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

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)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. McCarthy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, took a place at the Council table.

1. Mr. MCCARTHY (Special Representative), replying to a question asked by the Indian representative at the 1156th meeting, said that the Nauru Public Service Ordinance had come into operation on 30 June 1961. It did not include superannuation provisions, which would be the subject of a separate ordinance. New superannuation proposals had been prepared, in consultation with the Commonwealth Actuary, and had been dispatched to Nauru for final consideration.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

2. U AUNG THANT (Burma) said that his delegation, like many others, considered that the smallness of the Territory in no way relieved the members of the Trusteeship Council or the three joint Administering

Authorities of their obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement.

3. With regard to political conditions, he noted with regret that few of the Trusteeship Council's recommendations had been carried out. The powers and functions of the Nauru Local Government Council remained the same as they had been many years earlier. At its twenty-sixth session (1053rd meeting), the Council had been told by the Administering Authority that an administrative assistant was to be appointed to examine ways and means of promoting and strengthening the role of the Nauru Local Government Council. The special representative had said in his opening statement (1154th meeting) that the Minister of State for Territories had approved the appointment of a graduate in economics to that post. That was a progressive step, but it did not appear to represent a satisfactory rate of progress. His delegation hoped that the Administering Authority would take more energetic steps to enhance and strengthen the powers and role of the Local Government Council.

4. On a number of occasions, the Trusteeship Council had recommended that salaried magistrates' posts should be created. Nevertheless, executive and judicial functions continued to be performed by the same persons, contrary to the modern practice of constitutional law. His delegation was not convinced that the alleged obstacles to separating the executive and the judiciary were insurmountable and it hoped that the Administering Authority would carry out the Council's recommendations as soon as possible.

5. His delegation was not unmindful of the uncertain future with which the Nauruan people were faced, but it felt that that theme should not be stressed to the point of losing sight of present-day practical needs for political, economic, social and educational advancement.

6. The Trusteeship Council had repeatedly recommended that intensive efforts should be made to train Nauruans for positions of responsibility in the administration of the Territory. The steps taken by the Administration in that direction were, to say the least, less than encouraging; during the year under review, not a single Nauruan had obtained a responsible position in the Administration. The Council would hope to hear better news in that connexion at its next session.

7. With regard to the economy of the Territory, his delegation felt that the possibility of making the worked-out phosphate land cultivable should not be completely ruled out and it would ask the Administering Authority to continue to carry out scientific research in that respect and to seek the assistance of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and other international scientific organizations.

8. It was regrettable that the Nauruan people had little or no say in the management of the industry and the administration by the British Phosphate Commissioners. They took part in that important industry only as low-grade workers and manual labourers.

9. His delegation was glad to note the progress that had been made in the field of public health. On the other hand, the Trusteeship Council's recommendations with regard to working conditions had not been implemented and the disparity between the working hours of the European and of other workers employed by the British Phosphate Commissioners still existed. His delegation hoped that the Administering Authority would endeavour to abolish that disparity.

10. With regard to education, his delegation would commend the Administering Authority for its achievements during the year under review. Nevertheless, it had noted with concern from the observations presented by UNESCO (T/1571) that there was a serious lack of competent Nauruan teachers and of text-books in the Nauruan language and that there continued to be three parallel primary school systems: for the Europeans, for the children of Gilbert and Ellice Islanders and for Nauruan children. His delegation would commend the observations of UNESCO to the attention of the Administering Authority.

11. While his delegation did not wish to express any opinion regarding the proposal of the Administering Authority for the resettlement of the Nauruans in metropolitan Australia, it was clear that the proposal did not fully meet the wishes of the people of Nauru, chiefly because it would involve the loss of their national identity. The Nauruans had not completely given up hope of finding an island suitable for resettlement and had submitted a proposal in that connexion to the Administering Authority, a reply to which was still awaited. As previous speakers had said, the freely expressed wishes of the people must be the paramount consideration. His delegation fervently hoped that the proposal said to have been advanced by the Nauruans would be given sympathetic consideration, that the Administering Authority would continue to search for an alternative place so that the legitimate aspirations of the people for the preservation of their national identity could be fulfilled, and that the Nauruan leaders would be closely associated in such expeditions.

12. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Paraguay) recalled that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Trusteeship Council had urged the Administering Authority to formulate concrete proposals for the consideration of the Nauruan people, including the possibility of resettlement in one or more of the three metropolitan countries (A/4404, chapter VII, para. 6). The Council had also noted the assurance given by the Administering Authority that the final decision and choice of alternatives would rest entirely with the Nauruan people.

13. The most important point was that the final decision must be taken by the Nauruan people themselves. His delegation was confident that, when the time came, the Nauruan community would act wisely in deciding its future. The special representative had outlined the proposal which had been placed before the Nauruan community that it should be resettled in the territories of the three countries which composed the joint Administering Authority. As his delegation understood it, what was involved was a single general

plan rather than alternative solutions. Clearly, the Administering Authority had come to the conclusion that it was impracticable to draft various alternative plans from which the Nauruans could select the one they preferred. It was undoubtedly no easy task to find a new home for a homogenous community which was very conscious of its unity and had a relatively high standard of living. Mr. Gadabu, adviser to the special representative, had expressed the view that a settlement in Australia would mean sacrificing the people's national identity and that resettlement on an island or in a place where they could retain their identity was most important to them.

14. In view of the general lines of the proposed plan and the reaction of the Nauruan people, his delegation did not consider that the time had come to reach a final decision on the matter. The plan appeared to his delegation to be comprehensive and generous, but no final conclusions could be reached until more details were known about the form and the date of the termination of the trusteeship, the question of compensation and the question of those Nauruans who might prefer to end their days in their own land. He welcomed the Administering Authority's statement that the process of consultation and discussion with the Nauruans would continue and that any suggestions they might wish to make would be given careful consideration. It would be well to associate the Nauruans themselves in the search for a final solution.

15. On various occasions in the past, the Trusteeship Council had been told that the Nauru Local Government Council was not using all its powers. In his delegation's view, the Council's failure to exercise its powers was due to the very fact that those powers were not sufficiently extensive. The Trusteeship Council had been informed that the matter was being studied with a view to increasing the powers of the Local Government Council and broadening its responsibility; his delegation welcomed that development, which it regarded as a pledge of action in the near future.

16. His delegation had noted with pleasure the increased royalty rates on phosphates which had come into effect on 1 July 1960. It would like to have additional information on the operations of the British Phosphate Commissioners and would recommend that the Nauruan people should be encouraged to take part in its administration and should be given the opportunity to occupy higher posts.

17. His delegation had, in the past, stressed the importance of a separation between the executive and the judiciary. He noted with pleasure that the Administering Authority was contemplating the appointment of a magistrate to the District Court who would not be an administrative official.

18. His delegation had noted the changes in the educational field in the period under review and had been much interested in the observations submitted by UNESCO (T/1571), to which it felt sure the Administering Authority would give close consideration.

19. He was glad to note that a beginning had been made in the development of a fishing industry, which was most important in a territory where most food-stuffs had to be imported. He was concerned about the continuation of differential wage rates and hoped that, by the Council's twenty-eighth session, the difference would have been abolished.

20. At the 1159th meeting, the representative of India had recommended that the Council should suggest to the Administering Authority that it should establish a pilot project to test the possibility of reactivating the land from which phosphates had been extracted, to make it cultivable. He hoped that the Administering Authority would give due consideration to that suggestion.

21. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) observed that it had been apparent to the Council for some time that, with the gradual removal of the phosphate deposits, Nauru would not be able to continue to support its people at the level of living to which they had grown accustomed. The Nauru Local Government Council had apparently come to the same conclusion. In his delegation's view, it was of no service to the Nauruan people to suggest, as the USSR representative had done (1157th meeting), that the Nauruan people might be able to continue to live on the island indefinitely. The only conceivable way in which that could be done would be for the people to rely for ever on the largesse of some outside Power, which, he was sure, they were too wise and too proud to contemplate.

22. While his delegation was in sympathy with all efforts to increase the agricultural productivity of the island, there should be no illusions about the ultimate possibility of restoring to use the areas which had been worked out. Even if it were feasible to make the whole island agriculturally productive—and there was no evidence of that—a growing Nauruan community could not expect to enjoy the same level of living in the future as it had enjoyed and was enjoying from the production of phosphates. The same consideration should be borne in mind when the possibility of moving the Nauruans to another island or group of islands was considered. Such an island or group of islands would have to be suitable from the point of view of available land area, potential agricultural production and geographical situation and would also have to offer some resources or other economic potential sufficient to enable the Nauruans to maintain their current way of life. Obviously, to find such a place was a difficult matter and it was not surprising that so far the search had been unsuccessful. In any future consultation with the representatives of the Nauruan people, the Administration might discuss the question whether the Nauruans' preference for continued island life was strong enough to make them willing to accept the return to more primitive living conditions. Judging from the observations made by Mr. Gadabu, the answer would be in the negative.

23. In his delegation's view, the offer made by the joint Administering Authority for the potential resettlement of the Nauruans in Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom was most generous and appropriate to the circumstances. While fully understanding and sympathizing with the wish of the Nauruan community to retain their historical ties and cultural patterns, he did not share their fear that acceptance of the offer would necessarily mean the eventual disappearance of the Nauruan community as such. It was natural that, in a question of such importance, the Nauruans had not wished to take a hasty decision, but they had not rejected the offer of the Administering Authority. He pointed out that the citizens of the United States had come from many different parts of the world, and yet, while American

in every sense of the word, they were proud of their national and cultural backgrounds and many of them continued to live in close proximity to others of the same background. While the move to a large community such as Australia would undoubtedly be difficult for the individuals concerned, he would suggest to the Nauruan community that the short-range disadvantages would be more than offset by the long-range benefits they and their successors would enjoy in the future.

24. Obviously, there should be no question of pressure upon the Nauruans to accept the offer; indeed, the special representative had emphasized that there was no such thought in the mind of the Administering Authority. Mr. Gadabu had made it clear that the Local Government Council was aware of its heavy responsibilities in connexion with the decision of the Nauruan community regarding its future and that it naturally wished to investigate all possibilities. While that was a wise course of action, he would suggest that the decision should not be indefinitely delayed. The longer it was postponed the more thorny the problem would become, since the number of older people who would have difficulty in readjusting would be constantly increasing. It should be pointed out, moreover, that the benefits from the phosphates would continue to accrue to the Nauruan community even after a move had been made.

25. The Administration had done much during the past year towards implementing the recommendations made by the Council at its twenty-sixth session (A/4404). Measures to increase the powers of the Local Government Council appeared to be imminent and he hoped the Administering Authority would continue to transfer further responsibilities to that body.

26. He was glad to note that the rates had been increased in the case of two types of phosphate royalties and that surface payments for land above the eighty-foot contour had been increased from £60 per acre to £160 per acre. He hoped that, in future, the Administering Authority would be able to provide the Council with more information about the total amount of phosphates produced, the proceeds and the cost of production, and with estimates of the total income of the Nauruan community from wages and salaries, rentals and phosphate royalties, with at least some indication of the distribution of such income within the community.

27. The educational opportunities given to the Nauruan children were better than in most parts of the world. The task of the Administering Authority, together with the Local Government Council, would now presumably be to increase the number of young people who took advantage of their opportunities both in secondary and in higher education. He had noticed Mr. Gadabu's statement that the Nauruans would like to have more books in the Nauruan language. That was understandable, but he hoped that it did not imply a desire to place less emphasis on the study and teaching of English, a thorough knowledge of which was essential if the young people of Nauru were fully to realize their capabilities. He was glad to note that improvements had been made in teaching standards. In its observations (T/1571), UNESCO expressed the opinion that a definite policy should be adopted for providing the Nauruan people with professionally trained Nauruan teachers. While some of the present

teachers had had many years' practical experience, they could undoubtedly benefit by training in up-to-date methods. He wondered whether consideration had been given to providing such training during vacation periods, either in Australia or in Nauru.

28. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the final settlement of the problem of the former German wireless station. Although a search of the records had established that the ownership of the land was rightfully vested in the Administration, the latter had offered to hand over to the Nauruans a sum of money equivalent to that received by the Administration as royalties and surface land payments. His delegation considered that to be the act of an enlightened Administration and had no doubt that that view was shared by the Nauruans themselves.

29. Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic) said that, despite the efforts made by the Administering Authority during the year under consideration, no solution had been found to the problem of selecting an alternative home for the people of Nauru, who, wishing to preserve their national identity, had declined the offer of resettlement in Australia itself, despite the material advantages inherent in such a solution.

30. He was happy to note that the Administering Authority had no intention of going against the wishes of the Nauruans and that, although it regarded the proposal for their resettlement in Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom as the most advantageous, it was seeking other alternatives that might meet the wishes of the people. The Nauruan community should be more intimately associated with that search, since the final solution would depend on their ability to assess the relative advantages of the alternatives open to them. The Council had been told by Mr. Gadabu that the Nauruan people were thinking in terms of a new island home near the coast of Australia. Another possibility might be for the Nauruans to be given some sort of autonomous status within a larger community.

31. Neither the Trusteeship Council nor the people of Nauru had as yet undertaken a comprehensive study of the various alternatives from the point of view of both the spiritual and the material requirements. Since such a study would require investigations on the spot, he felt that the time had come for the Trusteeship Council either to set up a special sub-committee for that purpose or to instruct the next visiting mission to Nauru to give special attention to the resettlement problem.

32. The uncertainty about the Nauruan people's future should not, in the meantime, affect the Trust Territory's general advancement. For instance, the situation with regard to the progressive devolution of political powers to the Nauruan people remained unsatisfactory. Steps such as the extension of the Local Government Council's powers under the amendments to the Housing Ordinance and the Nauruan Community Ordinance, welcome though they were, did not keep pace with the aspirations of the people and the spirit of the time. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) could not be reconciled with the Administrator's powers to act in opposition to advice of the Council on any matter where, in his opinion, he was justified in doing so.

33. The time had come for the Nauruan people to assume control over the conduct of their domestic

affairs. That could be effected by transforming the Nauru Local Government Council into a legislative organ, by appointing more Nauruans to all levels of the Administration, particularly to the higher grades, and by associating the indigenous inhabitants with the management of the phosphate industry.

34. With regard to economic questions, he regretted that the Council had no details of the costs of phosphate extraction and of the price received for or commanded by phosphate on the world markets. In the absence of such information, it was difficult for the Council to determine whether or not the royalty rates paid to the Nauruan people were fair. The latest increases in the royalties paid to them were welcome and he hoped that additional sums would also be paid into the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund in view of its importance for the resettlement of the Nauruan people in their future home.

35. He welcomed the Administering Authority's decision to pay the Nauruan people a sum of money equal to that received by the Administration in royalties and surface rate payments for the land of the old wireless station, despite the fact that the records had established that ownership of the land had been vested in the Administration.

36. Lastly, the fact that the phosphate industry was the mainstay of the economy should not stand in the way of development in other sectors of the economy such as agriculture and fishing.

37. With reference to social and educational advancement, he regretted that the discrimination in pay scales and working hours between the Nauruan and the non-indigenous workers had not yet been removed; he hoped that the Administering Authority would take steps to put an end to such practices. He was happy to note the progress achieved in social and health services, with particular reference to the preventive campaign against tuberculosis. He hoped that the Administering Authority would give serious consideration to the observations of UNESCO (T/1571), since the efforts and results in the field of education fell short of Nauru's requirements.

38. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) pointed out that, in considering the Trust Territory of Nauru, it was important to bear in mind that it was so small in area and population that such terms as representative bodies, self-sufficiency, accession to self-government or independence, in current use in the Council, could not be applied to it in the way in which they were applied to other Trust Territories. According to his calculations, the annual discussion of the situation in Nauru had, over the fourteen years of the Trusteeship System, cost a total of some \$350,000. The Council might well ask itself whether the people of Nauru might not perhaps have preferred to receive the equivalent sum in social, economic or cultural benefits.

39. Fortunately, the Administering Authority had not been idle, with the result that the people of Nauru now enjoyed a level of living higher than that anywhere else in the Pacific and indeed in many other parts of the world. Admittedly, the Territory had no Legislative Assembly, but he knew of no community of 2,500 people which had a parliament of its own; such communities had municipal councils, and in their Local Government Council the people of Nauru had precisely that.

40. With regard to the question of resettlement, it should be remembered that the problem was not immediate, since the phosphate deposits would not be exhausted for another forty years. The resettlement of small communities, made necessary by the building of dams, the construction of motorways and so forth, was a frequent occurrence in all countries of the world. He saw no reason why the reasonable solutions used in such cases should not be applied to Nauru.

41. In view of the need for the resettlement of all or a part of the population, the question of the Territory's accession to self-government or independence assumed a very special character. He felt that the principle of self-determination should apply not only to the community as a whole but also to its individual members. It should be remembered that the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits was not the only factor that made a resettlement programme necessary. Nauruans would have had to emigrate even if the phosphate deposits had never been worked, because crops could not be grown on top of the phosphate. Furthermore, despite research work by specialists, it had hitherto proved impossible to devise ways to restore the soil after the phosphates had been extracted.

42. It should be remembered that the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959, had indicated in paragraphs 20 et seq of its report (T/1485) that the people of Nauru did not live as "islanders", gaining their livelihood from agriculture and fishing. Were they to be resettled on another island, their level of living would drop unless their new home, too, had mineral deposits. In the circumstances, the only possible solution was for the Nauruans to settle in a larger community which would furnish them with normal chances of development. The Nauruans had a regional rather than a national identity, and, as could be judged by the survival of regional customs in France, a regional identity could very well be preserved within a larger community.

43. The Administering Authority had indicated that its generous plan for the resettlement of Nauruans included the granting of citizenship. That was an important consideration. The process of resettlement should extend over a period of some thirty years. He hoped that the people of Nauru, guided by the intelligence and common sense with which—as Mr. Gadabu had demonstrated in the Council—they were endowed, would come to realize where their genuine interests lay. Their resettlement programme should concern itself with individuals, for otherwise it might become a mass deportation, of which the world had unfortunately seen many an example. Some older people would presumably wish to remain in the island, but that should not, in his view, mean that trusteeship over Nauru should be continued indefinitely. Provided the people freely accepted the principle of emigration to Australian territory, the Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated before the phosphate deposits were worked out—in fact as soon as Australian citizenship had been granted to all Nauruans, wherever they lived, and the resettlement of the first immigrants on Australian soil had begun.

44. In the meantime, Australia had been successfully carrying out the task entrusted to it by the United

Nations and was to be congratulated on its unremitting efforts to ensure the political, material, intellectual and moral advancement of the people. Thanks were also due to New Zealand and the United Kingdom, which, with Australia, formed the Administering Authority, and whose silence in the debate had indicated their confidence in the Australian administration of Nauru.

45. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the people of Nauru were unlikely to share the French representative's apparent opinion that their future was a matter of little consequence. The Nauruans might be few in numbers but they were a people and they wished to retain their national identity.

46. He had no desire to engage in polemics with the United States representative, who had expressed the view that the USSR delegation's suggestions would be of no service to the Nauruan people. The USSR delegation, which fully supported and would support the wishes of the Nauruan people, would vote against any plan that was unacceptable to them. The United States representative's objection to the USSR delegation's suggestions had presumably been prompted by the thought that colonialists should stand together.

47. He noted that the outline of conditions in the Trust Territory, prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.1012 and Add.1), fully reflected the views expressed in the Council by the special representative. He would like the important statements made by Mr. Gadabu to be reproduced in extenso in the document, which would then give a more balanced presentation of the situation.

48. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) remarked that the Council appeared to be unanimous in thinking that the wishes of the people of Nauru should be paramount and that the solution finally chosen must be one with which the Nauruans would fully agree. The Australian offer had been freely made and it could not be pursued unless it was freely accepted by the people of Nauru. The Council therefore had a clear course ahead of it and should not allow itself to reach a position in which the people of Nauru would be sacrificed on the altar of international politics.

49. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had been pleased to hear the United Kingdom representative state that the freely expressed wish of the people of Nauru should be respected. That was precisely the aim pursued by his own delegation and by the United Arab Republic representative when he had suggested that a special sub-committee or a visiting mission should be sent to the island to determine the Nauruan people's wishes. If the United Kingdom representative was agreeable to such a course and the Trusteeship Council concurred, a mission could be sent to Nauru.

50. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) pointed out that he had not been referring to any specific suggestion. He had stated a point of principle and was delighted to hear that the USSR representative was in full agreement with it.

51. The PRESIDENT declared the general debate on the Trust Territory of Nauru concluded.

Mr. McCarthy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, withdrew.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi:

- (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]

OPENING STATEMENTS

52. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) recalled that the Trusteeship Council, in its resolution 2018 (XXVI), had noted the progress made by the Trust Territory towards the objectives of the International Trusteeship System, had further noted that the Administering Authority had declared its intention of holding elections in 1961 on the basis of universal adult suffrage, under the supervision of the United Nations, and had recommended that the question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi should be inscribed as a separate item on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly had acted in accordance with that recommendation and the question had been debated by the Fourth Committee at both parts of the session. The Committee had heard a number of petitioners who had set forth the views of various sections of the population and it had been clear from their statements that from 1959 onwards all the complex problems raised by the future of Ruanda-Urundi had been dominated by the political question.

53. The problem which must now be solved was that of the transfer of the management of the Territory's affairs to authorities chosen by and responsible to the people. The programme drawn up by the Belgian Government in November 1959 to achieve that end by democratic and constitutional means had already been examined by the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly. The dominant feature of the programme was the idea that the people themselves should be associated as far as possible in formulating plans for their future. It was anticipated that the trusteeship would be terminated during the first half of 1962. Any final decision about the future must be based on the free choice by the people of Ruanda-Urundi of representative bodies qualified to express their aspirations and their views on the constitutional reforms which should precede the termination of the trusteeship.

54. The Belgian Government had decided that the elections for the legislative assemblies would be held on 15 January 1961 and had invited the General Assembly to dispatch a commission to supervise the elections. Desirous of complying as closely as possible with the wishes of the General Assembly, it had made certain changes in the procedure to be used and in its original time-table. He was glad to be able to inform the members of the Council of the first stages in the implementation of the resolutions concerning Ruanda-Urundi adopted by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session. Resolution 1605 (XV), adopted on 21 April 1961, had been immediately circulated in the Territory, where it had aroused great interest. On 27 April the provisional Legislative Assembly of Rwanda had debated the resolution and on 28 April it had adopted a motion welcoming the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi and assuring the members of its co-operation and assistance. Towards

the end of April the Legislative Assembly of Burundi had adopted a motion expressing satisfaction at the prospect of elections on the basis of universal suffrage and welcoming the United Nations Commission to the country.

55. The United Nations Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr. Dorsinville of Haiti, had gone to Brussels on 31 May and after preliminary consultations there had proceeded to the Trust Territory. On 8 June, the day of its arrival, Mr. Harroy, the Resident-General, had made a speech over Radio Usumbura confirming Belgium's firm intention of complying with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1605 (XV) in so far as it was humanly possible to do so. He had told his listeners that the talks at Brussels had revealed a desire on both sides to co-operate and that the United Nations Commission had offered its good offices in the delicate negotiations which would be taking place. He had invited all the people of the Territory, and in particular the Barundi and Banyarwanda leaders, members of the Governments and heads of the political parties, to co-operate to the utmost with the Administering Authority during the period before the holding of the elections. The role of the Administering Authority, he had said, would be limited to stimulating, advising, conciliating, occasionally sounding a note of caution, sometimes offering itself as a substitute. Its chief function, however, would be the maintenance of order.

56. After the Resident-General had spoken the Chairman of the United Nations Commission had addressed the people. He had informed them of the talks that had been held between the Commission and the Belgian Government and had appealed to all the people without distinction to strive to ensure that the forthcoming elections might be held in peaceful and orderly conditions. He had pointed out that their future lay in their own hands, had assured them of his conviction that the Administering Authority would assist them in taking the final steps towards independence and had promised the co-operation of the United Nations Commission.

57. The Administering Authority had also given consideration to the question of the amnesty, which was the subject of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 1605 (XV). On 31 May an ordinance had been promulgated granting an amnesty to those guilty of political offences between 1 October 1959 and 1 April 1961. The ordinance laid down the conditions on which amnesty would be granted, enumerated the particularly grave crimes which were not included in the amnesty and defined the powers of the Belgian Political Amnesty Commission. That Commission had been set up immediately and had arrived in Ruanda-Urundi on 8 June, when it had immediately begun its examination of the various cases.

58. The United Nations Special Commission set up under paragraph 9 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1605 (XV) had arrived in Brussels on 8 June and in Ruanda-Urundi on 15 June. Its task was to examine the cases of those persons who were not covered by the amnesty measures laid down by the Ordinance of 31 May and to propose other measures of clemency to the Administering Authority.

59. In conclusion he recalled the efforts made by the Belgian Administration during the period of the man-

date and of the trusteeship to avert famine, which occurred periodically in Ruanda-Urundi, by the diversification of crops, anti-erosion measures, the improvement and modernization of farming methods and reafforestation. There was apparently no fear of famine for some years to come, despite the increase in the population. Since 1958 the agricultural programme had been directed and applied by the local authorities, which were now entirely autonomous in that respect. Future progress would depend not only on their technical competence but also and above all on the maintenance of an atmosphere of peace and hard work, which it would be their responsibility to ensure.

60. He would not attempt to draw up a balance sheet of the achievements of the Belgian Administration, which had been noted and frequently commended by the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations visiting missions. Nor would he dwell on the psychological, spiritual and political changes brought about by the trusteeship Administration concurrently with the raising of levels of living, the spread of education, protection against abuses and arbitrary rule and the free circulation of people and goods. At the present stage such observations would be somewhat academic and they could be safely left to the historians of the future.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.