably more than 100,000.

55. Another possibility under consideration was that of making available to migrants from Ruanda-Urundi land in the northern part of Katanga Province, which was a mountainous region similar to those of Ruanda-Urundi where it would probably be easier for the migrants to become acclimatized.

56. Finally, the Administration had done its utmost to encourage the departure of workers to the mining regions of Haut-Katanga. By the end of 1956, 4,057 Banyaruanda and Barundi, accompanied by their families, had gone there as industrial workers. Their living conditions there were very good. Continuous contact was maintained with them and the Mwami of Ruanda visited them nearly every year.

57. It was difficult to accelerate migration because the land available—in the Belgian Congo, for example, where the Banyaruanda and the Barundi would be welcome—was forest land, to which the migrants found it impossible to adapt themselves. That was why the studies so far made had been confined to areas similar in climate to those of the high plateaux of Ruanda and Urundi.

58. The problem of migration involved psychological and, to a certain extent, political difficulties. In the Gishari region those difficulties had been reduced to a minimum, because the population had not been transported into the area but had really drifted into it. The migrants had more or less transported their social and political communities into a neighbouring territory. Difficulties would certainly arise if a large number of people were transferred to a region where a different political system prevailed. If, for example, large numbers of Banyaruanda and Barundi were sent into a Congolese chiefdom they would undoubtedly have the greatest difficulty in adapting themselves to local legislation and it was quite probable that the local Congolese chiefs would not regard them favourably. While the local chiefs would admit them willingly so long as they became their subjects, they would not welcome people who retained their own customs and laws and ignored the local laws.

59. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that while it had been stated in the annual report that the number of cattle in the Territory was excessive, it did not seem to him that 900,000 head of cattle in a population of over 4 million was high. Taking into account the fact that the average weight of animals in Africa was low, he wondered if the number in Ruanda-Urundi was not, indeed, too few to provide the population with the meat ration considered adequate in Western countries and to permit an increase in exports as the economic situation in the Territory improved.

60. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the word "excessive" had been used in a very limited sense and with regard to the present situation only. Taking into account the total number of inhabitants in relation to the extent of pasturage, the extent of land not suitable for cultivation and the tonnage of food crops produced each year, as well as the fact that

unproductive cattle had only a prestige value for their holders, it could be stated that the total number of cattle was 200,000 head in excess. That excess would be reversed overnight, however, if the indigenous inhabitants were to accustom themselves to eating meat. At present they ate meat only when cattle died and they did not slaughter cattle except for special occasions. The Administration was careful to eliminate only economically unproductive livestock and the reduction in cattle was actually negligible.

61. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that in the light of the special representative's reply it would seem that the term "cattle breeders" used in the annual report should be changed to "cattle owners", since the indigenous inhabitants did not appear to be engaged in breeding cattle in the true sense of the word.

62. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the term "cattle breeder" had been used in contrast to farmers. The use of the word "owner" had been avoided, for under the contract system the cattle were very rarely owned by those who held them.

63. Mr. BARGUES (France) wondered whether the King's Fund for the construction of dwellings for the indigenous inhabitants had begun to function, what results had been obtained and what were the broad outlines of the Administering Authority's policy regarding improvement of indigenous housing. He wondered if the Bureau for African Housing was the only organ engaged in improving housing conditions, whether its functions were purely administrative and whether private organs of a similar character, such as loan societies, existed.

64. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) stated that the problems of housing and of building loans were among the most difficult confronting the Administration because the indigenous inhabitants were never owners of land in the usual sense of the word. They had the free use of land on which they lived or which they cultivated and it could not be taken from them, but they could not put it up as security for a loan. As far back as 1908 the Administering Authority had enacted a law for the Belgian Congo which had reflected its desire to enable the indigenous inhabitants to acquire full ownership of the land. Such reforms, however, were difficult to carry out in a country like Ruanda-Urundi, where the existing system of land tenure was extremely complicated. Administration officials had been studying the matter for the past two or three years in co-operation with indigenous notables. Care must be exercised to ensure that any legislation introduced would not encourage the establishment of large land holdings or open the door to land speculation for the benefit of non-indigenous inhabitants. It was hoped that in the near future, perhaps within a year, a draft decree permitting indigenous inhabitants to acquire property with all corresponding rights would be ready for the King's signature. The King's Fund had so far been effective in only a few cases. It had not been widely resorted to because those who might obtain assistance from it found it difficult to borrow from loan societies the amount they themselves were required to raise towards the cost of building.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p. m. and was resumed at 4.20 p. m.

65. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) noted from the annual report that the profits made by agricultural colonists were tax-exempt for five years from the date on which the concession was granted. He would like to know whether

that exemption applied only to non-indigenous colonists. Five years seemed rather excessive.

66. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that, generally speaking, the exemption applied to non-indigenous colonists. It should be pointed out, however, that the Administration granted very few agricultural concessions to non-indigenous persons; after almost forty years of trusteeship and mandate there were only fifty-six non-indigenous agricultural colonists in Ruanda-Urundi. A limited amount of colonization was to the advantage of the indigenous community, for it created a demand for labour and made it possible to resettle certain uninhabited areas in the Territory and carry out large-scale reforestation programmes. During his first five years, a colonist derived practically no profit from his land; they were years of investment and expense and it was only fair that during that period the colonist should be exempt from taxes. Very few colonists were now exempt, as the great majority had been settled in the country for far longer than five years.

67. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked which companies came within the scope of the Act of 21 June 1927, why the company tax was levied by the Government of the Belgian Congo and what percentage of it was returned to Ruanda-Urundi.

68. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that most of the companies in Ruanda-Urundi had their headquarters either in Belgium or in the Belgian Congo and therefore paid their taxes at Brussels or Leopoldville. The percentage returned to Ruanda-Urundi was determined on the basis of the profits realized in the Territory as a percentage of the company's total profits. Taxes levied at Brussels were returned to Ruanda-Urundi through the intermediary of the Government-General of the Belgian Congo.

69. He would give further details at the following meeting after consulting the text of the Decree of 10 September 1951 and the Act of 21 June 1927.

70. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that he would welcome further information.

71. It would appear from the annual report that the cattle tax primarily affected the indigenous inhabitants, since the non-indigenous inhabitants owned very few cattle. He wondered whether there was not some way of combating the excessive number of cattle other than by a tax, which bore heavily on the indigenous inhabitants and hardly at all on the non-indigenous inhabitants.

72. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the cattle tax was a very fair form of taxation, being based on outward signs of wealth and therefore on the individual's ability to pay. In that respect it differed from and corrected the defects of the personal tax, which varied from region to region according to the wealth of the region but took no account of the wealth of the individual.

73. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) recalled that at its fifteenth session the Trusteeship Council had suggested that the inhabitants should be given greater credit facilities (A/2933, p. 91). He would like to know whether the Société de crédit au colonat et à l'industrie, the Caisse d'épargne du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi and the Fonds temporaire de crédit agricole had made loans to indigenous inhabitants and, if not, why not.

74. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that to the best of his knowledge the Société de crédit au colonat et à l'industrie had not, so far, made any

loans to indigenous inhabitants. It had, however, amended its statutes the previous year to provide for the possibility of such loans. The same was true of the Caisse d'épargne du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi and the Fonds temporaire de crédit agricole, the latter being a recent innovation in the Territory. It should be borne in mind that the organizations in question were private rather than State institutions and that in making loans their first consideration must be the security offered by the borrower. If the indigenous inhabitants had not obtained any loans that was not because they were indigenous inhabitants but because they could not give adequate security. They could, however, obtain credit from the chiefdoms and state treasuries, which granted loans on less security or on a different type of security than that required by the three companies.

75. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) noted that one passage in the annual report implied that mining was of secondary importance in the Territory's economic life. That contention was not borne out by other passages in the report which mentioned, *inter alia*, that in 1955 exports of ore and metal had amounted to approximately 296 million francs whereas agricultural products had accounted for only a small percentage of exports and that the trend in economic development was towards the expansion of industrial crops and of the mining industry.

76. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that it was a fact that mining was a secondary activity in Ruanda-Urundi. There was not a single mine in Urundi; the few mines in Ruanda produced approximately 2,600 tons of tin and 200 kilogrammes of gold a year. While exports of tin might be valued at 300 million francs, the export value of indigenous coffee alone amounted to 760 million francs. It should, moreover, be borne in mind that agricultural production for export represented only about 2.5 to 3 per cent of the total agricultural production, which was concentrated on the production of food crops for local consumption. The mining industry was nevertheless of considerable financial benefit to the Territory. The annual report gave the number of shares held by the Territory in the mining companies, and the Territory was one of the largest shareholders in the Compagnie de recherches et d'exploitation minière du Ruanda-Urundi (Corem).

77. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked why the most important and lucrative economic activities were in the hands of Europeans and whether that situation was compatible with the Administering Authority's declared policy of ensuring the complete economic equality of all the Territory's inhabitants. He would also like to know why the export-import trade was in the hands of Europeans and whether that was compatible with the Administering Authority's statement in the annual report that the export-import trade would be left to private enterprise.

78. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that mining companies and export-import operations of any size required the investment of considerable capital and extensive technical knowledge. Those requirements were not as yet combined in indigenous circles. Any indigenous inhabitant who had the necessary capital could immediately open a large export-import business and he would receive every assistance from the Administration. The situation would undoubtedly improve as time went on.

79. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) noted that no indigenous inhabitants were members of the Chambers of Commerce. He would like to know the reason for that

situation, which was particularly regrettable in view of the fact that the members of the Chambers of Commerce played a certain part in the political life of the Territory in addition to their economic activities.

80. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that membership in the Chambers of Commerce was open to the indigenous inhabitants. If they did not join them, that was because most of the indigenous business men were not interested in such organizations and could not see their utility. The more wealthy indigenous business men were normally haulage contractors, restaurant-owners in urban centres and manufacturers of bricks and tiles, who had no difficulty in finding a market for their products locally.

81. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) reserved his right to comment on the special representative's replies.

82. He would like to know what measures were being taken to enable the indigenous inhabitants to participate more fully in the economic life of the Territory and whether there were indigenous representatives on managing boards of the Native Coffee Bureau, the Cotton Reserve Fund and the Congo Cotton Marketing Board.

83. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the indigenous inhabitants were represented on the managing board of the Native Coffee Bureau. The Cotton Reserve Fund was a Belgian Congo organization; to the best of his knowledge it did not include any indigenous representatives, for the simple reason that it had been set up at a period when there had been no indigenous inhabitants sufficiently advanced to participate in its work.

84. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the cotton monopoly enjoyed by the Compagnie de la Ruzizi properly safeguarded the interests of the indigenous producers. He noted that, although the Trust Territory produced cotton, it imported large quantities of textiles and he wondered whether a local textile industry could not be developed.

85. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Belgian Administration did not like monopolies but it had been forced by circumstances to agree to the one in question. In the Trust Territory cotton grew in a very small area along Lake Tanganyika and the Ruzizi river. The amount of cotton produced was very small and in order to make the establishment of a cotton factory feasible it had been necessary to guarantee that factory a monopoly of production. Furthermore, the factory was not a normal business undertaking. It bought cotton from the indigenous producers, processed and sold it. The profits from the sale were returned to the indigenous producers with the exception of a small part which the factory retained to cover its operating costs. Hence the cotton producers were paid twice, once when their cotton was bought and again when it was sold.

86. In reply to a further question by Mr. MUFTI (Syria), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that all the workers in the mining centres and their families belonged to the local co-operatives, which were basically buyers' co-operatives. The European inhabitants did much to ensure the successful operation of the co-operatives, which were of great advantage to the indigenous inhabitants in that they made food and everyday necessities available to them at very reasonable prices.

87. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked why Corem had been given preferential treatment and whether it had not been granted exorbitant rights.

88. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that exactly the opposite was true. Corem had been set up after the war to develop deposits discovered during the Second World War when the Administration had taken a very active part in mining operations in the Territory because of the importance of strategic ores. The Administration had recruited personnel from the local mining companies and had prospected on its own account. Corem had been set up in order to prevent private companies from deriving too great an advantage from the State's prospecting during the war. The State held 16,400 shares out of a total of 50,000 in the company, the other shares had been distributed among the various mining companies which had contributed to the initial capital.

89. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) added that Corem had been established in order to enable the Government of Ruanda-Urundi to take full advantage of the prospecting work carried out by the Administration during the war.

90. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) understood that while the Administering Authority had suspended prospecting rights during the war it had given preferential treatment to Corem.

91. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) demurred. Corem had been established after the war in order to exploit the deposits discovered by the Government during the war.

92. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) concluded that while private prospecting had been restrained, a State monopoly had been given to a company which had been set up in order to centralize prospecting and mining activities.

93. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that that was not a correct statement of the situation. Corem was not a monopoly but only a new company formed to exploit certain deposits. Since 1950 all restrictions on prospecting had been lifted and the field was now open to anyone who could put up half a million francs to cover his initial outlay.

94. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that much of the material which had just been introduced into the debate related to a period prior to the Trusteeship Agreement and was not strictly within the Council's competence. He and the special representative had replied to the Syrian representative's questions out of courtesy.

95. The PRESIDENT asked the Syrian representative to refrain from asking questions on matters relating to the period before the Trusteeship Agreement.

96. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that he had used only material appearing in the annual report.

97. With regard to population shifts in the Territory, he wondered if it was possible to limit internal migration of the indigenous inhabitants and whether emigration was necessary. To encourage the settlement of colonists in the Territory and at the same time to encourage, even indirectly, emigration of the indigenous inhabitants would be tantamount to disregarding the objectives of the Charter and would not be in the interests of the Territory.

98. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Syrian representative's remarks indicated a misunderstanding of the true situation. For years it had been the Administering Authority's policy to allow

settlement of colonists in the Territory only for the benefit of the indigenous inhabitants and with the formal consent of the indigenous authorities. Hence when a colonist was admitted, the indigenous inhabitants understood that it was because he could give them work, educate them or introduce a new industry or trade which would benefit the Territory. Of the approximately one thousand colonists in Ruanda-Urundi the majority were craftsmen or industrialists and, to a lesser extent, tradesmen, only fifty-six being engaged in farming. They all contributed far more to the Territory's economy than they took away. The fact that the indigenous inhabitants had tried to elect two colonist farmers as their representatives showed that they placed more faith in them than in their own leaders. As far as emigration was concerned, it was naturally to be regretted that all Africans born in the Territory could not find a satisfactory livelihood there, but since the Territory was over-populated a certain amount of emigration was desirable.

99. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked what were the means by which the indigenous inhabitants could exercise their right to prevent the settlement of colonists. He pointed out that while the number of colonist farmers was small the areas occupied by them was relatively large.

100. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the land occupied by colonists, including that belonging to missions, constituted only 0.4 per cent of the total area of the Territory. He read out two letters written by the Governor of the Territory informing colonists who had applied for certain parcels of land for industrial purposes that their requests had been refused because the indigenous inhabitants had withheld consent. When a colonist submitted an application for land to be used for industrial, commercial or agricultural purposes, all the indigenous inhabitants who had any rights whatsoever in connexion with the land in question were consulted.

101. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that it was his impression that, despite the avowed policy of the Administering Authority of ensuring economic equality for all nationals, Europeans actually dominated the economic field, particularly where the most important and lucrative activities were concerned. He wondered if that situation could be attributed to the existing legislation and the limited resources at the disposal of the indigenous inhabitants.

102. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Administration was encouraging the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in industry, commerce and all other aspects of economic activity. They were already occupying an important place in certain branches of the economy. That was particularly true in the case of the Territory's principal agricultural product, coffee, sales of which had amounted to 760 million francs in the last fiscal year studied. The coffee plantations were owned by Africans (non-indigenous production amounted to 1 per cent of the total), and stockbreeding was entirely in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants. Enterprises owned by them were increasing, notably in such fields as transport, the manufacture of bricks and tiles, carpentry and the hotel and restaurant business. It should be remembered that

the economic life of the Territory had been initiated by European enterprises and that if the indigenous inhabitants were now able to take over such operations as coffee-planting it was because they had been taught and assisted by the Europeans. The commercial firms owned by colonists had brought into the Territory capital and technical knowledge which would not otherwise have been available. It was not true that the Administering Authority had tried to reserve such activities to non-indigenous inhabitants. As the indigenous inhabitants acquired greater technical competence they would be more willing to risk their capital in commercial or industrial enterprises and the Administration would give them all possible assistance in such endeavours.

103. Mr. MCGREGOR (United States of America) said that having spent three years in the Belgian Congo he felt that he was in a position to recognize the great strides made by the Administering Authority in developing the land. His first questions would refer to agriculture, for that was the basis for the livelihood of the majority of the population. He wondered whether the Administering Authority had been impressed by the reaction of the population to the initiative taken in the abolition of the *ubuhake* system and whether it thought the population was sufficiently advanced to be receptive to such measures.

104. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that owing to the different historical backgrounds of the two parts of the Territory the reactions had varied. The distributions of cattle had been more favourably received in Ruanda than in Urundi because it was in the former area that the old feudal system of cattle ownership had weighed more heavily on the inhabitants. The greater number of such distributions had accordingly taken place in Ruanda. In Urundi the Mwami had issued a decree declaring that the distributions were authorized and indicating the manner in which they would be carried out. The High Council of the state and the chieftom councils had encouraged the population to undertake such distributions. The peasants in Urundi, however, had not so far seemed at all eager to terminate their old contracts.

105. Mr. MCGREGOR (United States of America) wondered what had been the results of the chemical fertilizer experiment carried out by the Institute for Agronomic Studies in the Belgian Congo (INEAC), which was referred to in the annual report.

106. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that research in chemical fertilizers had not yet produced tangible results and that cattle manure appeared to be far superior to chemical fertilizers. The two INEAC stations were continuing their research in that field.

107. Mr. MCGREGOR (United States of America) asked what accounted for the fact that, although there had been a slight increase in the area devoted to all food crops in 1955, total production had decreased.

108. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that he could not give an exact answer to the question. Such fluctuations were usually caused by climatic conditions; the extremely irregular rainfall in the Territory had a considerable influence on crop production.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p. m.