



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Friday, 30 June 1961,
at 3.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

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President: U TIN MAUNG (Burma).

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; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (continued):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1959 (T/1552, T/1572; T/L.1013);
- (ii) Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/PET.3/L.40-45, L.46 and Add.1, L.47-53, L.54 and Add.1, L.55-122; T/COM.3/L.39-52)

[Agenda items 4 (a) and 5]

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

OPENING STATEMENTS (concluded)

1. Mr. COPPENS (Special Representative) said that he wished to give some additional information covering administrative, economic and social developments during the year 1960, and, as far as possible, to give an idea of the results achieved in that respect by the beginning of the 1961 fiscal year.
2. With regard to internal self-government and Africanization, which the Trusteeship Council and the Administering Authority both felt should precede the attainment of independence by Ruanda-Urundi, new political institutions, the members of which were elected by the people, and had been set up at the level

of both the commune and the State ("pays"). In addition, an intermediate level had been established, which was purely administrative in character and consisted of the prefectures in Rwanda and the provinces in Burundi. All regulations dealing with the organization of the communes were made by means of legislative ordinances issued separately for Rwanda and for Burundi. In both Rwanda and Burundi the communes were functioning in the usual way and had their own buildings, budgets and staffs, while the Indigenous Welfare Fund ("Fonds du bien-être indigène") had contributed 16 million francs to the cost of constructing the communal administrative buildings.

3. At State level, the institutions were as yet only of a temporary nature; namely, the provisional Legislative Assemblies and the interim Governments existing in Rwanda and Burundi.

4. So far as the intermediate level was concerned, prefectures had been set up in Rwanda; they were similar in number to the districts which they had replaced and had the same names and boundaries. Prefects were appointed or dismissed by the head of the State: they were assisted by sub-prefects and possessed all the powers formerly held by the district administrators.

5. In Burundi the same powers, with the exception of those directly connected with the trusteeship itself, had been vested in the eighteen administrators, each of whom was in charge of a province and was helped by an assistant administrator.

6. With regard to the Africanization of Ruanda-Urundi and its progress towards self-government and independence, action had been taken in three spheres—the legislative, the budgetary and the administrative. In the legislative sphere, the transfer of power had involved responsibility for such questions as the subject matter of the first and third books of the Civil Code, the organization of the communes and provinces, everything connected with labour legislation, land tenure, income tax and personal tax, and legislation on economic matters.

7. The whole of the budget of Ruanda-Urundi, amounting in 1961 to 1,400,874,000 francs, had been divided between Rwanda (468,465,000 francs), Burundi (507,335,000 francs), trusteeship (188,910,000 francs) and basic services to the community such as customs, telecommunications, postal services and the banks of issue (236,164,000 francs).

8. With regard to administrative measures, general services other than those of community interest or associated with the trusteeship had been decentralized and placed at State level; a large number of European officials had been placed at the disposal of the States as technical advisers.

9. In 1960 and at the beginning of 1961, the local authorities of Ruanda-Urundi had taken a more active

part in international life. In each of the Legislative Assemblies there was a Foreign Affairs Committee. Furthermore, delegations representing the Territory had been sent to the sixteenth session of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara, held at Lagos in January 1961, the meeting of the European Association of Study Groups for Development, held at Brussels in February 1961, the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa, held at Addis Ababa from 15 to 25 May 1961, and the forty-fifth session of the International Labour Organisation, which had taken place in Geneva in June 1961.

10. In economic affairs, the fiscal year 1961 had been noteworthy for the opening of two new cassiterite mines and three new wolfram mines; other mines whose operation had been interrupted in 1959 had been reopened. As a result, there had been an increase of about 23 per cent in the number of workers employed in the mines as compared with 1959. That increase in mining activity was due partly to the abolition of the tin quota system and partly to the higher prices quoted for wolfram. In 1960 total output of essential ores—gold, cassiterite and wolfram—had reached a total value of 193,549,000 francs as against 160,789,000 francs in 1959, an increase of 21 per cent in value. That trend was likely to become more marked in 1961 as a result of the opening of the new Taruka electric power station in 1960.

11. As far as research was concerned, the geological service was engaged in making a geographical survey of the Congo-Nile watershed in the Usumbura and Katumba regions and in prospecting its geochemical properties. In 1961 surveys had been made in eastern Rwanda; a brief geological survey, accompanied by prehistoric excavations, was taking place in the Kagera national park. With regard to practical hydrology, some deep drillings had been undertaken in 1960 in connexion with the supply of water to the agricultural settlements and to the Buge-sera region.

12. Owing to unfavourable weather conditions, total agricultural output in 1960 had not reached the 1959 figures. Nevertheless, where coffee was concerned, the 1960-1961 extension programme, under which a target figure for coffee trees in each province and in each prefecture had been established, had been carried out in full. Moreover, reports of the 1961 crops suggested that there would be a noticeable increase in production during the current year. The forestry service had successfully pursued its efforts to intensify afforestation in the communes. Since ordinary and building lumber previously imported from the Congo had now to be replaced by local wood, two sawmills had been established.

13. Note should also be taken of the fact that a school for agricultural assistants had been opened at Karuzi and that intensive training courses for agricultural instructors had been instituted in each district. Students who passed those courses—the first of which had just concluded—would immediately be placed at the disposal of the communes.

14. In June 1960 meetings had taken place between the mission of the Development Fund of the European Economic Community and the authorities of Ruanda-Urundi. As a result of those meetings, a list of projects had been drawn up. The value of the work to be financed in Ruanda-Urundi by the European Economic

Community in accordance with those arrangements amounted to 336 million francs.

15. It had been in education that the greatest efforts had been made: budgetary expenditure in 1960 had been 71 million francs higher than in 1959. There had been an increase in school attendance at all stages of education. The Centre universitaire at Usumbura, which was connected with the two Congolese universities at Leopoldville and Elisabethville, had been opened on 28 October 1960.

16. In connexion with the programme for the Africanization of the "cadres", specialized schools providing intensive training had been opened both in Rwanda and in Burundi. They included a fiscal school, schools for agricultural instructors, surveyors and administrative assistants and training schools for magistrates and registrars; a school for customs officials had been set up at Usumbura. Thirty-four students, including two women, were following an intensive training course in Brussels where they would make themselves familiar with such matters as the organization and inspection of education, the organization of public accounts and the treasury, the structure of community development, the police system in relation to the courts, the communes and traffic, telecommunications, etc.

17. Turning to the health services, he said that 110,391 persons had been admitted to hospital in 1960; more than 2 million new cases had been treated. In preventive medicine and social hygiene, the work done could be summarized in the following figures: 2,238,323 infants had been examined; there had been 236,455 pre-natal consultations and 1,421,243 vaccinations; 386,370 examinations for sleeping sickness had been carried out and 2 million houses had been disinfected. The number of cases of malaria and of death due to that illness had steadily decreased. The same was true of tuberculosis, the campaign against which had been conducted by the medical centre of the University of Brussels. Treatment was given at the sanatoria at Kibumbu and Rwamagana, while preventive work was carried on by means of mobile X-ray units and BCG inoculations.

18. In connexion with the means available for spreading education and culture, a new United Nations Information Centre had been opened at Usumbura on 16 June. A broadcasting station with an entirely African staff had been inaugurated in May 1961 in each of the two States.

19. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi had sent the Secretariat any information to the effect that obstacles were being placed in the way of carrying out General Assembly resolution 1605 (XV).

20. He also wished to know whether, since the adoption of resolution 1605 (XV), the Secretariat had received any petitions which had not yet been circulated.

21. Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) observed that the Commission for Ruanda-Urundi would be presenting its report at the next session of the General Assembly: so far, matters seemed to be proceeding according to the arrangement agreed upon by the Commission during its stay in Brussels. A request had been received from the Commission that observers should be sent.

22. The most recent petitions concerning Ruanda-Urundi had been circulated as documents T/PET.3/133/Add.1, T/PET.3/136, T/PET.3/L.118-122, T/COM.3/L.50-52.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1960 (T/1562, T/1571, T/1578; T/L.1012 and Add.1) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (e)]

23. Replying to a point raised by the USSR representative at the previous meeting, the PRESIDENT suggested that the statements made by Mr. Gadabu, a member of the Nauru Local Government Council, should be included in the section of the Council's re-

port dealing with the observations of members of the Council representing their individual opinions only.

24. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that Mr. Gadabu's statements should form the subject of an addendum to the Secretariat's working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.1012 and Add.1), since they represented the opinions of a member of the Nauru Local Government Council.

It was so decided.

25. Mr. HOOD (Australia) pointed out that Mr. Gadabu had been present in the Council in the capacity of adviser to the special representative.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.