

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



GENERAL

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Item 5 of the Agenda



EXAMINATION OF THE PETITIONS LISTED IN THE ANNEX TO THE AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

The following observations dated 20 January 1950 on the petitions from Mwambutaa, Mwami of Urundi (T/PET.3/5, T/PET.2/49) have been submitted by the United Kingdom.

Memorandum by H.M. Government in the United
Kingdom Petition from Mwambutaa, Mwami of
Urundi, dated 25th July, 1948

1. On the 25th March, 1949, the Trusteeship Council adopted a resolution (T/307) in which the Council took note of statements by the representatives of Belgium and the United Kingdom, as the Administering Authorities concerned, that their Governments were holding consultations on the question raised in the petition from Mwambutaa, Mwami of Urundi.
2. The Government of Belgium and H.M. Government in the United Kingdom, acting in agreement, appointed their respective permanent representatives on the Trusteeship Council, M. Pierre Ryckmans and Sir Alan Burns, G.C.M.G., to conduct a joint investigation in Bugufi into the wishes of the people of the territory regarding the claim of the Mwami of Urundi and into the best interests of the inhabitants of Bugufi in the matter of that claim.
3. In the light of these consultations, H.M. Government in the United Kingdom is satisfied that, whatever the historical claim of the Mwami of Urundi to suzerainty over Bugufi, it would not be in the best interests of the people of

Bugufi to make any change in the arrangements, which have been in force for 30 years, whereby the district forms part of Tanganyika under United Kingdom trusteeship. The people of Bugufi have become accustomed to their present administration, and by education and other ties have become fully integrated with the fabric of life in Tanganyika. Furthermore, investigations in the territory have established that any alteration in the status quo would be contrary to the express wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people of Bugufi. In these circumstances H.M. Government does not consider that any change in the present status of the territory would be desirable or justifiable.