



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-fourth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Max H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Haiti, 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; 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 1957 (T/1406, T/1442, T/1452, T/1461, T/L.909);
- (ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/COM.3/L.23 to 25, T/PET.GEN/L.2, T/PET.GEN/L.3, T/PET.3/L.9)

[Agenda items 3 (a) and 4]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Reisdorff, special representative 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 advancement (concluded)

1. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said, in reply to a question asked at the previous meeting by the Soviet representative, that on page 357 of the annual report^{1/} the heading should read "Budget of extraordinary expenses for Ruanda-Urundi for the financial year 1955" and not "for the financial year 1956".

^{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 1957 (Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muysewinkel, 1958). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1406).

2. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) considered that as the financial year ended on 31 October 1959 it was difficult to say now what the budget deficit would be. He asked if the recoverable advance made by the Belgian Government could be increased or decreased on the closing date of the budget.

3. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that because of increased costs for certain items, it was not possible to know exactly what the position would be on 31 October, but it was expected that there would be a deficit of not less than 125 million francs. To meet the deficit in the regular budget an allocation of 125 million francs, which might have to be increased to 150 million francs, had been set aside out of the advance of 600 million francs granted to the Territory by Belgium. Thus if the deficit in the ordinary budget was only 125 million, 475 million would be allocated to the extraordinary budget, but otherwise only 450 million would be available.

4. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked what were the main sources of revenue provided in the budget for which income had been lower than the estimates.

5. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the two main sources of revenue were mineral ores and coffee, and hides were an additional source of income.

6. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked under what budget heading the products referred to were included.

7. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) believed that the difference between estimated and actual income would appear in the report for the year 1958 in the section on export duties. He would try to obtain additional information on that point.

8. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) recalled that the special representative had said that the Administering Authority was trying to establish the conditions necessary for the Territory's industrialization, but without intervening directly. It appeared from page 72 of the annual report that the projects proposed under the ten-year plan would involve the establishment of small and medium-scale processing industries. Steps should accordingly be taken in the Territory to protect those growing industries. On page 78 of the annual report it was stated that the Currency and Imports Commission (Commission des devises et des importations) was responsible for the control of import trade, but the protection of those new industries was not referred to among the factors that that Commission was to take into account. It was true that some imports were subject to customs duty, but he asked if the customs tariffs had been designed to give effective protection to the Territory's industries.

9. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that small local industries were encouraged throughout the Territory both by the Administration and by the missions. Young men were encouraged to combine to buy

equipment, and the territorial authorities had established a marketing organization for them. The skilled workers who would be required for the small industries would shortly be graduating from the vocational training schools. Small enterprises for the processing of agricultural products were beginning to appear in the Territory, but those developments were still at an early stage, and the time had not yet come to consider protecting such undertakings. However, once the small industries were operating on a considerable scale, the Commission might well limit imports of certain products. Nevertheless it should be remembered that competition might stimulate industry and agriculture and persuade the Africans to reduce the number of middlemen and to improve production and marketing methods. Before resorting to protectionist measures the Administering Authority would like to see African business benefiting to the full from the effects of competition.

10. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) said that the question of protecting the new industries was of special importance in view of the establishment of the European Economic Community. Many products made by member States of the Community would undoubtedly be sent to Trust Territories, and steps to safeguard local industries must accordingly have been provided for in the Treaty establishing the Community.

11. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the customs system in Ruanda-Urundi was based on the "open-door" policy. Thus goods coming from the European Common Market were not given preferential treatment, and there was no reason to expect that the entry into force of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community would have any effect on the Territory's imports.

12. Moreover reference to the tables beginning on page 97 of the report would show that the Territory's industries were already protected by import duties; for example, textiles, construction materials such as concrete and stone, and cereals were liable to customs duties which had a double function as taxes and as protective duties. It should be noted that maize and rice were exempt from duty in order to keep the prices of those products low, because they were principally consumed by the poorest section of the population.

13. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) said that there were nevertheless a number of products that might well be produced locally, but that were exempt from entry duties or subject only to low duties, for example cereal products, vegetables, fruit, basket-work and clothing. He asked if the customs tariffs could not be reviewed in order to provide more protection, and whether the representatives of the people took part in establishing the tariffs.

14. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that customs duties were reviewed periodically and that the Administration gave due regard to the need to protect both existing industries and the consumers' interests. Certain undertakings could be protected by the imposition of entry duties, but that would not be in the interests of the consumers as a whole.

15. During debates in the General Council or in its Economic Committee, representatives of the people frequently expressed their views on the imposition and amount of various import and export duties.

16. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked whether the total allocation of 500 million francs made by the European Economic Community for investments in the Territory between 1958 and 1962 was a final allocation, or whether it was to be reviewed at the beginning of each financial year.

17. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) replied that as far as he knew it was a final allocation and no review was anticipated.

18. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked whether the representatives of the people had been consulted about the three projects amounting to a total of 50 million francs which had been approved, whether other projects had been submitted to the Commission of the European Economic Community and, if so, whether any of them had been approved.

19. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) pointed out that the three projects in question formed part of the ten-year plan, which had been discussed by and was well known to the indigenous authorities and councils. The Mayaga-Bugesera development scheme had been in progress for a number of years, but mechanization was desirable. The introduction of tea cultivation mainly concerned the Biumba district and had been begun before any help had been received from the Community. The road the building of which was being financed by the Development Fund for the overseas countries and territories would link the Mosso district, which was, at present a paysannat, with its normal outlet, the port of Nyanza.

20. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) pointed out that five projects under the ten-year plan, the three projects to which he had referred and two others for which the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had assumed responsibility would henceforth be financed by organizations outside the Territory which were not answerable to the Trusteeship Council. In his view, the financing of further projects by the Development Fund would be a departure from the original conception of the ten-year plan, which had so far been financed by the Administering Authority and by funds in the Territory itself.

21. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) did not agree. The object of the plan was to develop the indigenous economy. The financing of the plan was not a Belgian monopoly and in fact it was stated in the preamble that foreign capital might be called in.

22. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked whether the special representative could give any information about the next ten-year plan and how it would be financed.

23. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the second ten-year plan was still in its preparatory stage.

24. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) observed that the financing of projects by the Development Fund implied control by the Commission of the European Economic Community and not solely by the Administering Authority as had been provided. Furthermore, the decisions as to what projects were to be financed were taken by the Council of the Community, on which the Administering Authority had only eleven votes out of a hundred.

25. He asked whether the reduction of import duties on certain products, which had been one of the results

of the entry into force of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, had affected the preferential tariff granted by Belgium to products from the Trust Territory and whether the quotas under that preferential tariff had been converted into global quotas.

26. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) replied that there had been no change in the volume of Ruanda-Urundi's imports and exports since the first measures in application of the Treaty had come into force and that the quotas benefiting by the preferential tariff had remained the same.

27. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked whether, in accordance with article 135 of the Treaty, conventions regulating the movement of workers between Trust Territories and member States of the Community were being drawn up and whether representatives of the people of Ruanda-Urundi would take part in the negotiations.

28. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) replied that the movement of African workers from Ruanda-Urundi followed traditional patterns. Many of them went to the East African territories and a certain number to the Belgian Congo. For the time being, there appeared to be no need for a convention regulating or extending immigration to Europe by workers, since workers from Ruanda-Urundi did not go outside Africa.

29. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) noted from the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa (1957) (T/1346) that the Committee on the Budget of the General Council had concluded that the budgetary separation of Ruanda-Urundi went counter to the principle of the customs and financial union between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo and that the unstable character of Ruanda-Urundi's public finances was rooted in that fact. He asked whether the Administering Authority had continued to study that question and what conclusions it had reached.

30. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) pointed out that the union between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi was a customs union only, not a customs and financial union. The principle of a customs union had never been questioned in the General Council. The purpose of the debate referred to in the Visiting Mission's report had been precisely the institution of a financial union. The Government's attention had, however, been drawn to the difficulties which might arise in connexion with re-exports from countries members of a customs union. The Administering Authority would inform the Council of the results of the studies being carried on as soon as they were known.

31. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) asked what was the balance standing to the credit of Ruanda-Urundi in respect of water transport.

32. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that he did not know the exact figure but that the Government of the Belgian Congo had undertaken to pay the sum of 40 million francs, which was a preliminary estimate. On the other hand, the study of road transport would certainly show a balance in favour of the Belgian Congo.

33. In reply to a question from Mr. Dorman (United States of America) concerning steps taken in the Ter-

ritory with a view to the more intensive use of land and stock, Mr. Reisdorff (Special Representative) said that the question was one of great concern to the Administration. The work of the experimental stations and the pilot sectors had enabled the Administration to undertake a complete review of indigenous agricultural techniques which would make it possible to place the Territory's agriculture on a solid foundation and to organize its economy along altogether new lines.

34. The Administering Authority had taken various types of action in connexion with agriculture. In areas where the population was scattered it had established paysannats. The paysannats were an example of rationalized agriculture; they were also communities in the real sense of the term, with institutions such as schools and community centres, and were run with the participation of the indigenous inhabitants. The authorities' task was more complicated in the overpopulated areas, where every square yard was occupied and sometimes disputed, and where the livestock was much too numerous. For those areas two pilot sectors had been established, one in Ruanda and one in Urundi, where the problems of agriculture and stock-breeding were dealt with as a whole and there was a specialized staff working directly with each indigenous family. A topographical survey had been made of the areas in question and an agricultural survey was now being carried out by a method devised by an expert from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which consisted in preparing a complete description of methods of cultivation on the basis of which it was hoped to work out an up-to-date technique. Lastly, in the moderately-populated areas the Administration was resettling the people in "alignements-lotissements", which were small peasant communities adapted to the conditions of life in the uplands.

35. For the past year large-scale activities had been carried out in all the rural areas for the purpose of setting up, on the basis of the existing organization, groups at the sub-chiefdom level with a view to inducing the people to consider agricultural problems as a whole. In his opening statement (979th meeting) he had informed the Council of the remarkable results achieved in rural development areas in Urundi, where the problems of providing for cattle in the dry season had been solved by the development of fodder crops, crop rotation, anti-erosion measures and the construction of small closed ditches to retain water in grazing land, a system which had spread spontaneously to a number of chiefdoms. The situation was somewhat less favourable in Ruanda, but in Urundi rapid progress was being made in the rural development areas. The impetus was given by enthusiastic young stock-breeders who had the full support of the people and in the opinion of the Administering Authority, those methods were the most likely to lead to a progressive improvement of agriculture in Ruanda-Urundi.

36. The Administration was contemplating a fourth method for the development of certain areas; it intended to enter into contracts with the chiefdoms giving them certain financial advantages, subject to the fulfilment of various conditions connected with agriculture and stock-breeding.

37. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) reverted to the question of tin mining. He had read carefully the answers given

by the special representative to questions put to him at the 985th meeting and would like to have some further information. The importance of tin mining was demonstrated by the fact that tin represented 20 per cent of the total mineral production of the Territory. The Territory had an unfavourable balance of trade and it was essential that its exports should be increased. At the twenty-first session, the previous special representative had told the Council (852nd meeting) that the tin producers in Ruanda-Urundi had been invited by their Belgian administrations, following international conversations, to restrict their production and exports. Now the special representative stated that the closing down of the mines was due to lack of electric power, that steps had been taken to remedy that situation and that an early resumption of production might be hoped for. He asked whether there had in fact been international conversations and to what extent they had affected the closing of the tin mines.

38. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed that Ruanda-Urundi, like all tin producers, had been affected by the present unfavourable conditions on the world market. As the special representative had explained at the twenty-first session, the constant decline in the price of tin and the accumulation of unsold stocks had caused the principal producing States to conclude an agreement fixing production quotas. That agreement had presumably affected Ruanda-Urundi. In any event, as the special representative had stated at the 985th meeting, the mines in Ruanda-Urundi were in a particularly difficult position because they depended on electric power supplied at high cost by diesel-electric power stations and their production costs were as high or higher than the negotiated price on the world market. Fortunately, that situation would change shortly owing to the harnessing of a number of waterfalls to provide the mines with cheaper electric power.

39. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that on page 413 of the annual report it was stated that the value of tin exports to Belgium had risen from 48,664,348 francs in 1956 to 57,051,560 francs in 1957; the production of that mineral had obviously been sufficiently profitable for a fairly rapid increase in exports. There appeared to have been a sudden change in 1957. He noted that tin exports from Ruanda-Urundi went almost exclusively to Belgium, a very small proportion also going to Italy. It was understandable that the fall in tin prices on the Belgian market should have had some effect on the Territory, but the closing down of tin mines in Ruanda-Urundi could hardly be attributed entirely to conditions on the world market.

40. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) explained that the drop in production was due to two causes: in the first place, international agreements had been concluded with a view to reducing the rate of tin production on account of the accumulation of unsold stocks; in the second place, excessively high production costs due to the special conditions prevailing in Ruanda-Urundi no longer permitted the profitable exploitation of tin deposits.

41. The figures just quoted by the representative of India referred only to tin refined in the Belgian Congo; figures for exports from the Territory were to be found under the heading "tin-bearing ore" which, as was clear from the table on page 413, was exported to many countries.

42. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said the fact remained that there had been a fall in production, which had already been relatively small. The figures given in the table did not indicate that tin was being dumped on the international market or that the tin from Ruanda-Urundi was not being sold. In fact, the special representative had stated at the 985th meeting that all the tin produced in the Territory was exported. In view of the contradictory nature of the information given, his delegation would be glad if the matter could be clarified. It also wished to know whether the people of Ruanda-Urundi had been consulted, perhaps through a trade union organization, concerning the decision to close the tin mines.

43. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) explained that when the special representative had stated, quite correctly, that there were no stocks of tin in Ruanda-Urundi, he had meant that all the ore produced had been exported from the country. That did not mean that stocks containing some tin originating in Ruanda-Urundi were not being accumulated elsewhere. He recalled that the agreement among the tin-producing countries had been concluded under United Nations auspices. The local population had not been consulted because a matter of international trade relations was involved: the international relations of Ruanda-Urundi were for the time being the responsibility of Belgium.

44. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that approximately 95 per cent of the tin produced in Ruanda-Urundi was imported by Belgium. Were there any monopolies in Belgium importing tin from Ruanda-Urundi? If so, were those companies in any way connected with the tin-producing companies in the Territory? Was the Ruanda-Urundi tin re-exported to the United States of America and other countries handled by those monopolies?

45. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) did not see the connexion between the Indian representative's questions and conditions in Ruanda-Urundi. He could, however, state that there were no monopolies in Belgium.

46. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) thought that his questions had been relevant as, judging by the tables transmitted by the Administering Authority, the bulk of the tin produced in Ruanda-Urundi was consumed by Belgium and very little was sold on the world market. Under those circumstances, it would appear difficult to attribute the decline in production to a depression on the world market. He would like to know how many mines had been closed down since 1956.

47. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that he would give the Indian representative that information at the following meeting.

48. In reply to a further question from the representative of India, he explained that the number of workers had decreased by 263 between 1956 and 1957. But it was probable that there would be an even greater reduction in the labour force in 1958. That reduction had occurred chiefly in the wolfram, colombo-tantalite and bastnasite mines, as those ores had been particularly affected by the drop in prices.

49. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) inquired whether there was any trade union organization of tin-mine workers and, if so, how many workers belonged to it. His delegation would also like to have some information

on tin prices on the world market, on the United States market and on any other market where tin from Ruanda-Urundi was sold for the years 1955 to 1958 and, if possible, for 1959.

50. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) replied that there was no trade union of tin workers in the Territory. There were three trade unions corresponding to the three workers' associations in Belgium, membership in which was open to all workers. He could not give the representative of India any information as to the number of members: the trade unions had been asked for the figures, but had not yet provided them.

51. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) emphasized that his delegation was particularly concerned with the situation of the tin industry in the Territory. Any fluctuations or depressions affecting that industry, which was the most important in the Territory, merited the attention of the Administering Authority. His delegation hoped that the Administering Authority would take urgent steps to prevent any further deterioration of the balance of trade and that it would be able to provide more encouraging information on mining operations in its next report.

52. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the Government of Ruanda-Urundi and the Administering Authority were no less concerned than the representative of India about the unfavourable conditions on the world tin market and that the Administering Authority would do everything in its power to develop the tin industry in Ruanda-Urundi.

Social and educational advancement

53. Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) presented the observations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational conditions in the Trust Territory (T/1442). It drew the Council's attention to the very satisfactory increase in expenditure on education and stressed the need to recruit more primary school inspectors and to provide six years' primary schooling for the maximum number of boys and girls. It was to be hoped that teacher training would be further developed and that curricula would continue to be adapted to condi-

tions in the Territory, with due regard to its future development.

54. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked the special representative if he was correct in thinking that the "Manifesto of the Bahutu" (T/1346, Annex I) had profoundly influenced the thinking of the people and had produced a trend towards the emancipation of the Bahutu peasantry.

55. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) thought that the publication of the Manifesto had given concrete expression to some hitherto unvoiced aspirations of the African people. The masses of the people were anxious to share the powers of the local authorities, and the loosening of the ties between the pastoral and agricultural classes, resultant upon the suppression of the ubuhake (system of cattle contracts), had aroused their desire for more land. It was encouraging to find that all those problems were discussed openly in the newspapers of the Territory. The Administering Authority was trying to guide those developments along positive and democratic lines.

56. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) pointed out that, according to the authors of the Manifesto, the abolition of the ubuhake had not deprived the Batutsi of a monopoly of education and culture. Could not the Administering Authority help the two races to solve that problem?

57. Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) said that the Administration was doing everything in its power to help the two races in that respect. But the problem was not at all simple. The distinction between the two communities was not as clear-cut as might appear. Many of the Bahutu were attached to their Batutsi masters and many of the Batutsi were dependent on agriculture for a livelihood and were poorer than the Bahutu. The young people, who had attended the same schools, understood each other better than the adults of the preceding generation. The Administration was trying to bring the inhabitants of the Territory together in the same councils and to associate all classes of society in the exercise of authority in order to show them that their interests were identical. There was every reason to believe that superiority and inferiority complexes would disappear with time.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.