



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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President: Mr. Girolamo VITELLI (Italy).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, China, France, India, Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, 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 conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (*continued*):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1958 (T/1487, T/1495, T/1540, T/L.985);
- (ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/COM.3/L.26, 27, 29-38; T/PET.3/L.10-34);
- (iii) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1960 (T/1538);
- (iv) Examination of the possibility of sending a group of United Nations observers to supervise the elections to be held in June 1960 in Ruanda-Urundi;
- (v) Plans of political reform for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (General Assembly resolution 1419 (XIV))

[Agenda items 3 (a), 4, 5 (a), 12 and 16]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Reisdorff, 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 REPRESENTATIVE AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (*continued*)

Economic, social and educational advancement (continued)

1. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that, since Ruanda-Urundi was overpopulated, the land shortage was one of the most serious difficulties, and the land was overstocked with cattle, he wished to learn what part the Administering Authority intended to play in the evolution of the land tenure system. He asked whether the Administering Authority had already appointed a committee to draft land legislation, as the Working Group had recommended, and whether, in the special representative's opinion, the Administering Authority could introduce land reforms before the new State Councils had come into being; in other words, without the consent of the people's elected representatives.

2. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that a Belgian economic mission was at present in the Territory to assess its economic potential and lay the foundations of a new development plan designed to increase the agricultural potential. The land tenure system still showed its feudal origins. To increase the yield of the land it was necessary to institute a system of ownership that would give the individual not merely the assurance—which he already had—that the holding he occupied would not be taken from him but also the freedom to obtain mortgages, to pledge his holding as security for a loan, etc. The subject had already been under study for several years; current thinking favoured the establishment of two land commissions, one under each of the future State councils, rather than a single central agency. It would be for the land commission and the council of each State to decide whether they wished to preserve any of the eminent pastoral rights which had been suspended in Ruanda, and whether they accepted the principle of compensation for the loss of such rights or whether they intended merely to abolish them.

3. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the Administering Authority considered the Provisional Special Council of Ruanda competent to deal with the problem of the "ubukonde" in view of the fact that the principal "bakonde"—i.e. chiefs of families representing the old clans—were in exile.

4. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the "bakonde" were not Batutsi. They had been the first occupants of the land. The other families which had come after them and settled on the land

had at first paid them tribute and then claimed that they were entitled to retain the land they had developed without payment of rent, and that they had grazing rights or a servitude on the land. Conflict had thus arisen between the "bakonde" and the Tutsi cattlemen. That complex problem was under study, in each area, by a committee which settled certain disputes on a provisional basis pending a decision by the future State council that would be fair to all concerned.

5. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the High Councils of the two States and the General Council of the Territory had been consulted before the Administration had decided to ask the Association européenne des sociétés d'études pour le développement to undertake an over-all survey with a view to the preparation of an economic and social development programme for the Territory. He also wished to learn when the survey would be completed.

6. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) thought that the question had not been discussed in the High Councils, but had been brought to the attention of the General Council. Only a preliminary survey was being made at present, but he was sure that when a programme had been drawn up it would be submitted to all the councils concerned for discussion. The survey in question would take several months.

7. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked what were the technical matters still pending between the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo which had to be settled before 30 June.

8. Mr. CLAEYS BOUAERT (Belgium) said that there were, first of all, monetary problems relating to the bank of issue. An agreement would shortly be signed to end the existing provisional state of affairs and to lay down a modus operandi for the Central Bank of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi in case, as was probable, it remained in existence after the Congo attained independence. The other pending problem was that of the customs union and, by that token, of trade policy. In that connexion, the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi had at a recent session declared itself in favour of maintaining the status quo for a period of four months, subject to extension if necessary. The final decision would be taken when Ruanda-Urundi could negotiate with the Belgian Congo on equal terms.

9. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the authorities of the Congo and of the Territory had reached agreement on the division of receipts from customs.

10. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that a special commission convened in March 1960 had put forward proposals and worked out calculations which would afford a possible basis for conversations on the maintenance or dissolution of the customs union between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. The procedure for dividing up customs receipts would be examined on that occasion.

11. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked what was the gist of the results of the geological and geochemical surveys carried out in the Territory early in the year; whether the indigenous inhabitants had been associated with those surveys; and whether the Administering Authority believed that the exploitation of mineral resources should be thrown open to private capital or considered that the Administration should have a share in working them.

12. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that he did not know what results the geological and geochemical surveys now in progress in some areas had produced. With regard to mining policy, the Administration issued permits for prospecting and mining and, through its mining inspection service, checked whether mining operations were carried on in accordance with the public interest, whether they were rationally organized, and whether the labour laws were applied.

13. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the Administering Authority had acted on the recommendations made by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957, with regard to strengthening the geological service and guaranteeing the continuity of its personnel (T/1346, para. 201).

14. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the geological service, which had engineers at its disposal, had assembled documentation concerning all the mining areas; it had branches engaged in the study of ground-water, in geological research and in applied geological research. It was now housed in new quarters at Usumbura.

15. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the Administering Authority provided the indigenous inhabitants with credit facilities to help them start small businesses, and encouraged them to engage in export and import trading.

16. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that there were various funds to assist Africans engaged in farming and trade, from which they could obtain advances. There was also a temporary agricultural credit fund, designed mainly to encourage African farmers. So far as trade was concerned, the various types of co-operative played a leading role. There were producers' co-operatives, marketing co-operatives, co-operatives for the collection of parchment coffee and coffee-processing co-operatives. The Africans sold a large portion of their processed coffee direct to the exporters.

17. U TIN MAUNG (Burma), turning to the question of social advancement, inquired when the Administering Authority proposed to abolish flogging in the Territory.

18. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that it had been necessary to allow a certain period of time to elapse between the actual abolition of flogging in the prisons and its abolition by law. The decree abolishing it, which had been drawn up, would be issued very shortly. In Ruanda, there had never been any form of corporal punishment other than flogging.

19. U TIN MAUNG (Burma), referring to the observations made by WHO (T/1461), which indicated that the steady progress in the construction of hospitals and dispensaries had not been matched by an increase in qualified medical personnel, asked what steps the Administering Authority proposed to take in order to accelerate the training of indigenous doctors.

20. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) explained that, if the number of young African doctors was increasing only slowly, it was because students in Ruanda-Urundi were more attracted to other fields. The Administering Authority had not felt that it should interfere with the young people's freedom to choose

their own fields of study since, with the Territory's existing network of health establishments and medical personnel, the health situation was satisfactory, as the various visiting missions had noted. European doctors would be replaced by African doctors as and when new medical students graduated.

21. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked whether the pre-university institute recently established at Astrida provided preparatory courses for medical, dental and pharmacy studies.

22. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that the current departments at Astrida were those of agronomy and of animal husbandry and veterinary science. The plans for expansion provided for the establishment of a medical department.

23. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked what measures the Administering Authority had taken to control trachoma, a disease about the incidence of which, according to WHO, very little information had been provided.

24. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that trachoma was treated in the various health units on the same basis as other diseases. An ophthalmologist from Usumbura made professional tours in the interior of the country.

25. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) inquired which ethnic group was most affected by poliomyelitis—a disease that was new in the Territory—and what steps had been taken to prevent its spread.

26. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that he did not know which ethnic group was most subject to poliomyelitis. Preventive measures consisted mainly in the vaccination, with the Koprowsky oral vaccine, of all children under the age of five. The number of children vaccinated in 1958 had been 215,000. In 1959, between 300,000 and 350,000 must have been vaccinated.

27. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) referring to paragraph 521 of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1960, (T/1538) and to the observations of UNESCO (T/1495), asked whether the Administering Authority had considered the possibility of establishing a special educational fund.

28. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that that question had been discussed repeatedly in the appropriate councils; there had, however, been some opposition to the idea. Current opinion seemed rather to favour making the communes directly responsible in the field of education. That had been the conclusion reached by the education seminar at Usumbura which had just ended, and it had met with approval in responsible quarters in Urundi.

29. U TIN MAUNG (Burma), noting from the Visiting Mission's report that literacy campaigns had been conducted only by religious organizations, in schools subsidized by the Government, asked what plans the Administration had for adult education.

30. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that, in addition to the Swedish Private Mission at Mugara and the Church Missionary Society at Matana, a vast network of subsidized "chapel schools" existed. Those schools were teaching reading and writing to adults, and had an attendance of some half a million.

31. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) expressed the hope that, with the Territory so close to independence, the

Administering Authority would not, for the literacy campaign, rely solely on the work of the religious organizations.

U Tin Maung (Burma), Vice-President, took the Chair.

32. Mr. YIN (China) inquired whether economic, social and educational progress in the Territory was still suffering from the effects of the disturbances of November 1959.

33. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the situation in Ruanda had returned to normal; a general recovery had been made from the effects of the disturbances of October and November 1959, except in the matter of food, which required special attention.

34. Mr. YIN (China) asked whether any current discussion of the land tenure system might not have the effect of aggravating political tension, and whether it might not be better to postpone such discussion until the atmosphere was more propitious.

35. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that in Urundi, where the land tenure system was more satisfactory, no land disputes were expected. In Ruanda, where the land tenure system needed radical change, the problems must be examined forthwith, so that provisional measures could be taken. The final decisions would be left to the future council of Ruanda. The Special Provisional Council of Ruanda was taking decisions to deal with current problems, but without prejudging the definitive settlement of the question.

36. Mr. YIN (China) asked whether the Administering Authority had continued to establish "paysannats" (indigenous agricultural settlements), and whether it contemplated a further extension of them.

37. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the "paysannats" system was one of the achievements of which the Administration was proudest. Each "paysannat" received a deed giving it exclusive title to its land, and those deeds, which would soon be registered, were already on record with the land survey department. No problems had arisen, because the "paysannats" had been set up in sparsely populated areas. By 1958, 12,000 families had been resettled in them, and the number had since increased.

38. A much bigger undertaking than the "paysannats" and one affecting larger areas was the so-called rural action zones. In those zones, soil utilization was being greatly improved, *inter alia* by setting up anti-erosion grids and building stables, enclosures for cattle and sheds for the harvest. Peasants in those zones used modern cultivation methods. The zones at present covered the Batutsi and Matana areas, where 1,124 families had settled in 1959.

39. The projects for the next few years were the settlement of the Bugesera-Mayaga and Mosso areas under the "paysannat" system and the extension of the rural action zones, special credits having been asked for the latter project.

40. Lastly, there were "pilot sectors", where studies were undertaken of agricultural and stock-breeding rationalization projects in areas in which the human and livestock population had reached the saturation point.

41. Mr. YIN (China), noting that the development of educational facilities was hampered by the scantiness

of revenue, asked whether the local authorities had been able to contribute to that development.

42. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) pointed out that education costs accounted for fully 25 per cent of the Territory's budget. The local authorities contributed mainly to the cost of constructing schools. The salaries of assistant teachers ("moniteurs") and teachers were paid by the Government. The present tendency was to give greater responsibility to the future communes. If it continued, there would be true communal schools, owned and paid for by the communes. It was hoped thereby to arouse greater interest at the commune level in the development of educational facilities.

43. Mr. YIN (China) asked for information on the provisions of the draft law on education in the Congo which might be applied in Ruanda-Urundi and which had been discussed by the meeting of experts held at Usumbura late in May.

44. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that the seminar, which had been attended by experts on educational matters from Belgium and Ruanda-Urundi, had recognized the need for a greater adaptation of education in the Territory to the aptitudes of the children and the needs of the inhabitants. Primary school curricula should take into account conditions of country life and children should learn mainly through doing. Nevertheless, theoretical courses would be given to students who wished to acquire an academic education. Those curricula would be worked out by a commission. Intermediate school curricula would also, as far as possible, be adjusted to the African environment and an effort would be made to prepare new courses of study intended to develop indigenous African humanism. The commission dealing with the reorganization of the primary school curricula would also consider reforms of the training of assistant teachers and teachers, and would probably be asked in addition to study the problem of developing higher education. Study programmes for girls would also have to be revised, so that girls might be equipped to play their parts as wives and mothers in the changing society of Ruanda-Urundi.

45. At present, emphasis must continue to be laid on vocational training, as it had a direct bearing on the economic development of rural areas.

46. Where financing of education was concerned, the new communes could be expected to make a special effort to develop primary education. The educational and political affairs services would prepare a detailed plan for such action, being guided wherever possible by the provisions of the Congolese draft law.

Mr. Vitelli (Italy) resumed the Chair.

47. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) said that the question of land tenure was of the greatest importance for

the political development and economic future of the Territory. In the past, the Administering Authority had taken a passive attitude in the matter and had respected the special features of the traditional land tenure system. It was now beginning to take action, but not rapidly enough. Recent developments showed that there was a pressing need for land reform, and he asked what exactly was the Administering Authority's position in the matter.

48. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administration had carried out some land reforms, at the pace at which the people were ready to accept them. The real rights of the indigenous inhabitants to their land had been recognized and were under the Administration's control. The Administration had thus given Africans security of tenure, which was perhaps what they prized most highly.

49. The land reform programme was a long-term programme. Its next stage would be the issue of negotiable title deeds which could be used as security for agricultural loans. To achieve that, it would be necessary to eliminate the overlapping of rights to the same piece of land. For that purpose, the right of pasturage on arable land had been suspended and the right of extended pasturage had been abolished, for the benefit of those who really used the land. That was another reform that had been introduced.

50. Before the entire land tenure system could be reformed, it would be necessary to determine exactly the local rules governing land tenure, and only indigenous councils and study missions could carry out that task. Those rules varied greatly from one region to another, especially in Ruanda. On the basis of the findings, the two land commissions he had mentioned earlier in the meeting would submit proposals for the complete reform of the land tenure system to the two State councils.

51. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) said he was aware that the situation was complicated. As the present land distribution, being the outgrowth of a feudal system, seemed neither just nor fair, some groups having too much land and others too little, he asked what measures the Administering Authority planned to take to remedy that state of affairs.

52. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that a redistribution of land was certainly not called for in Ruanda-Urundi, since no one occupied land worked by others. It would most probably be decided to consolidate, by legalizing them, the existing rights of those who worked the soil. More equitable rules could be applied to unoccupied land to which no individuals had rights, so that every member of a community might benefit equally, but there was no question of giving land in one region to inhabitants of another.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.