

United Nations

Nations Unies

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
DE TUTELLE

UNRESTRICTED

T/P.V. 148
3 March 1949

English

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Fourth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING
(Transcription from sound recording)

Lake Success, New York
Friday, 4 March 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. LIU CHIEH

China

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the thirty-second meeting of the fourth session of the Trusteeship Council.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION TO EAST AFRICA - RUANDA-URUNDI
CHAPTER II ECONOMIC QUESTIONS (T/217, T/217/Corr.1, T/217/Corr.2
and T/264) (Continued)

The PRESIDENT: We will continue to discuss the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to East Africa. I think the representative of the Philippines was on the point of asking another question when we adjourned yesterday.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I would like to direct a few questions to the Chairman of the Visiting Mission to Ruanda-Urundi, and I want to call his attention to page 41 of the report, document T/217 where mention is made of the deplorably low rate of wages, at the rate of about two francs a day.

How is that rate universally invoked in the Territory? Is it common all over the Territory, or is it only in some places? I should like to be enlightened further.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) of the Trusteeship Council to the Territories of Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission only had the occasion to visit a few places in which we found a certain number of indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi employed. It was not, therefore, in a position to say that salaries, the rate of which it saw, would be universally applied throughout the whole Territory.

Nevertheless, it appears from the example of a tin mine that was visited by the Mission, that we may consider these salaries as standard salaries in the Territory.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Then I call attention to page 52 of the report, at the middle of the page, with reference to wages, where mention is again made of daily wages ranging from one to two francs a day as being still very common.

Where did you observe this rate of wages, in what places?

/Mr. LAURENTIE

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission): The Mission especially notes the application of the salaries in the tin mine to which I have just referred, and which is situated not far from Kigali.

/Mr. CARPIO:

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): So that we might have an idea of what this one or two francs daily wage of labourers may mean, could the Chairman of the Visiting ^{Mission} give us an idea of what that would represent, let us say, in American currency?

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): I think that it would really be quite arbitrary to make any kind of comparison with American currency. The standard of living is so completely different and the way of life in Ruanda-Urundi is so different from what it is in the United States that the comparison in terms of currency would not be justified at all.

That, I think, is appropriate to stress, and I think also that it should be noted that what is given to the workers in kind is important -- that is, in the way of housing and food, and food even in part for the family of the worker, and also medical care and so forth. In this way the salary represents essentially what is necessary for the worker in order that he may improve his way of life.
existence. The vital basis is already acquired through this other means of compensation.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I appreciate the explanation of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, but he has not answered my question. I just want to satisfy myself what one or two francs in Ruanda-Urundi means in terms of American currency.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Chairman of the Visiting Mission said it was impossible to make that comparison.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): The rate of exchange is 43.91 francs to the dollar.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): That would mean about one or two francs ^{and} would mean about two or four cents in American money. Is that correct?

The PRESIDENT: In exchange value.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): In those places where you have /observed

observed this measly rate of wages of two to four cents a day, as the Chairman of the Visiting Mission has mentioned, has he ever tried to buy anything from there to give us an idea of how much it would cost, let us say, to buy one pencil -- how much it would cost in terms of francs in that place to buy any other article that might have been bought while he was there.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission did not really have the time to draw up a complete table of what a family or individual budget might be in Ruanda-Urundi. We did not remain long enough in the Territory in order to carry out a study which in itself is extremely delicate by nature.

In a very summary way I might say that the cost of living is nevertheless considerably lower in Ruanda-Urundi than it could be in the United States. I do not think there is any possible comparison even between the two scales of values.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I appreciate the statement of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, but I am not interested in that.. I was just trying to find out the actual value of things as bought in that place so that we can appreciate how much these two or four cents daily wage may mean to the average African.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): I do not recall quite exactly whether the report mentions this in a specific manner, but it appeared to the Visiting Mission that the salary in money distributed to the workers which might reach the scales indicated was for a part -- I do not recall the exact amount --- in taxes, and the remainder could be considered as almost entirely available for the worker since, once again I repeat, his housing is assured and his food is almost entirely assured. Medical care is also assured.

Therefore, from that time his salary in money represents exactly what the worker and his family may obtain in order to improve their collective or individual situations.

How far they can do this either in terms of meters of cloth or in saucepans or in plates and dishes, how far workers can obtain such things with what remains available in money once he has actually /paid the tax,

paid the tax, I cannot estimate easily, and I do not know whether my colleagues can do it better than I am doing myself. I think the time was lacking for us to proceed with a study of this kind.

Nevertheless, I think it would be possible to obtain the information desired in a report of the Administering Power.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Did the Chairman of the Visiting Mission ever try to figure out whether these two or four cents a day wages which I will grant might be considered as savings, whether the amount accumulated day by day for an entire year would mean about a few dollars for the entire year, whether this would be sufficient to enable the average family to educate a son for instance in Leopoldville or in some of these places where we are told Ruanda-Urundi students might obtain higher education. Could he finance the necessary amount to send his son to places in the Belgian Congo with this meager sum of savings which he makes day by day under the standard of living as mentioned.

/Mr. LAURENTIE

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission)(Interpretation from French): I think that I will not be going against the opinion of my colleagues when I say that if the Visiting Mission has stated that it seemed to it to be desirable that the part of salary paid in money be higher, without the payments in kind being diminished for this reason, it is because we considered that the state of enterprises on the one hand, and on the other hand the needs of the worker, enabled an increase of which the Mission salary, does not pretend to fix as regards its proportion or its amount.

To the precise question put by the representative of the Philippines, I think I may reply that, in point of fact, the salaries which are at present paid would not enable a family of workers to send their children to carry on their secondary or higher education outside the Territory. But I must add that really the question was not raised in this manner. We did not consider in the Mission that this was how we should put the question, and the Mission did not consider, moreover, that the condition of workers at present in a mine or in any part of Ruanda-Urundi was a condition which would call naturally for those who were exercising this task to seek such secondary or higher education. That is a kind of need which, of course, is not yet felt among this population of workers.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(Interpretation from French): I would first state that I quite agree in considering that salaries in Ruanda-Urundi are too low and that they should be increased, and I hope that they will be increased as soon as possible. I regret that salaries are so low. I do not say that it would have been possible in any enterprises to pay higher salaries right now. I consider, nevertheless, that the Visiting Mission is quite justified in saying that in the low salary which corresponds to a very inferior kind of work there is a vicious circle. That is, that we cannot expect that a worker should work with all his might for a salary which is insufficient; the employer says "I cannot be expected to pay a higher salary to a man than the work which he actually gives me, and he gives me very little work, therefore he gets very little salary." The worker can reply "And I cannot be expected to work for more than the salary that I am given." That is the vicious circle, and I think that it is up to the Europeans to try and break this vicious circle, to give better pay and then progressively to obtain better work for a higher salary.

Having said this, I wish to stress that the salary of one or two francs a day which was noted as being paid for work in the mines, is what is given to the indigenous inhabitant when he has received a complete ration for heavy workers which is consistent with the medical

/prescription

prescription when he is already housed and fed, and receives necessary clothes and rugs and necessary medical care, which is complete and insured for him and his family. The family receives partial rations, not complete ones.

It is therefore a question of pocket-money which is left in the hands of the worker, once all the essential needs of his existence have been covered by the owner.

As to the question raised by the representative of the Philippines whether a man with a sum of dollars, which is reached by adding up his pocket-money for each day, would have enough to send one of his children to school in Leopoldville, I would reply that this question has never arisen, because a child whose father earns a small salary would not need anything for his teaching. His education would be completely free, just as it is for all children in Ruanda-Urundi. In Ruanda-Urundi today there are medical assistants who have done fifteen years of studies and have never paid one single cent, even if their father did not work at all and had nothing in the way of pay. If a man is intelligent, he may today become a medical assistant, and receive fifteen years of instruction without having to pay a penny, and during the whole duration of his studies he is fed, housed, clothed and receives at the end of his studies a diploma which enables him to earn his living decently.

Now, I have here before me a document which is the report of the Commission of the Colonies of the Chamber and Senate of Belgium concerning the draft law on Ruanda-Urundi, and this report was sent in a week ago. I quote this report:

"The American author we have already quoted, John Gunther, in his book 'Inside Latin-America' which appeared in 1942, gives for certain countries of Latin-America the following information, which is available at least for 1941:

Daily salaries of agricultural workers were then, according to him, in Mexico: 4 francs, Nicaragua 5.50 frs, Ecuador 2.20 francs, Chile 2.90 to 10 francs, Brazil (Bahia) up to 2.15 francs; in Paraguay, according to him, agricultural workers received as remuneration only their food, and not always that. In Peru, according to the same author, the five millions of Indians of Peru worked from 3 to 5 days a week for other owners, and the rest of the time for themselves, and very often they receive no salary at all."

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) (Interpretation from Spanish): Before I raise the question I wish to raise, I would like to give a reply to the allusion which has just been made to the work of Mr. Gunther, especially
/in respect of

in respect of salaries paid in Mexico, because there is no level of comparison between the situation of workers in Mexico and that of workers in Ruanda-Urundi in respect of salaries nor of conditions of life, as regards legal protection and so forth.

The workers of Mexico, both in the town and in the country, are entirely protected by the law, and they themselves are protected by their trade union organization.

You may be assured that if we wished to pay the Mexican worker salaries of 28 Mexican centavos, which would be four cents, which are those of Ruanda-Urundi, there would certainly be a revolution in the country. It would not be possible to pay such salaries.

As regards the figures which have been given and have been read out, they are much too out of date, for one thing, and on the other hand they were gathered rapidly, and perhaps the idea which Mr. Gunther had was of the minimum salary in Mexico, equal to one Belgian franc, that is, four Mexican pesos. This was true ten or twelve years ago, but I must say that the minimum salary in Mexico has never been anything else than a minimum standard in order to judge the value of work.

The minimum salary is always three to four pesos above that minimum which is determined, and in actual fact, the Mexican worker who is a non-qualified worker may earn much more than \$2 in a factory a day.

/As to the statement made by

As to the statement made by the representative of Belgium concerning the impossibility of increasing the salary of workers, I would like to ask whether this increase of salary would be in relationship with the profits of the enterprises. According to what I saw, salaries in Ruanda-Urundi are based, if I may say, on the physiological necessities of the inhabitants, and therefore they should only be given what is necessary for them not to die of hunger.

We cannot expect them to be able to make any kind of savings or to improve their economic situation when earning so little. But on the other hand, the industrial concerns and enterprises which give such low salaries, must have certain profits when they sell their products on the world market. They obtain prices in dollars, and this is where the profits come from.

It seems to me that there is a great discrepancy between the economic development of the indigenuous inhabitants and that of the concerns working in Ruanda-Urundi.

For this reason I think that what we should do is to carry out a study on the possible increase in salaries, basing ourselves on a humanitarian point of view -- I might even say a Christian point of view. Also, in respect of the development of trade enterprises in Ruanda-Urundi, it is necessary that when we study the increase of salaries, we should study the profits made by concerns in Ruanda-Urundi, and the profits which are made at the present time, in order that salaries may be just, and may be linked with such profits.

The Trusteeship Agreement refers specifically to the economic progress of the country and of the inhabitants, whereas here we seem to have in mind simply the economic development of the enterprises and concerns. Therefore, the salaries should be based on such profits.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I am sorry to have to start a discussion on political economy, but the suggestion which is made by the representative of Mexico has been contemplated.

There are obviously a number of enterprises and concerns in Ruanda-Urundi which might pay a great deal more. There are some which are fairly rich, around Kigali, among other places, and others which work to the extreme limit of their possible exploitation. But besides these concerns which might pay a higher salary and which might give their
/workers a very

workers a very enviable standard of living, there are others which would be completely incapable of doing so. The Cheferies of the country, which have to provide for the maintenance of roads, are among these.

These low salaries are those which are paid, among others, by these Cheferies organizations, which have to ensure the construction of roads, dispensaries, rural hospitals, and so forth, and which have to do so with the absolute minimum of expenditure, because roads, dispensaries, hospitals, are an essential part of the equipment of the Territory.

Under the circumstances, if a privileged worker, for the reason that the mine which employs him can pay a lot of money, finds himself in an infinitely superior situation to the one who cannot be so paid, this will disorganize the whole life of the Territory.

When we found ourselves faced with this problem, notably at the beginning of the war, at the time of a devaluation and a rise of prices of certain basic commodities, we considered that it was preferable to re-establish equilibrium in another way. When industrial concerns, taking into account the salaries they pay and which are consistent with, or even somewhat superior to, the average salary of the area, made important profits, they had to pay high taxation.

In this way, during the war, tin paid more than 8,000 francs a ton in export duties, before any kind of taxation on the profits of the company. I cannot quote the exact figures for today, but I think that they are of about the same order. The companies which export products which can be sold on world markets for dollars, pay considerable taxes -- thousands of francs a ton for certain products.

That enables us to raise the average level of the population as a whole by paying a medical service, devoting a certain amount of money to the development of roads, and giving money to subsidies for schools, and so forth. Everybody benefits by this.

If a privileged company gives to its workers a salary which is three times higher than any others, all the other inhabitants of the country, who have great need of facilitating the education of their children, having medical services, and so forth, would have no benefits. Whereas if you tax the company in order to let this extra profit benefit everybody, you will harmoniously raise the average level of the whole of the population.

/That is why

That is why we have considered so far that we should not calculate salaries according to the possibility of payment by the owner, but according to the work, and tax the owner according to his profits, and use this taxation for the raising of the general level of the mass of the population.

Mr. NCRIEGA (Mexico) (Interpretation from Spanish): Under the circumstances I think that there has very often been, in such questions of colonial territories and so forth, a desire to make a comparison, which has given rise to the idea that each Territory is a kind of sanctuary and that it is not possible to make comparisons between the various Territories, for instance, between Africa and Latin-America.

As to this economic law which is mentioned by the representative of Belgium, that calculation of salaries should be made according to the possibilities of payment on the part of the owner or employer, it seems to me that here there is no possibility of accepting such a theory.

I think that even the Declaration of Human Rights, which has just been adopted in Paris, could not accept such a situation. It would leave to the employer the right to determine the salaries according to his own possibilities of payment.

We know that for equal work there must be equal pay, and precisely one of the problems of colonization and of administration of Trust Territories for countries in this position is the fact that the payment of cheap labour establishes unjust rivalry and competition between the Territories in which such salaries as a few cents a day are paid, and, on the other hand, Territories where salaries of about a dollar a day are paid.

As you see, the situation is quite different on the plane of international economy, and such a discrepancy as between one cent and one dollar for miners, -- even if you take into account the question of 15 to 20 cents for feeding, and so forth, and 15 or 20 pesos a day or 4 to 5 dollars in Mexico, there are salaries even higher than that which I will not mention precisely. There is no possibility of just competition in such a situation. It should therefore be understood that the human necessities of workers are the same in all latitudes of the earth. Each one wishes to have better clothing, better food, better amusement, and so forth, and with such differences it is quite impossible to ensure anything for the worker outside of the simple possibility of maintaining his physiological life.

/Therefore, under the

Therefore, under the circumstances, I do not think it is possible to say that all salaries should be fixed according to the possibilities of payment on the part of the employer. On the other hand, we know that the question of salaries is not a unilateral one: it is not only the employer who should determine it, but also the worker himself and the Government. Other factors should intervene, and I should like to know, if in this determining of the salary, the representatives of the workers will take part in the discussions. I am sure that, if we state that workers of Ruanda-Urundi do not need more than two cents a day for their needs besides their food, they will say that this is not true. They will say, for instance, that they need fifty to sixty cents a day.

It seems to me, therefore, that this is an important consideration when we are intending to carry out the study referred to, and that the Council should seek information on this point, and also as to the measures which should be taken in this respect.

We have seen that we are very far from the ideal economic development of the population and, on the other hand, the representative of Belgium has spoken of the lack of equilibrium which would occur if higher salaries were paid to some workers than to others. This we note everywhere. In most countries there are differences of salary of this kind, and if we increase the salaries of some workers, the level of their standard of life will increase, but the level of the other workers would also increase gradually in the same way, and, finally, the State can obtain higher taxation for higher salaries. However, if there are such low salaries; if it is impossible to help the development of the situation, this cannot be accepted in the way in which the situation is contemplated.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I regret exceedingly that I should have propounded that question that gave rise to the injection of what I consider extraneous matters. I would have preferred to leave the Latin Americans alone because, in the first place, those countries are not Trust Territories with which we have any concern whatsoever. . . .

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): But you have spoken of the United States. . .

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): May I ask once and for all whether it is in order for any member of this Council, no matter how old or how

/respected

respected he may be, to interrupt a speaker who has the floor without obtaining the permission of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of the Philippines has the floor, but I may say that when the representative of Belgium read the table of salaries, he was bringing in a matter of comparison, for some members of the Council who may want to know the relative purchasing power of money in Ruanda-Urundi and in New York, for instance. That, I believe, was quite in order.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I was concerned more or less with conditions in Ruanda-Urundi. These we now find out to be as follows; for purposes of the records.

If a labourer works in Ruanda-Urundi every day, including Sunday, throughout the year, he would earn a wage of one franc a day making a total of the equivalent of \$7.30 for the entire year. If he were to earn two whole francs, he would earn \$14.60.

I am granting that to be all savings, with nothing deducted for other expenses, but, even granting this, does not the Administering Authority feel that with these conditions extending throughout the Territory, the labourers would be perpetually bound in continuous bondage?

I ask this question because we are concerned with the improvement of the indigenous inhabitants of that Territory, and I want to emphasize this because I feel that there ought to be some radical change in the present system of the level of wages there.

Am I correct in this conclusion? If I am not, I would like to be enlightened by the representative of Belgium.

Mr. RYOKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): It is obvious that Ruanda-Urundi is a country which, in the actual terminology of the Economic and Social Council, is considered "underdeveloped". It is obvious that, with workers who earn salaries of 2 or 3 or 5 francs a day, it is quite impossible to arrive at a decent standard of living for the whole of the population. It is also evident that we should do all we can to raise the productivity of the country considerably, and we should attempt to increase the standard of living ^{of} the inhabitants considerably. That is why we are there, and that is why the Territory has been given to our Trusteeship.

/Before we were there

Before we were there, there was no labour at all; there were no salaries at all. The people simply existed and had nothing else. Today we are busy trying to equip this country with resources which are extremely limited, with capital which has to come from outside because there is no local capital. We are trying to equip the country and to form the inhabitants in order to enable them to increase their productivity and to earn more.

I quite agree that that is our purpose, because we realize that, with a budget of 160,000,000 francs, as that of Ruanda-Urundi today, it is impossible to pay for the development of public education, social security, properly organized medical services, etc., as we could do if we had a budget of 16,000,000,000, for instance, instead of 160,000,000. Our goal is to raise all this through the professional formation of the inhabitants, through education and instruction, increasing improvement of their health conditions, the bringing in of capital from outside and even, at present, by the introduction of money which is not loaned, but simply given by the metropolitan territory.

The only point upon which I am not in agreement with the representative of the Philippines is when he says that we need a "radical change". This radical change, unfortunately, is quite impossible. The situation which we also desire to attain, and which we are trying to reach, is a goal to be aimed at, but it is not through radical changes that we shall get there. It is by a progressive change and by a progressive increase of the productivity of the country, which alone can give us the necessary resources.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I am sorry that I used the words "radical change". I should have used "changes for the better". . . .

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): Then I would not have spoken at all.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): But I think we are all agreed that, under these conditions existing in the Territory today, it is really impossible for the average labourer to rise above mere continued bondage, and I have in mind particularly that this Territory has been under Belgian administration for more than 25 years.

/I feel that, perhaps

I feel that perhaps there might have been better efforts in this direction at this time, because we have found out about other Trust Territories which have been under the same regime such as Ruanda-Urundi; we have just found out about conditions in French Togoland and in the French Cameroons; we have found out that conditions in other Trust Territories are very much better than what we find in Ruanda-Urundi.

I am rather anxious, not because I want to criticize the Administering Authority, that the best that can be done for these helpless indigenous inhabitants should be attempted as soon as possible. That is my only anxiety in the matter.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgian) (Interpretation from French): I should like to put a question to the Chairman of the Visiting Mission. I am sure he will understand the scope of my question, and will fully realize that I do not wish to put here disagreeable questions or use methods such as are sometimes used in respect to me.

I wish to ask him whether he considers that conditions in Ruanda-Urundi are really so much worse than those of Togoland.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission): I think, although I only spent three weeks with my colleagues there, that I know Ruanda-Urundi better than Togoland, where I have never served. The question of the Belgian representative is, of course, somewhat embarrassing, but I should like to make a few remarks in respect to what was said by the representatives of Mexico and the Philippines.

The representative of Mexico said that the employer in Ruanda-Urundi maintained the employee or the worker at a minimum level of physiological value. That was all, if I understood correctly. I do not think that was the impression that the Visiting Mission gathered from the visit which it made to the various industrial areas, and especially of this mine which we visited at length.

I think it is much more than the level of physiological value of the worker, of his physical existence. I think it is necessary to stress the fact that the food ration is excellent, and that the physical aspect and a kind of joie de vivre, which is noted on the faces of the workers and their families, shows the fact that this food ration represents something useful, and probably superior to what the indigenous inhabitant, if he were left to his own initiative, might obtain.

/On the other

On the other hand, we had occasion to visit at length the hospital which is next door to this organization, and which is entirely paid for by the industrial company itself. It is not a state hospital, and I do not think we can find any better example of solicitude as to care given to workers and to their families.

If I recall correctly, the director of the mine explained to us, and I think that his explanations were correct, that not only the workers and their families had access to the hospital, for maternity and any kind of general care which was given, but also all the population of the neighbouring region. All that represents something important. It is certainly more than a simple exploitation of the worker, according to which you might consider that the worker should simply receive for himself alone what he should receive in return for the number of hours of work he has done. I think it is much more than that.

This, I think, should have been said in order to clarify the situation.

On the other hand, I do not think that the Visiting Mission, and this is in reply to the remarks of the representative of the Philippines, received the impression, or wished to give in its report the impression, that there was only insufficient economic progress in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. I think that, on the contrary, as far as economic, agricultural and other initiatives were concerned, the Visiting Mission was struck, in a general way, by the spirit of initiative of the Belgian Administration and of Belgian enterprise.

The point with which we are now concerned is that of the rate of the salary in money. That was one point which appeared fairly clearly and unanimously to the Mission. The Visiting Mission considered that, on that point, some correction should be made, but I do not think that the Mission wished to conclude from that in any way, and I do not think that its report can give this impression, that there had not been any economic initiative for the last twenty-five years which succeeded in ensuring progress in the situation of the Territory in general and of each indigenous inhabitant in particular, because this economic progress has certainly been made. We were able to note this fact, whether it be a question of plantations, either coffee plantations or selection of seeds or of mining exploitation, that there was a very considerable amount of work done and that the Territory benefited by these numerous methodical initiatives on the part of the Administration, and that if

/such initiative

such initiative had not been taken, the situation of the Territory would be absolutely different from what it is today.

The PRESIDENT: We have spent considerable time on this question of wages. I do not know whether members of the Council have noticed the observations of the Visiting Mission. The observations and conclusions of the Visiting Mission were that it urges the necessity of an early examination of the problem of wages paid to African workmen with a view to increasing these wages considerably.

That seems to be the conclusion of the Visiting Mission, and, at an appropriate time when the Council comes to make its own conclusions, we will have an opportunity of differing with these conclusions or endorsing these conclusions. I think we can leave it at that.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): I would like a further explanation from the representative of Belgium regarding the statement which he has just made at this meeting. In the report of the Visiting Mission it says that there is, in essence, no secondary education in the Territory with the exception of a very, very small minority.

The representative of Belgium has just told us that in the Trust Territory there is the possibility of getting a secondary education free, and if I understood him correctly, there were quite a number of cases when secondary education was not only received, but was received without cost.

I should like therefore to ask the representative of Belgium, in this connexion, how many individuals have studied for the fifteen years which the representative mentioned, and have received that degree of medical assistant? Furthermore, how many have received a secondary or higher education without charge, in addition to those particular medical assistants to which he referred?

If the representative of Belgium does not have this data at hand at present, I should like to receive such information in the future.

/Mr. RYCKMANS

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I would refer to the school of Astrida where students still do not pay anything, and the figures concerning the number of students who have come out of the medical section, the economic section and the veterinary section are in the annual report.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): I have several questions I would like to ask further.

On page 52 of the report of the Visiting Mission it is stated:

" On the subject of contracts of employment it should be noted that serious indiscipline or failure to fulfil a contract is liable to penalties including imprisonment. This form of punishment is very common: 758 workers were convicted in this way in 1947, apart from optional fines which may have been paid for this type of offence."

I would like to have an explanation from the Chairman of the Visiting Mission as to whether the Mission found it possible to discover what the reasons were for these very strict punishments for infraction of contractual obligations; and furthermore, were they able to find out why the workers do violate their contract obligations, since in such a small territory, with a relatively small number of workers, this figure of 758 who were convicted for non-conformity with contract is a very large one.

I would therefore appreciate an explanation of this particular paragraph in the report of the Visiting Mission.

The PRESIDENT: I will ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission to answer this question and after that I would like to come back to chapter 2 and ask whether the Council has any more questions on chapter

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission was not in a position to make a special enquiry on the point which has just been raised by the representative of the Soviet Union. We limited ourselves to reproducing the information which was given to us. We were not in a position either to obtain from the workers the reasons which might have led them to break their contracts, which would have been an extremely long and somewhat difficult enquiry.

/ On the other hand

On the other hand the reasons which are generally expressed by employees in regard to the so-called necessity of such measures, or punishments, were included in the report as is pointed out expressly in this paragraph. You only have to refer to the following paragraph, which indicates the reasons which were set forth to the Visiting Mission as to the so-called necessity of the use of such punishments.

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) (Interpretation from Spanish): Very often it has been said that the Administering Authority should decide as though it were a question of a self-governing territory. I want to know whether, in Belgium, workers who do not carry out their contracts are submitted to the same punishment and can have the same fines.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): The situation in Belgium is quite different from that in Ruanda-Urundi and in Belgium there are no penal punishments. In Belgium there are civil punishments/^{which} in Ruanda-Urundi would sometimes be much more painful than the actual penal punishments.

For instance, if a worker were prosecuted for not having fulfilled his contract and condemned to have to pay, and if his livestock were seized, it would be civil procedure which would of course be very severe, because he would have to pay all the expense of the trial and his livestock would be seized and sold. That for him would be a much more severe penalty than to have to pay a small fine.

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) (Interpretation from Spanish): It appears to result from the reply of the representative of Belgium that when a worker in Belgium has violated his working contract he can be requested for a civil indemnity, and if this is the case, in what proportion can a part of the fortune of a Belgian worker be seized.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French); It depends. There is no limit as to his patrimony. You simply cannot seize his bed and so forth, and there are certain provisions in the civil code. As to salaries, there is a proportion of his salary which cannot be seized. As regards pensions, there are certain pensions which cannot be seized at all; some are partially scizable.

There are various provisions in the civil law. I could not give you all the figures and examples.

/ The CHAIRMAN

The PRESIDENT: I may say on this question the Mission, in its section on Observations and Conclusions, states:

" The Mission is of the opinion that the question of abolishing penal sanctions for breach of labour contracts by African workers should be considered."

Before I ask the representative of the Soviet Union to continue his questions, now the Council seems to have been asking questions on social questions under Chapter 3. If no representative has any further questions to ask on economic matters under chapter 2, then the Council has completed the examination of chapter 2 in accordance with the procedure outlined to you yesterday.

If members of the Council have any questions on chapter 2 I will keep it open.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): I apologise for having my question skipped over to the third part of the report, but the fact is that I asked my question in connexion with the question which had been asked before I spoke.

As regards the second chapter, I would like to know the following:

What is the present system of taxation in Ruanda-Urundi?

What is the amount of taxes collected from the indigenous population and what part of this collected amount is applied to the development of the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi?

/ My question is directed

My question is directed towards the situation as of now, not as to what was reported in the annual report of 1947. I know those figures but what I am asking for now is fresh figures on the situation.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The figures which had been given on the last report on Ruanda-Urundi and which were submitted to the Trusteeship Council when it examined the question last summer, have not been changed; and I think we simply have to refer to these figures.

If I understand the question which has just been put to me by the representative of the Soviet Union correctly, he would like to know whether the Visiting Mission was in a position to appreciate or to judge as to the use of public funds during its visit.

This is of course a somewhat delicate question; as the Mission pointed out in the introduction to its report, it could simply get a general impression according to what it had seen. It was not in a position -- not being a control mission but simply a visiting mission -- to go into the detail of public accounts and to try to draw up a table in turn which would have pointed out exactly what receipts gathered on the Territory were, and what the use to which they had been put was, in the direct or indirect interests of the population.

The only thing which the Mission was in a position to state -- and that is precisely why the Council had decided to send it on the spot -- was whether it seemed to it that public funds had been used in a way which was directly or indirectly useful to the population and whether it was in a position to note during its visit that certain sums had been spent by the administration in favour of the population.

I think that on this point the answer is necessarily, yes; and the report indicates this. It is obvious that the expenditure as a whole in respect of education, agricultural development, public health and so forth, was expenditure carried out by the Territory on the budget of the Territory; and that it was quite obvious that such expenditure was carried out and was daily made and was profitable to the population.

/I do not

I do not^{think} that the Visiting Mission would have been capable in such a short space of time to say whether we could or should follow any other fiscal or financial policy on the Territory. This, of course, was beyond the scope of our investigation.

Mr. SOLDATOV. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): I understand, of course, that the Visiting Mission was in a difficult position as regards the carrying out of its task because it was in Ruanda-Urundi for a very short time.

I regret that this question was not really studied exhaustively and that the Mission could not get an exact figure as to the utilization of the tax receipts collected on the Territory. I think this is a very important question and I think we would want something more than simply a general picture and the impressions of the Mission. I think we would like to have concrete facts and I personally am interested in the tax system.

It is one thing when the tax system is based on a head tax principle and it is another matter when the tax system is a progressive income tax, and so forth. There are various aspects of the question in which we are interested.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry I interrupted the representative of the Soviet Union, but I thought he had finished his statement, according to the interpretation.

I think this would be a convenient moment for me to reiterate what I said yesterday, that this report of the Visiting Mission should be studied in a different light from the annual report of the Administering Authority.

The Visiting Mission was sent by the Council to visit the Territory in order to gather first-hand information and report its findings to the Council. In examining the report, therefore, I think the Council's attention should be constantly drawn to the findings of the Mission; and the members of the Council who ask questions may want to ask only such questions as will help them to clarify in their minds whether the report and the findings of the Mission tally with their own impression when they study the annual reports, for instance, of any Trust Territory

/concerned.

concerned.

It seems to me that the Chairman of the Visiting Mission cannot be as conversant, and cannot be expected to be as conversant with local conditions and the details of administration as a special representative should be expected to be. For that reason, I want to suggest that we keep in mind the findings of the Visiting Mission.

For instance, if we know that the wages are low, and the Mission has already stated that certain steps should be taken, then I think the Council would be well advised not to discuss this question as if they were discussing it in the presence of a special representative, because that would be rather superfluous, it seems to me, as the Visiting Mission has already stated its opinion and the Council will have an opportunity of rejecting or endorsing such findings; and the members of the Council who ask questions may only wish to ask such questions as will enable them to understand the report instead of asking questions on conditions in the Territory.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French):

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission whether the Mission received any complaints in respect to the excessive rate of the indigenous tax in certain areas. Have any chiefs or any indigenous inhabitants complained that the rate was fixed at such a figure that the mass of taxpayers as a whole found themselves incapable of paying, or obliged to seek money perhaps at the end of the year, or that a great number of people were in difficulty because they were not able to find the money for taxes?

According to my information, in 1947 189 obligations to pay were made out of 800,000 taxpayers -- 189 found themselves liable to these difficulties because they could not pay the tax.

I think that in a very general way the tax is paid in Ruanda-Urundi at the very beginning of the fiscal year; everybody pays it up and then they are free of it.

I wonder if the Visiting Mission had any complaints in this respect?

/Mr. LAURENTIE:

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission did not receive any complaint concerning the collection of taxes or the excessive rate of taxes, and it appeared generally, when the question was raised, that the tax was paid generally very rapidly at the beginning of the year, and it did not seem to constitute an excessive burden or too heavy a burden for the population.

The PRESIDENT: I have just received a note saying that the services have difficulty with recording, and ask if the Chair would announce the speakers.

I thought that we had been following that procedure and the Chair has observed that very carefully, and I would like to ask members to cooperate with me by waiting to be announced before they speak.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): In view of the President's remark regarding the appropriateness or inappropriateness of questions which we might ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, since that remark was made directly after my statements regarding taxes, I feel that I have to understand the President's remark to mean that my question was not appropriate.

In this connexion, I would like to explain that my interpretation of the conclusions which the Visiting Mission has made on both the economic and other phases of the work which the Mission carried out was that the question of taxes was a very important one, particularly for me and I think for the rest of the Council.

That is why I felt that a clarification of the situation regarding the taxation system and a further clarification of the tax picture in the Territory since the time that the Visiting Mission has been in the Territory -- I felt that this sort of question was quite appropriate, particularly since I understood from the subsequent discussion and the question asked by the representative of Belgium himself that the Visiting Mission could not devote sufficient attention to this question. I cannot consider that those facts which were advised by the Visiting Mission and the conclusions given on the question of taxation give a complete picture of the circumstances.

I understand this is because the Visiting Mission did not have sufficient time. That is what should be said. The Visiting Mission should say that they did not have enough time. They should say, "We

/found it

found it possible to have information on certain questions; on others we did not have sufficient time, and taxation is one of the things on which we did not have enough time to get enough information."

That is why I find it necessary to make these remarks, and I would like to know why the President feels that my remarks were inappropriate, if he does feel that they really were.

The PRESIDENT: I may say that my remarks were made in time immediately after the question put by the representative of the USSR, but my remarks were not directed to him. My remarks were prompted by the trend of discussion, and also because I felt the Chairman of the Visiting Mission was placed in the position of a special representative. It seems to me that it would not be quite fair to expect him to give very ready replies to some of the questions which involve a lot of administrative details. It was my duty to remind the Council constantly of the appropriate procedure, and I can say that my remarks were by no means in specific reference to the questions asked by the representative of the Soviet Union.

For instance, when some member spoke previously and said that the Chairman of the Visiting Mission did not answer his question properly, I already at that time wanted to say that as far as I can see the Chairman of the Visiting Mission did try his best to give us as full and adequate an answer as possible, but he is not here to be cross-examined in regard to the conditions of the Territory. What he has found out has already been embodied in the report. Sometimes the Council may perhaps be unmindful of this very slight distinction.

Has the representative of the USSR completed his questions?

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): On the second chapter, yes, I have completed my questions.

Mr. LIN (China): I should like to make a few remarks about the public finance system.

The Chairman of the Visiting Mission is a very modest person. I know he understands the situation there extremely well, and during the time of our visit, the members of the Mission did pay a great deal of attention to the taxation system.

/As to tax

As to tax figures, I believe the last annual report contains ^{the} most complete figures of all the annual reports I have seen when it refers to public finance, so it was not our duty to take the new figures for the current year. New figures will come with the coming annual reports.

As to the poll-tax imposed on the natives there, the Mission definitely felt that some amount of adjustment might be considered. Perhaps the Administering Authority might consider the initiation of some progressive system. It is very difficult to institute a progressive taxation system in Africa -- we know it very well. The Mission also observes that the poll-tax averages about eight or nine percent of the annual income of the average peasant, but that is only an approximate figure, because there is no study of the average income of the average family; it is a subject which requires long study in the future.

I do not know what the Mission could have done in this matter except what we have already done as indicated in the report.

The PRESIDENT: Since there are no further questions on chapter two, I think it is an appropriate moment to have the recess. Then when we come back we will go into chapter three and chapter four.

The Council is adjourned until 4:20 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 3:59 p.m., and was resumed at 4:30 p.m.

CHAPTER III SOCIAL QUESTIONS

The PRESIDENT: We are now at Chapter III of the Visiting Mission's report. Are there any questions or observations? I think the Soviet Union representative had some questions to ask on this chapter?

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): Not at the moment.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I would like to call the Council's attention to page 48 of the report of the Visiting Mission to Ruanda-Urundi. The second paragraph under sub-section C reads:

"According to the latest information, Ruanda-Urundi has a total of three hospitals for Europeans, one hospital for Asians, twenty-five hospitals for Africans, one isolation hospital for sleeping sickness cases and ninety-one rural dispensaries."

I was somewhat of struck with the apparently clear segregation of the races with regard to accommodation in hospitals. I have been wondering whether the Visiting Mission has found out, or attempted to find out the reason for this racial segregation, or you might call it differentiation.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission noted this fact and I do not think it had to seek very far for the cause of the separations which may exist in the hospital organizations, as these causes are the result of the habitual custom followed so far. This is simply a custom which has been perpetuated, and I do not think we have to seek any other cause for this division among these organizations.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Are these hospitals maintained by the Government, or are they maintained by private initiative?

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): That depends which ones. The biggest hospitals we visited are Government hospitals. We also visited hospitals belonging to missions and created by missions, the medical staff of which is lent by the Government and placed at the disposal of the hospital or hospital organization by the Government. There are also, as I had occasion to point out a short while ago, in respect of mining organizations, hospitals which are built and maintained at the expense of private concerns.

/I think

I think, also, the expenditure is covered entirely by the concern and not by the Government.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Which of the hospitals are maintained by the Government?

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission)(Interpretation from French): I do not think the report gives a list of hospitals which have been built and kept up by the Government. What we were in a position to note was the case of the most important hospital - I am thinking of the hospital of Astrida, which is a very important hospital as to its size and the number of sick people and expectant mothers it will take. It is a very important hospital indeed and is probably the most important of all the hospitals of Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Does that mean that Asians, for instance, and indigenous inhabitants could not go to a hospital for Europeans, and vice versa, in case of dire need?

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission)(Interpretation from French): As a general rule I think this is so; nevertheless, I recall that we visited a hospital which is close to the seat of the Catholic bishopric at Kabgayi, where we saw rooms which could be occupied just as well by Asiatics as by indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi having a higher situation and which would have dispensed them of any care in general wards, and therefore they were in a position to have special rooms.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I wonder whether the representative of the Administering Authority can answer my questions that have not been answered by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(Interpretation from French): I did not understand the question, I am sorry, could there be a repetition?

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): In view of this passage which I have read from the report, could the representative of the Administering Authority explain why it is necessary to segregate the various races in hospital accommodation?

/Mr. RYCKMANS

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(Interpretation from French): We badly need Europeans in Ruanda-Urundi. The United Nations agrees that we need them; if not, we should not have been entrusted with the Trusteeship of the country. If we want Europeans we should try to get the good type of European; if we want to have the right type, we should give them the kind of life comparable to the life they have in Europe, a minimum of comfort, reasonable pay, and so on, otherwise they would never consent to live abroad in a country with a climate which does not suit them very well, and under conditions which are often very hard.

Some are married and go there with their families; these need conditions of life which appear to them acceptable - if not, they will not go. And if they don't go, the people of Ruanda-Urundi would be left to themselves, and the Trusteeship would no longer exist. But this Trusteeship is considered necessary; therefore we should establish conditions under which Europeans who have to go to Ruanda-Urundi can live at a certain level.

There have been hospitals built for them accordingly, in some areas. Of course, they would be glad to have the hospitals all over the country, hospitals comparable to those of America and Europe. Unfortunately, the country cannot support such a scheme. Therefore the Government says we must set up three or four hospitals of a European character or else a large number, such as 27 or so. The native inhabitants are perfectly content with what has been done. They would even like to have more of this category of hospital.

/Mr. CARPIO

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I understand from that that these European hospitals are better equipped and at a higher level than the hospitals for Asiatics and indigenous inhabitants.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): That depends upon what is meant by equipment. I don't want to affirm this too categorically -- I do not know whether it is true in Ruanda-Urundi, but it is the case in several hospitals built recently in the Congo in recent years. The operations rooms are in many cases common, and in the real hospitals they are equipped in exactly the same way for the two races. For instance, the X-Ray rooms and operation rooms are usually common.

The wards are different for Europeans and for the native population, because the European mode of life is substantially different from that of the natives, particularly as regards food, hygiene, the use of soap, and visits from members of the family -- very often among the natives we allow the families to come and stay with the patient, because otherwise the patient would suffer too much from melancholy. In other words, the treatment has to be different in the wards because of the different needs of the races.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Is it not a fact that there are also poor Europeans, perhaps not as well educated as some indigenous inhabitants or Asiatics -- Asiatics who might have a better standard of life than some of these Europeans?

In such a case, where an Asiatic or indigenous inhabitant has acquired a high standard of life and can afford to pay whatever is required, is he deprived of the opportunity to be treated in these European hospitals, merely because of his race and colour?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): No, there are individual cases which are admitted into the European hospitals. People who have a European manner of life are admitted into the European hospitals.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I notice that there are still some rules and regulations in Ruanda-Urundi which seem to discriminate against
/Asiatics and

Asiatics and indigenous inhabitants, for instance, in the matter of residence and land tenure; in the matter of privileges for alcoholic beverages; thirdly, in the matter of arms and munitions; and fourthly, in the prison system.

Could the representative of Belgium tell us the basic, over-riding reasons for this racial discrimination against Asiatics and indigenous inhabitants? Does the Administering Authority feel itself superior to any of these races, that these laws discriminating against certain races should remain in the statute books?

These discriminatory laws and regulations I have mentioned appear on pages 58 to 60 of the report.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): These remarks have already been made in the report of the Trusteeship Council on the annual report of Ruanda-Urundi. These observations were sent to the Administering Authority, and I am expecting the reply.

As regards the form of the question, the representative of the Philippines speaks of discrimination against Asiatics and against the indigenous population. There is no discrimination against them -- discrimination exists equally against Europeans. Europeans cannot live in the indigenous quarter any more than the indigenous inhabitants can live in the European quarter.

I have said that as regards the question of alcohol, we were forbidden under the terms of the mandate to authorize the sale of alcoholic drinks to the indigenous population. The population is Moslem, whose religion forbids them to drink alcohol. Alcohol was forbidden to Asiatics under the Germans and we have continued the same regime. Modifications will probably be introduced to this scheme later.

As to the question whether the Administering Authority considers itself superior to other races, I can only speak for myself. Certainly I do not consider myself superior to any race in the world. There are many of other races who are worth more than I; there are others who have a different mode of life from mine, but I do not consider myself superior to them.

As regards residence, I have already said that there is no racial discrimination here. There is simply a recognition of the fact that there are different modes of life. The Government recognizes these
/differences and

differences and desires that every man be able to live after his own fashion in a quarter inhabited by people following the same modes of existence.

I have here a letter addressed to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, which reads as follows:

"Mr. Governor,

We wish to draw your attention to the situation at present in the Asiatic quarter of Astrida. A series of merchants are in the habit of employing natives and having them live with their families, which is forbidden by the legislation in force.

The result is serious upsets. The natives are invading our quarter as a result.

We wish to inform you of this so that you will take the necessary measures to remedy the situation, which is quite illegal, and so that, apart from in business hours, natives should not be allowed in this area."

This is signed by the Asiatics of Astrida.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Does the representative of the Administering Authority not then believe that, under the law as we now find it in Ruanda-Urundi, in connexion with these four matters, there clearly exists racial discrimination rather than an application of what we have all been wanting, racial equality, regardless of race, creed or colour?

Here, in these four fields I have mentioned, while the European has all the privileges, such as staying in one place, or obtaining alcoholic beverages, the Asiatic and the indigenuous inhabitant does not.

/Mr. RYCKMANS

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I have already said that the Europeans can only live in the European quarter. The Europeans are not admitted in the Asian or indigenous quarters any more than these peoples are admitted in the European quarter.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Does the Administering Authority have any plan whatsoever now or in the near future to remove all these rules and regulations picking out certain races for privileges which are denied to others? I wonder what plans the Administering Authority has in that respect.

The PRESIDENT: I think it would be well to refer to page 75 of the report. The finding of the Mission is that "it would be appropriate to review legislation involving discrimination with regard to Asians, particularly the laws on residence, land tenure, alcoholic beverages, firearms and the penitentiary system".

I think the questions have already solicited from the representative of Belgium replies and explanations in relation to the existence of certain legislation. I think perhaps the representative of the Philippines may find it possible to leave this matter at the present stage till the Council comes, at an appropriate time, to make its own observations and comments on the findings of the Mission.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I am perfectly willing to leave this unanswered if the special representative refuses or cannot answer it, but my question is directed specifically to any possible plans now or in the near future for having this discriminatory legislation erased from the statute books.

If the representative cannot answer it, or does not want to answer it, I shall be content.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I have already said that I am not here as a special representative. I am the Belgian representative on the Trusteeship Council. I have already said, and I repeat, that the observations on this subject have already been made during the examination of the annual report on Ruanda-Urundi and that these observations have been transmitted to the local authorities. The local authority has been invited to give the explanations required in the next annual report, and these explanations will be given. I have said that,
/on this point

on this point, the legislation is, I believe, in course of modification.

That is all I have to say for the time being.

The PRESIDENT: Again I would like to say that I did not mean that the questions were not appropriately asked, but that the purpose of the question was not so much to ask the representative of Belgium to give a definite reply, but to clarify some of the things in the minds of some members of the Council. What we are now immediately concerned with is to confine ourselves to the report and the findings of the Visiting Mission, and I have referred to the relevant paragraph in the Mission's report.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I would just like to put on record that I asked these questions because answers thereto would be pertinent and very material in ^{determining} what action my delegation would take when we consider what we are going to do with the recommendations of the Visiting Mission. It is for that purpose that I asked the questions.

The PRESIDENT: Never for a moment did I infer that there was no relevance or pertinence.

Mr. BAKR (Iraq): On page 58 of the report, there is this paragraph on discrimination against Asians. I would like to ask what is the difference in treatment between Asians and the natives. There is no mention of that. Could the Chairman of the Visiting Mission elaborate on the status of the inhabitants in comparison to that of the Asians, and the differences between them?

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): As is pointed out in the report, the differences of a legal character are quite clear.

As regards the possibility of living in such and such a quarter, Asians find a quarter of their own which is not inhabited by the indigenous population and vice-versa.

As we saw a short time ago in connexion with the question of hospitals except for exceptional cases, we are faced with a distinction of the same order: that is, that Asians are in a situation which is, in fact, higher than that of the indigenous inhabitants. I think we may stress the fact that, insofar as there is a difference, this difference tries to

/stress the

stress the higher level of the Asians in respect of the indigenous inhabitants, this being especially true on every point of everyday life and in respect of legal or any other discrimination which might be included in texts. I think that one single point is not actually under the same category, and that is in respect of the sale of alcoholic beverages. There, the rule is the same for Asians and the indigenous inhabitants.

Mr. BAKR (Iraq): I would like to ask if this situation regarding the difference of living and purchasing conditions between the inhabitants and the Asiatics was in existence before the Administering Authority came, or after that.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): I do not know if any member of the Mission would be able to state exactly what the importance was of Asian immigration in Ruanda-Urundi before World War I. Therefore, it would be very difficult for me to reply to this question.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): The situation, as I already said the other day, was this: before the war the difference between the pay of Asians and Europeans existed, except for non-Moslem Syrians. These were not considered Asians and were assimilated to the Europeans as regards alcoholic beverages, but the great difference between Asians and Europeans was that the Europeans were under the regime of custom, whereas the Asians were assimilated to the Europeans as regards the exercise of civil rights. The Asians under personal law are in exactly the same position as the Europeans. They come before the same courts and are subject to the same laws, whereas the indigenous population are under customary law.

/The PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: In regard to the question of the representative of Iraq, I should like to draw his attention to page 60 of document T/217 in respect of alcoholic beverages. It states there: "The local administration explains that the origin and basis of this system" -- that is in regard to alcoholic beverages -- "is the Convention of Saint-Germain-on-Laye of 1919," -- that is before the present Administering Authority -- "and cites a note accompanying a judgment delivered in the Belgian Congo stating that 'there are considerable Arab and Indian populations, and the legislator was unable to ignore the fact that these populations live in fairly close promiscuity with the Africans...'"

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): My question refers to page 55 of the English text of the report of the Visiting Mission.

In view of the fact that the Administering Authority uses whipping as a form of punishment for the indigenous population, even for those indigenous inhabitants whom the Administering Authority feels can be utilized for assistance in the administration of the Territory, I should like to know how the Administering Authority explains the application of this inhuman form of punishment.

I am asking the Chairman of the Visiting Mission to reply to this question. He may have some information which is additional to that which is contained in the report. I should like to know whether any hope can be held out that the Administering Authority, in the near future, will abolish this practice, not only on a legal basis, but in fact.

It is in this connexion that I am not quite clear. When this question was discussed among the members of the Visiting Mission, the Chairman of Visiting Mission was of the opinion that whipping should be maintained as a punishment in the prisons. On the basis of the information contained in the report, I do not feel that this conclusion can be reached. In general, I do not think that, at the level of civilization which mankind has reached, this punishment by whipping could be justified, whether it be in prisons or anywhere else.

The PRESIDENT: Before I ask Mr. Laurentie to make his comments on this question, I should like to draw the attention to the members of the Council to page 75 which pertains to the findings of the Visiting Mission.

On the top of the page there is a ^{typographical} / error because of the omission of a comma and the misplacement of a full stop. I think it should read as

/follows:

follows: "It further recommends the abolition of all legally permitted forms of whipping, except that in the case of whipping in prisons, Mr. Laurentie and Mr. Chinnery are of the opinion...." Otherwise the sentence gives an entirely different meaning.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission): I thank you for having drawn the attention of the Council to this point. I thought for my part that, since I am now under a kind of cross-examination from the representative of the USSR, the position of my colleague, Mr. Chinnery and my own, had been clearly explained at the bottom of page 57 and at the top of page 58.

At no time, and the text seems clear enough, had Mr. Chinnery or I thought that whipping should be maintained, as the representative of the USSR says, in prisons. What we had thought was that the suppression and doing away with this whipping in prisons implied the establishment, in its place, of a new disciplinary regime, and that such establishment might require a certain time for study and implementation, and that as long as this new regime or system had been neither undertaken nor studied, it might be dangerous to the public interest to simply suppress, without replacing, by anything else, the actual present system of whipping. That is not at all the same thing as being in favour of whipping in prisons.

I think the representative of the USSR asked previously what had been the impression of the Visiting Mission as to the possible effect of doing away with whipping and ^{as to} the intentions of the Administration. I think that thereupon the report of the Visiting Mission is quite clear. It is sufficiently precise.

I might, however, add that the Visiting Mission, after its return from Africa, went ^{to} Brussels where it was received by the Minister of Colonies of Belgium, and the statements which were made to it by Mr. Wigny, Minister of Colonies, seemed to the Visiting Mission to be encouraging in the sense of the reforms which would be obtained as to the use of whipping in Ruanda-Urundi, a practice upon which the Visiting Mission once again was unanimous.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): Unfortunately the explanation which the Chairman of the Visiting Mission has just given does not directly clarify that part of the question which referred directly to the Chairman of the Visiting Mission himself. That, of course, depends entirely upon the desire which the Chairman of the Visiting Mission has to give a complete exposition of his point of view on this question. Therefore, I do not insist on a more complete reply to that part of the question.

/Mr. BAKER

Mr. BAKR (Iraq): At the bottom of page 69 under "Training of Teachers" and in the second paragraph on page 70, it is stated that religious teaching is compulsory. I should like to ask whether it is teaching in a particular religion or religion in general, each person according to his own faith.

The PRESIDENT: We are still on chapter III; we will come to that a little later when we discuss education.

/Mr. LAURENTIE

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): Since the representative of the Soviet Union insisted on that point which concerns also my colleague Mr. Chinnery, I would like him to read the report himself. Perhaps he has not done this entirely.

We see at the top of page 75 of this report my opinion and that of Mr. Chinnery expressed in a very specific manner, and I am sorry to have to recall this to him.

The PRESIDENT: That is the passage I referred to earlier to correct the misplacement of a comma. After "prisons" there should be a comma instead of a full stop.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): The question I had in my mind arose in connexion with the information contained on page 56 of the English text, where it is stated:

" Mr. Laurentie and Mr. Chinnery think that total abolition of whipping should be recommended in all cases where it is still permitted except perhaps in prisons; Mr. Lin and Mr. Woodbridge urge that whipping in all its forms be abolished immediately."

I would like to know exactly where we stand. How are we to understand paragraph 5 on page 74 and 75. Where do we have to have a period, and where do we have to have a comma. Can we clarify this situation.

The PRESIDENT: The comma should come after "prisons" on the second line of page 75. That is, the text reads: "Except that in the case of whipping in prisons, Mr. Laurentie and Mr. Chinnery are of the opinion"

If there is not a comma there - if the text is not corrected on page 75 - it would appear that Mr. Lin and Mr. Woodbridge wanted the whipping in prisons.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French); I think that the English text, which is not the same as the original text, does deserve a correction. The original text is the French text, and I would quote, if you will allow me, from page 91 of the French text, where the draft is perfectly clear.

/ " La Mission recommande

" La Mission recommande en outre la suppression du fouet dans tous les cas ou il est autorisé. En ce qui concerne toutefois le fouet dans les prisons, (comma) MM. Laurentie et Chiniery estiment que l'administration devrait envisager la modification du régime disciplinaire de manière à supprimer l'emploi du fouet et le remplacer - (dash) dans une certaine mesure tout au moins - (dash) par de meilleures méthodes. "(period)

That is the French text.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from French): I did note that, as I understand it, the page referred to by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission and the text which he referred to are exactly in accordance with the text which is in the English translation. So I really cannot see where the error is in the English text. In any event, I think this question is clear now. I do not think we should lose any more time on it.

The PRESIDENT: Any more questions on Chapter 3. We can consider that chapter closed. We will consider Chapter 4 - Education.

CHAPTER 4 - EDUCATIONAL QUESTIONS

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Iraq has just asked a question on education. Perhaps I had better ask him to re-iterate his question.

Mr. BAKR (Iraq): On page 70 with regard to training of teachers, paragraph 2 says that religious teaching is compulsory.

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission ^{whether it is} / a particular religion or the religion of the majority of the students?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): As a result of an article which appeared in the Congo press and which summarized the report of the Visiting Mission in respect of education, the Apostolic Delegate to Leopoldville wrote to the Minister for Colonies a letter in which we see the following passage:

" It is very unfortunate that the Authority does not think of getting information precisely on the non-compulsory character of religious teaching, which is a public fact recognized by all in Ruanda-Urundi and in the Belgian Congo. "

/ And further

And further, religious teaching is given there, that is in the schools of Catholic missions, just as in official lay schools. But the children whose parents or guardians have so expressed a wish, are exempt from any religious teaching.

No subsidized school at Ruanda-Urundi has any compulsory religious teaching. It is a condition in all schools that this religious teaching be not given to those whose parents or guardians or those concerned have expressed a wish thereto. This is a condition sine qua non of the subsidy.

Mr. BAKR (Iraq); Then I understand that it is not a government school but a missionary school.

For those who do not wish to have this religious teaching, what alternative is provided?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): None.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The question has been examined by the Visiting Mission. We did not consider that there were any cases where the parents of students had any wish for their children not to follow religious courses, and therefore the last question put by the representative of Iraq would not arise and would have no scope.

/ The PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the Belgian representative's quotation from a letter from a Catholic Mission is at variance with the statement in the report that religious teaching is compulsory.

Do I understand, then, that religious teaching is not compulsory? I would like to ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission whether there is any modification in this statement.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): We were told during our various visits, of which we made many, to teaching centres, that religious courses were always given. That is why the Visiting Mission stated that courses in religion were compulsory. I should not like to say whether they are legally compulsory or practically compulsory, but in point of fact it appeared to us that they were so.

It also appeared to us that in practice this obligation met with no opposition as of today. This is a fact. Moreover, I think that the matter has been sufficiently explained in the report. It was pointed out to us in the Mission, in more places than one, and more than one member of the teaching corps told us this, that it is necessary -- in order to ensure the education of the children and, as well as their education proper, their moral development. The religious course was precisely intended to ensure this moral development.

This is the result of many conversations which the Mission was able to have during its visits.

The PRESIDENT: In other words, it is compulsory to the extent of not being against the wishes of the pupils?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): In practice, as the Chairman of the Visiting Mission said, the question hardly arises, because in practice children of Christian parents go -- if their parents are Catholics -- to a Catholic school. If the parents are Protestants, they send them to a Protestant school; if the parents are Adventists they send them to an Adventist school; if the parents are Indians they
/send them

send them to the Indian school; if the parents are Moslems they send them to a Moslem school; if the parents are pagans they send them to a school of their choice; and as a general rule a pagan has no objection to seeing his child brought up by the members of a certain religious community; according to the nearness of the Mission and so forth, the pagan will either send his child to a Catholic or to a Protestant school.

In practice, the question only arises as to establishments of higher education, where there are no corresponding schools of the various religious denominations and at Astrida there are Protestant students who do not have to follow the Catholic religious course and go to the Protestant mission, where they receive a course in their own religion. There the question does arise in practice, because the parents do not have the possibility of sending their children to a school which will give them the religious teaching of their choice.

In fact, however, no parent -- so far, at any rate -- has been opposed to any form of religious teaching being given to their children. That is the situation of fact. But the condition of subsidy is always that if the parents express the desire, the child shall not have the religious course.

Mr. BAKR (Iraq): With regard to the training of teachers, the report mentions that religious teaching is compulsory and that a considerable part of the time is devoted to it.

It seems to me that it is the main subject and occupies the majority of the time of the students. It seems to me that there is a great waste of time for the students who do not choose to take these courses of religion and they should be provided with something to substitute for it.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Visiting Mission's report referred to subsidized training colleges, two for boys and two for girls, and here it is stated that all of them are Catholic mission schools. There appears to be very little choice.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): I would like to put my finger once more on this very interesting question of religious schools.

/I hope

I hope that I shall not get into trouble with anyone. Whatever I am going to say will be purely on the principle of the direct assumption by the Government of this duty of education. Whatever I say with regard to religious schools will not in any way be directed as an attack against the faith, whatever that faith may be -- Catholic, Protestant or any other. It will only be for the purpose of finding out which is the best agency for education; whether it is the Government itself or private initiative.

I do recognize that religious schools have done a lot in the cultural development of a great many peoples, and when I say so, I talk from experience. This does not close our eyes, however, to a great many of the defects -- and there are many of them. It is a question of balancing the pros and cons of the matter.

I would like to direct a few questions either to the Chairman of the Visiting Mission or to the representative of the Administering Authority, whoever may want to answer these questions.

I note that on page 62 of the report (document T/217), education in Ruanda-Urundi is a de facto monopoly of the religious Missions. I would like to ask this question in connexion with this statement: What overriding considerations impel the Administering Authority to relegate this duty of education to private initiative rather than directly assuming it -- as I believe it should under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement and in accordance with what I have said once or twice before -- as the French Government has done in the French Territories of the Cameroons and Togoland? Does the Administering Authority feel that it is not competent enough to give that education, and not as competent as religious schools in giving that education, which it is envisaged to give the inhabitants the education that they deserve in cementing them into oneness and one concept of nationalism?

Are these assumptions valid or not? If not, I would like to be enlightened.

/Mr. RYCKMANS:

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): The reason why the government has preferred to take religious personnel in its service for schools is that by subsidizing mission schools we can have at least six times as many children taught as if we had to teach them in government schools. That is the one over-riding reason -- that if we spent the same amount on state teaching, we would have six times less children in the schools. If we wanted to have the same number of children in the schools, we would have to spend at least six times more, and the budget could not afford it. That is the one and only reason.

That is why in a country like Belgium where you may know that there are very active political passions and where some political parties are strongly anti-clerical, all colonial ministers, Catholic or non-Catholic, have always followed the same policy. It is strictly a question of budgetary possibilities.

Moreover, of course, missionaries spend their whole lives in Ruanda-Urundi and as the teaching in the elementary schools at least is given in the vernacular, the difficulty of training teachers to teach the vernacular by people taken from the educational services in Belgium would be exceedingly difficult because you could not have men from the Belgian educational services spending their whole lives school-teaching in Ruanda-Urundi as you have it in the missions.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Does the representative of the Administering Authority consider that this kind of education given by religious schools is superior to any kind of education that the Administering Authority could give if it establishes public schools and devotes itself to education and not to the propagation of any faith, which after all might raise the question of its consonance with complete freedom of conscience?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): I will not say that I consider religious education as superior to state education. I said that it was cheaper.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): That would seem to sacrifice quality to quantity.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): No, I did not say they were less good. I think they are just as good, and they are at least six times cheaper.

/The PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: I would like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to page 63 of the Visiting Mission's report on this point where the Visiting Mission states that:

"The argument of economy carries weight, but does not provide sufficient justification in itself..."

That is the fourth paragraph on page 63.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): If it is economy that you are after in leaving this whole matter of education to religious schools, would not that same argument be true if you were to leave the governmental function of health to religious missions? Yet in the case of health, I find out from the report that the Administering Authority has assumed direct responsibility rather than leaving it to religious missions.

How could the representative of Belgium explain the apparent prejudice in favour of one against the other?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): We have no preference. If we could have as many missionary doctors as we have missionary teachers, we would subsidize them all, as we are doing. We are subsidizing mission doctors. We have nuns as nurses who have an indemnity of 15,000 francs a year -- that is, for the representative of the Philippines, who likes to have it in dollars -- about \$300 a year, and they are devoting their whole lives to nursing for \$300 a year. We are very happy to have them, and we have as many as we can have, but we cannot find enough missionary doctors to give health service to all the population. So we spend three or four or five or six times as much for a State doctor, because we do not have them. But if we could have six times as many missionary doctors for the same money, we certainly would have six times more missionary doctors for the same money.

But when you say that the State does not take any interest in education, that is not true. The State takes full interest in education. But the State takes in its service for educational purposes people who are doing it for the love of God. That is the only difference.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Does not the Administering Authority believe that these religious sects are more interested in the propagation of those sects rather than giving the indigenous inhabitants the education which should be given to them; and that therefore, whatever

/they do

they do in matters of education is just a secondary feature of their main objective which is to win adherents from among the indigenous inhabitants, which thereby sacrifices the quality of the education that they necessarily must have to give to the inhabitants?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): That is not quite the situation.

The Missions feel ^{first,} that they have a duty to teach; secondly, that they have the duty to help the people in every way; thirdly, that in order to get the people to come to them they must start with medical work and school work. We subsidize them exactly for the school work they are doing. We do not subsidize them for the evangelical work they are doing. If they feel they ought to or they can out of every ten missionaries have four in the schools, we will subsidize four. If they find that seven must teach religion and only three must teach in the schools, we will subsidize three.

But we do not subsidize them for their religious work, we subsidize them only for the educational work they are performing for us.

I quite assure you that when a nun spends ten hours every day nursing, she teaches her religion by her example, but nothing else. She is just nursing, and that is what we pay ^{her} \$300 a year for.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): The representative of Belgium has stated that these religious schools are subsidized for the education that they give and not for the religious feature of their activity. But is that not just what is done -- the schools are being subsidized if religious schools are allowed to teach religion in the same school that is subsidized by the government?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): I give it up.

The PRESIDENT: At this point I would like to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 3 of the Visiting Mission's findings on page 75, which says:

"The Mission is of the opinion that the granting of subsidies by the Government to private schools should be subject to the condition that religious instructions in such schools should be optional."

I think that meets the point.

/Mr. NORIEGA

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) (Interpretation from Spanish): I do not wish to follow this religious discussion, because experience has shown that it is much too delicate a question. I would like to refer, however, to the technical aspect of the question. I would like to know how many among these missionaries who are entrusted with giving education and instruction, are actually school-teachers.

The PRESIDENT: I do not know whether anyone is ready to give that figure.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): I myself was educated in a school conducted by priests, the teachers were priests; and in the smaller classes they were priests who had had average schooling, plus two years of philosophy and four years of theology. After that they had specialized in teaching.

The same applies to Ruanda-Urundi. All missionaries who teach are either priests or persons who have diplomas from normal schools, and they are officially admitted by the Belgian Government. They are all capable of teaching in schools. They are specialized in education and in Ruanda-Urundi, as in the Belgian Congo, there are in the important missions one or two missionaries, and sometimes more, who devote themselves exclusively to teaching, and do nothing else. In each vicariate there is one school inspector who is a missionary and who receives the same authorization from the state as teachers and spends the whole of his time inspecting schools.

The quality of the teaching is therefore just as good as the quality we could give through official state teachers. There is no doubt in this respect. In Belgium we have the same teaching system, and nobody complains of it and nobody will say that Belgium is a backward country from the point of view of education.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): There is one feature of the report that struck me more than any other feature, and that is the passage on page 68, the third paragraph on that page. On the question of the advisability of the Administration sending promising young students to Belgium for higher education, the report says:

"A point which has been raised by the Mission is the possibility of sending a few African children to attend secondary schools in Europe as an experiment. The local administration has expressed doubts on this subject, because of the danger of a too radical change of climate," climate, I emphasize - "food" - food again I emphasize - "and surroundings for children at a critical stage of adolescence and growth."

Now, of all the most reactionary opinions and theories on education that I have ever come across, to me this is unsurpassed, and I would like to ask the representative of the Administering Authority whether he believes in this theory on the question of education - of sending promising students to higher institutions of learning on the Continent. And from his answer I will want to formulate a few more questions.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): Before you call upon the representative of Belgium, I would like to stress the fact that this question was raised by the Visiting Mission without that Mission having any opinion of its own on the matter.

It was raised because, during various conversations we had, and if I recall correctly for the first time, certain persons among the young chiefs informed us that they would be interested in sending their children to Europe for secondary studies. But, once again, it is simply a question of a remark, and we registered both the remark made and the reply of the administration.

If I may be allowed to make a personal comment, which I already made to my colleagues during the Visit, it is the following; the higher education at the present time in Africa in any territory can only be given in a European University, and it is here that young Africans will, of course, draw the maximum benefit from the education they receive. On the other hand, the question regarding secondary education is somewhat doubtful. As regards France, we made the experiment of sending to France young African students who went to Lycees - that is to say, they went at about the age of 14, 15 or 16, in order to complete their secondary studies proper.

In one case of the experiment, as I can judge, it was completely disastrous, because of the non-resistance to the climate of these young boys; whereas students of twenty are completely capable of carrying on in France their higher studies, it is very doubtful whether young boys at the age of puberty are capable of doing the same thing.

Thus, I would at least beg to agree with the reply made by the Belgian administration in respect of climate and health of these boys, because of their age. It is a question of age.

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): What has age got to do with studies in a metropolitan school or university? Do I understand that the moment an adolescent from Africa of, let us say, seventeen or eighteen years of age, were to go to school in Belgium, for instance, and seeing the beautiful Belgian girls of that age, would lose himself altogether, simply because of the adolescent stage? Is that what is envisaged in the phrase "a critical stage of adolescence and growth"? /Mr. LAURENTIE

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of Visiting Mission)(Interpretation from French): I think that the question of sending students to Belgian universities does not arise for the moment in Ruanda-Urundi, for the very reason that there are not yet any young students who have reached a sufficient level of education to go to a university. That is why the report of the Visiting Mission speaks of secondary education, which is given at a much less advanced age than teaching in universities. That is the difference.

There is a question of age which arises, and it is simply a question of age; whereas, of course, if it had been a question of teaching in universities, the same reply would doubtless not have been made - I do not know. But in any case it would not have had the same validity, because it would have been a question of older boys, who are completely resistant and in a position to undergo a winter in Europe.

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps this discussion may be brought to an end if the Council refers to the recommendation of the Visiting Mission itself, in paragraph 6 at the bottom of page 75. There it is stated that the Mission is of the opinion that the Administering Authority should provide higher and university education for the indigenous inhabitants, in Belgium, the Congo or Ruanda-Urundi. It hopes that it will be possible, in the relatively near future, to implement the plan to develop the higher sections of Astrida into an African university. It seems that the Mission has recommended that course, in spite of the dangers of climatic change.

/Mr. CARPIO

Mr. CARPIO (Philippines): Concerning this question of education, if the Chairman of the Visiting Mission says that up to now there are no students from the Trust Territory ready for university education, that is to me the most serious indictment that could be given against the educational policy of the Administering Authority, that after 25 or 30 years of mandate administration there should be no student up to now prepared to assume university education.

I notice that the time is approaching -- ten minutes more before 6 o'clock. If there are others who wish to ask questions I would be only too glad to cede my opportunity, but I would like to think over this matter over night, and keep it open until Monday, if it can be done. It will not take more than ten or fifteen minutes on Monday.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): I have a question regarding page 62 of the English text, the third paragraph from the top.

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Visiting Mission whether the Visiting Mission found it possible to discover why the majority of children who attend school study for only a year or two. In the course of a year a child could only learn the fundamental rudiments of language. It is obvious that if a child has only a year's education, and does not follow it up, he forgets what he has learned and becomes illiterate again.

That is true not only of the situation in Africa, but it is true anywhere. A year's education is not sufficient if it is not followed up.

The figure of 300,000 children attending school, given here, really does not say anything. On the basis of this figure we should have a good picture, but in view of the fact that most of them study for only one or two years, the situation remains that after this very brief study they become illiterate again and remain illiterate for the rest of their lives.

It seems to me that this question is a very important one, and I would like to have an explanation from the Chairman of the Visiting Mission as to the reason for the fact that, although children do attend school for a very brief period of time, in essence the population is illiterate.

Mr. LAURENTIE (Chairman of the Visiting Mission) (Interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission was not in a position to see what had remained in the way of instruction with a boy or girl who had left school

/ten or fifteen

ten or fifteen years before, after two years of study. In principle, it seems preferable to have had these two years of study, rather than none at all.

As regards the system and the organization of teaching, it appeared to us that the representation in the schools was very high, and it seemed to us that the system adopted by the teaching staff was that of continuous selection as studies went along.

That would lead us to believe that children who are limited to two years of study are of course the worst students of the class, and thus the school eliminates elements and subjects which are the least favoured, in order to arrive, through constant selection, to retaining students who are fairly well educated after seven or eight years of study.

Mr. PYCKMANS (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): This is essentially a practical question. There are village schools everywhere. There are lots of them in every banana plantation, where two years of study are given.

Then there are properly equipped schools which give complete studies; primary studies of the lower degree -- that is, four years -- or the higher section, that is, six years of study.

Those schools only existed in mission centres at the beginning, and as the number of teachers and resources increased, the number of primary studies increased also. It always costs a lot of money to build a school and set up the teaching staff, and there is also the necessity for roads to be opened, conditions for inspection to be insured, and so forth.

As the Chairman of the Visiting Mission says, the great majority of children now go to village schools, and those who show that they have a taste and possibility for study, go to the primary school, which is a little further or may be far from their home. They may not be able to return every evening as they do from village schools, and that already calls for greater organization, because the child has to leave his parents.

We have not yet arrived at a system where we can be sure of having a complete school in each village. I hope we shall arrive at this goal, and we have already progressed considerably better than in certain other Territories, but we have not yet arrived at the complete generalization of one complete school in each village.

/The PRESIDENT

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The PRESIDENT: It is about time to end. If you have more questions, would you like to put them on Monday morning when the

I hope, will be able to complete the examination.

Mr. GARREAU (France) (Interpretation from French): I would like to put a question which is not related to the discussion of the Mission's report.

Yesterday the President stated a certain doubt as to the advisability of convening a committee for drafting reports on the Territories we have examined -- a committee which would include all members of the Council.

I formulated no objection whatsoever, but I was not very much in favour of this idea, and on thinking the matter over I think it is advisable to submit once again the examination of this problem to the Council.

I believe that to entrust this to a committee of twelve members might lead us once again into very lengthy meetings. On the other hand, I consider that the representatives of powers concerned, such as the representatives of the Administrations of Territories we have to deal with this year, should not normally participate in this drafting work, in order to avoid very lengthy discussions.

I think that last year we were very wise in adopting the system of a very small drafting committee, reduced to four members. It seems that the Secretariat would agree with me in stating that the method followed gave excellent results, because the discussions were much shorter and we arrived much more rapidly at the formulation of recommendations and conclusions.

Yesterday we took a decision, but I wonder whether, when the committee meets on Monday, or even if it met now as a committee, it could not decide to refer to a sub-committee of four the drafting of the resolutions and reports on the reports of the various Territories.

It is simply a suggestion, but I think it is useful to make it, because we shall find that it is very much longer and more difficult to work if there are twelve of us than four, and I think that this committee of four is an excellent idea. We chose two members of the Administering powers and two members of the Non-Administering powers, and I repeat that the system gave excellent results.

/I have grave

I have grave doubts as to the discussion of twelve members giving as good results as the four-member committee we had last year. Naturally, in my mind, if we had adopted this system of the drafting sub-committee of four members, nothing would ^{prevent} all the members of the Council, as last year, from coming to follow the debate on condition that they do not take part in it, but simply listen to the discussion.

I think the fact of limiting the discussion to four members would be by far the best way to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

The PRESIDENT: I wish that this view had been put forward in the earlier days of the Council when this question was discussed. I recall that, at the beginning of this session, some members expressed dissatisfaction with the procedure which was followed last year. Some members have suggested that it should be a committee of the whole in order that all members would have equal opportunity to participate in the drafting of the reports. Among the advantages of this, is the uniformity of the form which these reports would take. Another advantage is that it may save the Council some time in the debate on these reports.

These are the advantages which motivated my colleagues in proposing that the drafting committee should be one consisting of all members of the Council. Yesterday the Council confirmed that opinion, and I feel that if I ask the Council to reconsider the question at this late hour, it would embark on another interminable debate.

I would suggest that the committee meet on Monday morning. It is not for me to say that the committee has no power to resolve itself into smaller committees if it feels that is a better procedure.

Mr. GARREAU (France) (Interpretation from French): What I had suggested was that the committee itself would examine this question once again before discussing the reports and would decide, perhaps, to entrust to a sub-committee of four the drafting of a report to the Council.

Naturally, I did not contemplate several sub-committees because we noted last year that there was not sufficient uniformity in the way in which the reports were presented. I contemplated one single sub-committee for the three or four reports to be made -- one sub-committee of four. I had thought that the committee might discuss this question on Monday morning, and would have the power of taking the decision to entrust the four members with the work to be done.

/The PRESIDENT

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The PRESIDENT: The committee will be its own master in the determination of the manner of work it is going to follow. In that case, I should like to inform that committee that it will convene in this room on Monday at 11 a.m.

The Council is adjourned until 2.30 p.m. Monday.

The meeting rose at 6.04 p.m.