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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; World Health Organization.

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 (continued)

1. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the decline in the Territory's revenue for 1955 had been due to a decrease in local production.

2. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said it was possible that the decrease had been due partly to the poor coffee crop. Another reason might be that, because of the low price of coffee, the exporters had kept their coffee in store instead of selling it and that consequently a considerable part of the normal export duties had not been collected. Still another reason was that the annual report¹ covered only the period up to 31 December 1955 while the budget was not closed until 31 October of the following year, so that the total given on page 310 of the report was a partial figure; the final figure would probably be higher than that of the preceding year.

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.

3. In reply to further questions from Mr. JAIPAL (India), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the increase in revenue from the polygamy tax was due to an increase in the tax and not to an increase in polygamy. Revenue from the tax would become less and less in the years to come, for polygamy had been declared illegal and no further plural marriages would be permitted.

4. The taxes listed under item 4 on page 306 were collected partly on profits made in the Belgian Congo but principally, so far as Ruanda-Urundi was concerned, from companies which did business with, or had an office in, the Territory.

5. The Tax Service of Ruanda-Urundi was run with great care and the apparent fluctuations in revenue were often due to a change in the tax basis or the fact that, in accordance with legislation, a tax collected during one year was carried over to another year under a different budget item. If the successive annual reports were examined it would be seen that the total of taxes collected had been increasing regularly year by year and that no items had been omitted.

6. As was stated on page 43 of the report, the budget was prepared by the Territorial Administrators, the Residents and the heads of departments of the Vice-Government-General. It was the Tax Service which was mainly responsible for preparing the list of taxes payable by the companies. The only part the Government of the Belgian Congo and the Belgian Government played in connexion with the taxes paid by businesses was that of deciding how much of the tax revenue from companies which had headquarters in Belgium, the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi belonged to the Territory.

7. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said it was his delegation's view that the Territory's budget should be as self-sufficient as possible. It was from that point of view that he had remarked on the fluctuation in revenue under certain items of the budget and had felt obliged to point out that for the development of a sound budgetary position, as distinct from the development of a sound economy, it was necessary to rely on certain safe sources of revenue which would regularly bring in approximately the same amount.

8. He asked what had been the proportion of the indigenous contribution to the Territory's revenue during 1955.

9. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that he had not the exact figure for 1955. In 1954, however, the revenue provided by the indigenous population had amounted to 24.85 per cent of the budget and it might be assumed that the proportion for 1955 was roughly the same.

10. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that according to his calculations, if certain other taxes were taken into account, the proportion of revenue contributed by the indigenous population during 1955 had been in the neighbourhood of 30 to 35 per cent, which was an improvement on 1954.

11. In his delegation's opinion it was necessary to ensure a greater degree of indigenous contribution to the Territory's revenues if its economy was to be placed on a sound basis. He was not, of course, suggesting greater taxation of the indigenous population but increased participation by the indigenous inhabitants in enterprises which were at present in non-indigenous hands. He wondered what the Administering Authority's policy was in the matter and what plans it had for securing larger indigenous participation in non-indigenous enterprises such as industry, foreign trade, mining, etc.
12. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that in addition to the proportion of direct tax revenue paid by the indigenous population, as given in the table on page 50, the indigenous population contributed a considerable proportion of the indirect tax revenue, such as customs duties. It would be a mistake to try to draw a sharp line between the revenue derived from different parts of the population, for all the income on which the budget was based was national income of the Territory as a whole and was based on the activities of the population as a whole. For example, the direct taxes paid by the companies were also, in a sense, paid by the population as a whole, since they were based on income which was the result of co-operation between the African and non-African inhabitants of the Territory.
13. Additional information on the matter was to be found on page 356 of the report.
14. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative), replying to the Indian representative's last question, said that it had been the Administration's constant policy to encourage the development of commercial and industrial activities on the part of the Territory's indigenous population. There was considerable indigenous participation in industry and it was increasing steadily.
15. Mr. JAIPAL (India) congratulated the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the statement he had made at the Council's 755th meeting. He wondered if the special representative would comment on the implied suggestion in the FAO statement that measures might be undertaken to increase the use of organic manure and composting, since the experiments with the use of chemical fertilizers had apparently not been very encouraging.
16. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that for many years the Territory's Agricultural Service had conducted educational programmes designed to teach the indigenous inhabitants the use of organic manure and composting to restore the soil. Agricultural experts and teachers were at work throughout the Territory and the use of organic manure was part of the agricultural work imposed on the indigenous communities and supervised by the Bami and the chiefs.
17. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether the shares the Government of Ruanda-Urundi held in the Compagnie de recherches et d'exploitation minière du Ruanda-Urundi (Corem) had been paid for in cash or ceded by the company as payment for the mining concession.
18. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said he thought the shares represented the value of the Territory's contribution to the company of certain discoveries made by official prospectors during the Second World War.
19. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the shares represented a capital contribution justified by the fact that the mineral deposits which had led to the establishment of Corem had been largely discovered in the course of the prospecting carried out by the Administration. The Territory had received the shares in exchange for its contribution to the company of those deposits.
20. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether the same situation existed with respect to the companies listed on page 51 of the report.
21. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the Government of Ruanda-Urundi held a large number of special shares, called B shares, in most of the Territory's mining companies. Those shares were dividend-bearing. They had been allocated to the Ruanda-Urundi Government as its part of the profits of the mining companies. The deposits worked by the companies were usually discovered by private prospectors, but were regarded as a part of the Territory's patrimony. They were handed over to the companies by the Government as concessions for which the Government was paid in shares. By that means, the Territory itself shared directly in the profits derived from the mines.
22. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether the amount given in the 1955 report as revenue from the real-estate tax, which was only half as large as the corresponding sum for 1954, represented the final figure.
23. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the figure given on page 306 represented only twelve months' collection, whereas the amount which would figure in the final budget for 1955 would be collected over a period of twenty-two months. Thus the amount collected for 1955 during the period ended 31 December 1956 had reached a total of 9,595,344 Belgian francs, which was very close to the 1954 figure. On the other hand, the amount collected for 1956 had already reached the figure of 6,700,000 francs and was expected to total 11 million francs.
24. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked how the Territory's budget could be drawn up on an annual basis when taxes were collected on a two-year basis.
25. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Territory had an annual budget and all the relevant calculations were made on the basis of one year. Collection of the revenue was, however, carried out over a twenty-two month period, for it was obviously impossible to collect by 31 December taxes levied on a source which had only become taxable during the month of December, as for example, in the case of buildings constructed in December. The same was true of expenditure, which had to be undertaken within the budgetary year, though payments could be made over a period which included the first ten months of the following year.
26. Mr. MUFTI (Syria), reverting to a question he had asked at the 756th meeting, inquired how many companies were subject to company tax under the Act of 21 June 1927, what was their business turnover, what financial control was exercised over them and whether the special representative considered it adequate, and lastly whether the local authorities participated in that control.
27. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that both unincorporated and incorporated companies had to pay the company tax. If the company's headquarters were in the Territory the tax was levied in the Territory; otherwise the tax was levied at Brussels

or Leopoldville and a share proportionate to the company's activities in the Trust Territory was returned to Ruanda-Urundi.

28. To the best of his recollection between thirty and forty companies were affected. They included the Banque belge d'Afrique, the Banque du Congo belge, Platarundi, the Compagnie belge d'entreprises minières, the Compagnie du Kivu, Mirudi, the Compagnie de la Ruzizi, Estaf, Interfina, Sedec, Petrocongo, Remina, Socophar, Shell, Shun, Minétain, Somuki, Synkin, Tabacongo, Géoruanda, Corem, Trabeka, Philips Congo, Huilusa, Metalusa, Incosal and Siruco.

29. The types of taxation paid and the estimated revenue for 1956 were given in the tables on pages 306 and 356 of the annual report. In October 1956, 7,135,266 francs had been paid to Ruanda-Urundi as its share of taxation levied on the companies he had mentioned.

30. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) added that many of the companies operating in Ruanda-Urundi operated also in the Belgian Congo and in Belgium itself. Many of their tax obligations were discharged locally in the form of personal taxes, export duties and tax deductions from the salaries and wages paid to their personnel. In addition, however, such companies were subject to a very heavy profits tax, levied in Belgium. On every dividend, for instance, a considerable percentage was withheld in the form of taxation. Part or even the whole of the tax levied by the Belgian fiscal authorities on dividends derived from activities in Africa was paid to the Territory's budget by agreement between the Government of Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Treasury.

31. In reply to a further question by Mr. MUFTI (Syria), Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the local authorities in Ruanda-Urundi knew in advance the share of the company tax that they would receive, because they knew the rates of taxation and the origin of the profits. The Belgian Government felt that it was not reasonable that the Belgian Treasury should profit from taxation on dividends paid out of profits made in Ruanda-Urundi. For practical reasons the tax was levied in Belgium, when the dividend was paid, but the sum was credited to the Territory's budget.

32. There was no actual agreement on the subject between the Belgian authorities and the Territorial authorities; the matter was dealt with in a Belgian Act of 1927 and the Decree of 1951.

33. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that it seemed to him that the indigenous inhabitants were over-taxed, while the most profitable economic activities in the Territory were under-taxed. The comparative table of ordinary revenue for the financial years 1951 to 1955 and the budget estimates for 1956, on page 306 of the annual report, showed that taxes from indigenous sources, and in particular the head tax, the tax on polygamy and the cattle tax, amounted to 171 million francs annually, whereas income taxes and more particularly taxes on company income totalled only 100 million francs or so. Furthermore, there would seem to be a number of gaps in the income tax figures which would indicate tax evasion on a large scale. For example, no figure was given for income tax levied under the Act of 21 June 1927, for the financial years 1950, 1954 and 1955; in addition revenue from that source in 1952 had amounted to only 1,230 francs. He would welcome the special representative's comments on the points he had raised.

34. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that it was not true that the indigenous population was more

heavily taxed than the non-indigenous population. A strict comparison of the revenue from the two sources was misleading: it must be borne in mind that there were 4 million indigenous taxpayers compared to approximately thirty non-indigenous companies and 18,500 non-indigenous inhabitants, including officials, missionaries, women and children. Furthermore, the indigenous inhabitants contributed only 24 per cent of the direct taxation.

35. There was no tax evasion in Ruanda-Urundi, the tax authorities being notorious for their strictness. The absence of data for 1954 and 1955 and the decline in revenue in 1952 were due to a change in the basis of taxation and hence in the heading under which it was reported in the budget. There had been no diminution of the total revenue from taxation levied under the Decree of 6 July 1948.

36. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) was not convinced by the special representative's argument concerning the number of indigenous inhabitants as compared with that of non-indigenous inhabitants, because the latter held all the key positions in the Territory's economic life. He would like to know whether the indigenous inhabitants were adequately represented on the services responsible for controlling tax assessment.

37. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) repudiated the Syrian representative's contention that all the key economic activities in the Territory were in the hands of the non-indigenous population. The country's main source of wealth was the production of coffee, 99 per cent of which was in the hands of the indigenous population. Most of the taxes paid by the indigenous population, and notably the head tax, the cattle tax and the tax on polygamy, were within the competence of the local authorities and councils. They decided the amount of additional taxation to be levied for use by the local authorities and its distribution. Of the 171 million francs accruing from direct taxation of the indigenous population, the indigenous authorities controlled approximately 160 to 162 million francs. Personal and income taxes were paid by only a very few indigenous inhabitants and were collected by the Tax Services or the European authorities.

38. U THAN HLA (Burma) said that in 1954 a conference on contemporary Africa, held in Washington under the auspices of Johns Hopkins University, had been informed by a Belgian authority on colonial problems that in the Belgian Congo the average wage of the indigenous worker was almost five times as high as it had been in 1939 and that the increase had taken place mainly since 1948. Another Belgian, however, had commented that, although wages had increased appreciably since 1940, some independent observers estimated that for the same amount of work purchasing power had gone down, especially in industrial centres, and that in any case much remained to be done by the State and by the economic powers in order to right the elements of indirect wages. It would be interesting to know whether conditions were similar in Ruanda-Urundi.

39. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that for many years the Belgian Administration had recognized that wages in Ruanda-Urundi were low and that something must be done to raise them. The figures mentioned by the Burmese representative were somewhat exaggerated. His own impression was that between 1945 and 1956 the wages paid to unskilled workers had approximately tripled while the cost of living had not doubled. In any event, the Adminis-

tration was making every effort to bring about a rise in wages and the workers' position had considerably improved. European clothes were replacing the customary skins and bark; there were now 28,000 bicycles in the Territory as well as wirelesses, motorcycles, cars and lorries. All that indicated the rising level of living and increased purchasing power of the indigenous inhabitants.

40. At the 756th meeting the Chinese representative had referred to a decline in the number of persons working in the export-import trade. In reality, there had been a slight increase. The apparent decline was due to the fact that, as a result of legislation introduced in 1955, the table on page 432 of the annual report did not include completely unskilled workers.

41. The Syrian representative had raised a question concerning the powers retained by the Governor in respect of co-operatives. Those powers were laid in article 22 of the Decree of March 1956, which stipulated that the Governor's prior approval must be obtained for the distribution of the budget surpluses and for contracts and purchases entailing expenditure above a sum to be fixed by ordinance by the Governor. To the best of his knowledge, that ordinance had not yet been issued. He presumed that the Governor would determine the sum within which the co-operative's managing committee could act on its own initiative in the light of the nature of the co-operative and its objectives.

42. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked the special representative to comment on the suggestion made at the previous meeting by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) that it was useful, particularly in under-developed regions, to combine curative and preventive services under the same administrative and executive control, so that hospitals, clinics and sanatoria not only treated sick people but undertook prophylactic work as well.

43. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that that was exactly what was done in Ruanda-Urundi. All aspects of health work in the Territory, both preventive and curative, were in the hands of the medical service under the chief medical officer. The doctors in charge of hospitals and clinics, laboratories and sanitation projects and the organizations responsible for malaria control by DDT spraying were all under his authority.

44. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the hospitals, particularly in areas where there were both Europeans and indigenous inhabitants, were common to both groups of the population or whether each group had its own hospital.

45. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that there were separate hospitals for the indigenous and non-indigenous population. That was due to differences of education, diet and way of life rather than racial considerations. The Rodin Hospital at Usumbura, for example, was primarily a European hospital, but indigenous students from the Interracial College were admitted to it because their way of life was that of the Europeans in the area; a certain number of other indigenous inhabitants were also admitted for the same reason.

46. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) felt that the custom of separate hospitals for the different groups of the population might tend to intensify differences which should be eliminated. He was aware of the considerations mentioned by the special representative but he wondered whether they could not be met by having

a single hospital with separate wings. Such joint hospital services and staff would result in savings.

47. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the type of hospital advocated by the Guatemalan representative would certainly be established in Ruanda-Urundi in the future. It did indeed already exist to some extent in that there was no separate medical service for indigenous and for non-indigenous inhabitants. All ophthalmological services, for instance, were centred at the Prince Regent Hospital, which had been built for the indigenous inhabitants, but was attended also by any Europeans or Asians who wanted eye treatment. It was the same situation in reverse in the case of certain radiographic equipment, which had been installed in the annex to a European hospital where indigenous inhabitants were in daily attendance. Nor was there any discrimination whatever with regard to medical care. At the same time, however, the very large number of indigenous patients made it mandatory that there should be a large number of public wards. Life in the indigenous wards was very social, the patients often being surrounded by a large number of visitors who came to bring them extra food or tobacco. The situation was rather different in respect of non-indigenous patients.

48. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) noted from the annual report that there were seventy-four indigenous medical assistants in the Territory and twenty-two medical assistants holding scholarships. He would welcome further information on the training of such assistants, their role in the Territory and the status of the twenty-two scholarship-holders.

49. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the indigenous medical assistants had completed three or four years of exclusively medical training. They were generally in charge of an isolated dispensary, where they dealt with day-to-day illnesses and minor operations. It was their responsibility to decide when the doctor should be sent for and to arrange transport for the more serious cases. The seventy fully qualified doctors in the Territory were all either in positions of responsibility, being in charge of hospitals, clinics, maternity homes or sanatoria, or were specialists in ophthalmology, radiology, surgery and so on. Hence the role of the medical assistants was extremely important. The twenty-two scholarship-holders were internes who had yet to pass their final examinations.

50. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether medical assistants had any opportunity of continuing their studies outside the Territory and of qualifying as doctors or surgeons and whether they were legally entitled to engage in private practice in the Territory.

51. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that while in theory it was possible for medical assistants to continue their studies outside the Territory, it was hardly practicable. They were trained to help doctors and surgeons and to run dispensaries, but their general education was not such that a few years of study outside the Territory would enable them to take a doctor's degree. The assistance given by the Administration therefore took the form of opening secondary schools with a European curriculum, whose pupils would be able to go on to a university for medical training.

52. Medical assistants were not able to engage in private practice in the Territory.

53. In reply to a further question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said he knew of no case of a medical assistant applying to the Administration for help in pursuing medical studies elsewhere.

54. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), referring to table J on page 445 of the annual report, asked whether the contributions from private sources to the Territory's health budget represented a special contribution or the cost of the medical assistance given by the companies to their employees.

55. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the expenditure shown under the heading "*Territoire*" represented expenditure on medical services by the states (*pays*) and the chiefdoms. The expenditure shown under the heading "*Sociétés*" represented expenditure by companies on their medical services.

56. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the Administering Authority contemplated including in its educational plans a wider use of audio-visual equipment and, in particular, educational broadcasts to schools and universities.

57. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Administration intended to provide the schools with the necessary equipment. It also intended to develop educational radio programmes, which were under the direction of a special section in the Indigenous Affairs Service. In addition there were two mobile cinemas which toured the chiefdoms and gave free open-air shows.

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

58. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) observed that the part of the report which related to labour legislation showed the Administration's desire to give detailed information on that subject. His delegation would like to know, however, to what extent the legislation was put into effect and whether it was applied to the regions and tribal centres.

59. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the legislation was enforced wherever indigenous inhabitants worked for non-indigenous inhabitants, either individuals or industrial or commercial enterprises. In fact, it was applied to all relations between employers and employees except those of a strictly customary nature.

60. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the application of the legislation was satisfactory.

61. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the legislation was applied in all parts of the Territory. It was supervised by labour inspectors, who regularly visited all the places where indigenous workers were employed; if any breach of the regulations that had been discovered was not corrected the guilty party was brought before the courts.

62. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked when the Administering Authority proposed to have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated into the local languages.

63. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that no such translation was contemplated. The Declaration of Human Rights had been published in French and Dutch in the *Bulletin officiel du Ruanda-Urundi*. Nearly everyone in Ruanda-Urundi who had any education at all understood French. The Declaration of Human Rights was frequently alluded to in the newspapers, was the subject of articles and conversations

and was taught to the children in the secondary schools. The Administration saw no reason to do more for the time being.

64. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) observed that on page 152 of the report there was a reference to newspapers which, in the Administration's view, were injurious to civilization, and on page 154 there was mention of associations whose existence might retard the progress of the indigenous inhabitants. He asked the special representative whether he did not consider that the use of such vague expressions placed undue power in the hands of the Administering Authority.

65. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that Belgium had agreed to act as guardian of the people of the Territory. It must therefore have the means to protect their normal development and to shelter them from harmful propaganda. It was impossible to give a precise definition of the newspapers or associations referred to in the report.

66. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether engineering was taught in the vocational schools and what was the meaning of the word "*ajustage*" on page 167 of the annual report. The curricula apparently consisted only of courses in carpentry and tailoring, and he wondered whether that was considered sufficient.

67. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the vocational schools, in particular that at Usumbura, which was the largest, gave engineering courses. *Ajustage* was elementary metal work which was taught as a preliminary to engineering courses. The Administration intended to include courses in engineering in every vocational school that was opened in the Territory.

68. Mr. MUFTI (Syria), referring to page 168 of the annual report, asked why the building of the vocational school at Kigali had been postponed for a year.

69. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) was unable to give a definite reply; he thought it had most likely been for budgetary reasons.

70. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked what was the purpose of the study of seasonal emigration to the British Territories, referred to on page 170 of the annual report, to be made by the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa (IRSAC).

71. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the purpose was scientific research. The IRSAC was a purely research establishment for the study, *inter alia*, of social phenomena.

72. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) observed that a conference had been held at Kampala in 1954 on the subject of seasonal emigration. He asked whether the conference had made any recommendations in that respect.

73. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that a conference was held every year by Uganda, Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi on the subject of seasonal emigration and in particular with a view to improving the conditions of the emigrants. The conference was held in rotation in the three territories.

74. Mr. MUFTI (Syria), referring to page 173 of the report, asked whether the international conventions referred to had in fact been applied in the Trust Territory and whether they were now in force there.

75. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative), while unable to give a specific reply regarding each of the conventions referred to, thought the answer was in the affirmative because the Administration followed the same policy in such matters as the International Labour

Organisation (ILO). A list of all the international conventions in force in the Territory was to be found on pages 465-470 of the report.

76. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked how many labour inspectors there were, whether any of them were indigenous inhabitants and whether they did their work well.

77. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that at the present time there were three labour inspectors; there being very few large-scale employers of labour in the Territory, that number was sufficient. They were all Europeans; there were no indigenous inhabitants with the necessary training.

78. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that in his delegation's view three labour inspectors were not enough.

79. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Territory had an area of only some 54,000 square kilometres and large-scale employers of labour were found only at Usumbura, Shangugu and Kisenyi and at the mines in the centre of Ruanda. Three labour inspectors were therefore well able to visit them all several times a year and supervise the application of labour legislation. The labour inspectors were experts in such matters. Since, however, infractions of the labour legislation were offences against the law, any member of the Territorial Service could take steps to put an end to them.

80. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) remarked that on page 183 of the report there was a reference to the Committees on Labour and Indigenous Social Progress, which consisted of three government representatives, three to five employers' representatives and three to five workers' representatives. Such a vague formula would enable five employers' representatives and only three workers' representatives to be appointed while remaining within the strict letter of the law. He thought it might be preferable to have fixed numbers of representatives of each category.

81. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that it would be equally possible to appoint five workers' representatives and only three employers' representatives. In fact, however, the Committees always consisted of equal numbers of employers' representatives and workers' representatives. It should be borne in mind that the Administration's primary objective was always the protection of the workers; consequently, even supposing that there were only three workers' representatives and five employers' representatives, the presence of the three government representatives would mean that there were six representatives of the interests of the workers to five of those of the employers.

82. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) observed that the recommendations of the Labour Committees, which were chiefly based on technical considerations, were not binding on the Governor.

83. Turning to page 193 of the report, he asked whether the radio programmes consisted entirely of recorded music and Administration notices and *communiqués* and, if so, whether the programmes could not be made more varied and informative.

84. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that educational and news programmes were given as well as recorded music, notices and *communiqués*.

85. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) drew attention to the statement on page 200 of the report that in practice the majority of workers were paid more than the legal minimum. His delegation would like to have proofs and further information in support of that assertion.

86. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that it was impossible to give proofs. The Administering Authority gave accurate information in its reports.

87. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) replied that even if the information given were accurate he would like to know whether the level of living in the Territory was satisfactory and what steps the Administration was taking to raise it.

88. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Administration was doing its utmost to raise the level of living. As the Council had frequently been informed, when the Belgian Administration had taken over the Territory the immense majority of the inhabitants had possessed literally nothing; for example, they had been dressed in bark or animal skins, which today was practically unknown. Now 27,000 indigenous inhabitants possessed bicycles, seventy-eight owned motor transport undertakings, a very large number had radios, some had refrigerators, some had very handsome furniture, there was a very large sale for dress materials and ready-made clothes. Those were unmistakable indications of an improvement in the level of living. It was true that they had not reached the average standard of the inhabitants of New York, but that remark applied equally to the people of many sovereign and independent countries.

89. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the newspapers depended on the Administration for newsprint.

90. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied in the negative.

91. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the history and geography of the Territory were taught in the schools and how the pupils' civic consciousness was awakened.

92. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Territory's geography was taught thoroughly and its history in so far as it was known. Girls were taught local arts and crafts and boys national sports. Civic teaching was given in both the mission and the lay schools.

93. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the Administering Authority contemplated organizing a programme of fundamental and adult education, whether the religious schools subsidized by the Administration showed any interest in such a programme and whether, in the event of its being organized, it would be carried out by the Administration or by the religious schools.

94. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Administration recognized the need for fundamental education and that social workers were training certain adults in the management of co-operatives, bookkeeping and farming, while others were being given rudimentary legal training to enable them to serve in the indigenous courts. The cinema and radio also served as educational media. The 20 per cent of the total budget which was allocated to education, however, was scarcely enough to satisfy more than 30 to 40 per cent of the Territory's primary education requirements, which were more urgent, and fundamental education was of necessity somewhat neglected. In the mission schools adults learned to read and write in connexion with their religious training.

95. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) wondered whether the vocational schools at Usumbura and Kigali had been completed and were now in full operation; whether they were official or private and, if the latter,

whether they were subsidized by the Administering Authority; and whether the teaching staff was appointed by the Administration or by the missions.

96. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the two schools were in operation and had enough buildings for their present needs. All such schools were official. The teaching staff in the two vocational schools was composed of both religious and lay personnel who were engaged by the missions and who met the educational requirements of the State. The government staff at Usumbura included an agent whose sole responsibility was to inspect vocational schools. Under an agreement between the missions and the Government the latter assumed part of the responsibility for remunerating personnel, and contributed to the cost of construction and upkeep of school buildings and controlled to a certain extent the choice of staff as well as the operation of the schools.

97. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the system of pensions for indigenous workers and subsidies for older workers was based on contributions from the worker, the employer and the State and if so, what was the amount of the contributions. He wondered what risks the system covered and whether a special organ had been set up to operate the system.

98. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the employer bought pension stamps at the post office, putting half the stamps in a booklet kept by the worker and the other half on a card which he himself retained. When the worker completed his service he retained the booklet, while the card was sent by the employer to the Territorial Administrator. The cost of the stamps was shared by the employer and the worker, the contribution of the latter varying according to his salary. Pensions were ordinarily payable after thirty years of work. A special office had been set up to administer the new pension system.

99. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) wondered whether, in view of the fact that the working day was not fixed by law, there was any ruling or custom providing for remuneration for overtime work.

100. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the custom was not uniform but that in any case the situation rarely arose. The Compagnie des grands lacs occasionally had to load or unload vessels outside normal working hours and pay schedules for such overtime work were then applied. Administration employees whose duties regularly involved overtime work, such as customs and postal employees, were remunerated for such service and there was a ruling that the heads of government offices could, if necessary, require their subordinates to work overtime, on the understanding that they would be remunerated accordingly.

101. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked what the worker and his family lived on during the annual sixty-day periods when he was engaged in unremunerated compulsory labour.

102. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that compulsory labour was required only of indigenous inhabitants engaged in farming and did not affect industrial workers or others in non-tribal areas. Hence there was no question of taking workers away from their usual activities. Furthermore, the two-month period was merely a theoretical way of measuring the compulsory labour contribution.

103. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether any ILO conventions in addition to those men-

tioned in the annual report had been approved since 1955.

104. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that he had not the necessary material to enable him to reply to that question.

105. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the system of industrial accident compensation was financed entirely by the employers.

106. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that full details could be found on page 179 of the annual report.

107. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked what value the Administering Authority attributed to corporal punishment as a correctional measure.

108. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that corporal punishment was not used as a correctional measure but that prison wardens were permitted to have four lashes inflicted on intractable prisoners as a means of keeping order. No other form of corporal punishment was permitted and it was hoped that even that form would soon be abolished. The system had been in use among the indigenous inhabitants themselves, who preferred it to imprisonment, which they regarded as a punishment fit only for women.

109. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked how the Administration kept track of holders of internal passports since the passport system had been liberalized.

110. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the control of such passports did not present a serious problem, for except for Usumbura there were no large population centres where people without passports could conceal the fact for long periods.

111. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked what plans the Administration had for improving rural housing and whether the King's Fund was to be utilized for that purpose. He wondered whether the Administration had developed a model rural house which could be built inexpensively by communal effort from materials locally available.

112. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that a number of studies had been undertaken in that connexion and that the Bureau for African Housing was concerned in particular with housing in Usumbura, where the problem was most acute. The Administration proposed to use the King's Fund mainly for construction in rural areas and it had produced several model dwellings, but the main problem was the high cost of the materials needed for building durable structures.

113. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked what steps the Administration had been taking to make the people aware of the problem of over-population.

114. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Administration had drawn the attention of the indigenous authorities to the problem and that the latter were trying to find adequate solutions, such as the resettlement of abandoned land which had now been rendered habitable.

115. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked the special representative to give some particulars of the type of social programmes carried out by religious missions in addition to their educational work.

116. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the missions ran hospitals and dispensaries but that their most important activity from the social point of view was that of organizing social centres in a country whose people had been accustomed to living in isolation.

117. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked the WHO representative what success had attended pilot projects for the integration of organizations responsible for the administration of preventive and curative medicine.

118. Dr. TABONA (World Health Organization) replied that WHO was trying to extend public health administration from urban to rural areas by establishing so-called hospital-dispensaries, which undertook not only curative but also preventive work. Such programmes, carried out extensively in Asian countries and now being introduced on an increasing scale in Latin America and Africa, had proved remarkably successful. The combination of preventive and curative work had made it possible to reach more rural communities than would have been the case had WHO followed the usual Western practice of developing a curative programme based on hospitals and dispensaries and a system of public health parallel to, but never integrated into, that programme.

119. Mr. JAIPAL (India), noting the large percentage of uncertificated missionary teachers in the Territory, wondered how soon those teachers would have received sufficient training to qualify them for diplomas.

120. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that he could not give a precise answer. For many years

the Administration had had to depend upon underpaid, dedicated missionaries to carry forward the work of education in the Territory. Without their services, the education of the indigenous inhabitants would have presented an insoluble problem. Qualifications for missionary teachers were, however, becoming increasingly strict and the heads of the missions themselves agreed that the quality of the teaching personnel should be improved. All the teaching staff at the Collège du Saint-Esprit at Usumbura were university graduates.

121. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) recalled that in the beginning there had been such a scarcity of trained teachers that the most promising primary-school pupils had had to be pressed into immediate service as teachers although they lacked the requisite diplomas. A fairly large number of such assistants were still in the teaching service, although the number of certificated teachers was rapidly increasing. The requirements of education were such that it was impossible to foresee exactly when the services of the uncertificated teachers could be dispensed with. It was to be noted, however, that the standard even of such teachers was improving as the older and less competent individuals were gradually replaced by better people who had had at least some pedagogical training.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.