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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 10 February 1956, at 2 p.m.

President: Mr. SEARS (United States of America)

Examination of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi [3b, 4] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.656. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN RUANDA-URUNDI:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1954 (T/1201 and T/1223)
[Agenda item 3b]
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARA. 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.3/L.5 and 6) [Agenda item 4] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative for Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Political advancement

U THAN HLA (Burma): The Administering Authority, in its comments on the 1954 Visiting Mission's remarks about the political growth of the Trust Territory failing to keep pace with economic development, stated that it was not delaying the formation of a concrete programme of political education and progress. In connexion with this statement, may I inquire from the special representative whether instruction is given in subjects like history and civics at secondary schools? I make this inquiry because the emphasis in instruction at secondary schools appears to me to have been given to what may be described as professional education at the secondary level.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

The Administration of the Territory has been concerned with organizing secondary education, but it would be a mistake to believe that this secondary education was only turned in the direction of professional training for boys and domestic training for girls. The Astrida school setup involves very extensive secondary studies in all directions, and if these are not altogether similar to European precedents, they would have to be completed by a year of pre-university training in order to have complete training.

In addition, an inter-racial college has been set up at Usumbura where the programmes are the same as in Europe, with historical, political and civic training.

U THAN HLA (Burma): My second question is the following: The Council, considering that Africans should occupy higher positions in central administration as soon as possible, expressed the hope at the fifteenth session that it would be possible to create in a few years a good nucleus of African doctors, engineers, administrators, magistrates, lawyers, etc. May I enquire from the special representative whether, for the realization of that hope, necessary courses are given at Lovanium University Centre, and if they are not, whether they are being actively planned?

My information, which I have not been able to verify, is that courses connected only with general education, medicine and agriculture are either available or are being planned at present.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

The whole problem of the access of Africans to responsible posts is, as the Council knows, connected with the problem of higher education. As regards higher education, I would say that we have made great progress in this field since 1955. The Belgian Administration, in 1955, decided to set up a university at Elizabethville, a university which will of course be open to the natives of Ruanda-Urundi. Certain branches of this university will be located elsewhere, one of them probably in Ruanda-Urundi. Even now, students from Ruanda-Urundi are following pre-university courses at Usumbura and at Kimuenza;

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others are following courses in Belgium, in Rome and in England. All of this is going to constitute the nucleus of university students who will probably be the first elements of people to assume higher responsibilities, with a native background, for the administration of Ruanda-Urundi.

U THAN HLA (Burma): I have read in the outline prepared by the Secretariat that there are some seventeen students at the University of Lovanium and I should like to enquire of the special representative once again whether the courses I just mentioned are available to those seventeen students.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): These courses are precisely European university courses and are open to all students in the university. My reply is thus in the affirmative.

U THAN HLA (Burma): May I also enquire whether the six Africans studying in Belgium, as well as the three in Rome, are taking any of the courses that would qualify them as engineers, doctors, administrators, magistrates and lawyers.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is difficult for me to give a precise reply to this question. The cases with which I am personally familiar are those of students having left Ruanda-Urundi after taking secondary courses, whose diplomas did not entitle them to enter Belgian universities, but who are nevertheless admitted as free students or auditors to those universities. The first of these students who have gone to Europe did not display the desire to obtain any particular diploma but rather to follow courses which might complete their general education. Thus, one of these students first took courses in political economy and then courses in the Institute of Overseas Territories at Antwerp, and then some law courses and sociology courses, and he is now taking courses of a financial character.

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This student was concerned -- and this is true of several of them whom I know -- with the rather practical and utilitarian side of the courses he wanted to follow rather than with the diplomas he might obtain. So that once the courses have been completed, one might perfectly well consider employing these students in the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi, for example. But I do not think that any of them would be an engineer or a doctor. This will come in a few years when we have students who followed the regular courses of study.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to point out that students cannot be admitted to the examinations for valid diplomas in the university if they do not have a valid diploma in the Latin and Greek humanities, and so on. That is not the case for courses such as pedagogy or the economic sciences.

Among the students now attending the university in Belgium, I believe there is one who has taken the examinations in the humanities in Belgium, on all these subjects, and at the present time he is taking courses leading to a doctorate in medicine. The others are following courses in the economic sciences, and I believe that all of them have started on pedagogical studies.

The first students who went to Lovanium were students who had a complete diploma in the humanities. At the present time, they are studying science preparatory to medicine and so on. They will receive university diplomas which are also valid in Belgium.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I should like to ask some questions regarding the Council of the Vice-Government-General. I think that the questions already asked in our previous consideration of this matter notably by the representative of India and the representative of the Soviet Union have indicated just how much importance this Council attaches to the work of bodies such as the Council of the Vice-Government-General which, no doubt, can play a very important role, first in the political education of the people in the Trust Territory and subsequently, at a later stage, in the actual government in that Territory.

As I understand the position, the powers of the Vice-Government-General's Council are consultative only, and the special representative has said -- if I understood him correctly -- that no change in this respect is contemplated at present, although he did say that the Administering Authority in no way proposes or seeks to place a limit on the developments which may occur in the Council of the Vice-Government-General as time goes on.

It seems to me that at the present stage the balance of membership in the Council of the Vice-Government-General is naturally very heavily weighted on the side of the non-indigenous members, and I note that the Administration is already

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contemplating measures to bring about an increase in the proportion of indigenous members as opposed to non-indigenous members. Would it be correct to infer that the Administering Authority is in fact attempting to give the indigenous people greater influence in the Council as a prior step to any consideration of extending the actual powers of the Council over the affairs of indigenous people?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The two aspects of this question do not appear to me necessarily to be connected. The Administration is concerned with increasing the number of natives participating in the Council of the Vice-Government-General in order to bring the natives into the consideration of the affairs of their own country as much as possible for the purpose recommended by the Council of promoting union between Ruanda and Urundi.

The direct purpose of this reform is not to increase the competence of the Council as it affects purely native matters. These matters, depending on their importance, are dealt with by the councils of the chefferies and by the councils where we are carrying on the first political education of the natives. The purposes of the Administration in reforming the Council of the Vice-Government-General are above all to succeed in having the various elements of the population, the natives in the first place, brought closer to the administration of their own affairs, and to make sure that the various interests concerned in the Territory are represented in a more adequate way in the Council.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I am grateful for that information, and I should like to ask the special representative to indicate whether there have been any important recent developments in regard to the range of questions considered by the Council and to what we might call the quality of the advice which the Council has been able to give.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Council of the Vice-Government-General is now competent to deal with extremely varied questions, and one may say that there is no theoretical limit on the extent or scope of the questions which may be submitted to it. However, practice does of course impose certain limits. If the Council of the Vice-Government-General is consulted on the advisability of opening a road, it is not consulted on the technical conditions for the laying down of that road. This is a political Council and a political body, and of course technical questions are beyond its practical scope. The Council, above all, is consulted on general matters. Thus, on 16 April, it will be consulted on its own reform. It is also consulted on the very important question of the budget of the Territory. The opinions it gives, as the representative of Belgium said yesterday, are very much heeded because they come from people who are on the spot, people whose competence cannot be questioned.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I should like to ask the special representative whether the Council's advice has normally been acted upon by the Belgian Government, whether in effect it has been found that the matters on which the Council has been consulted have been ones in which the Council has been able to offer advice which the Government has been able to take and to carry into effect. Is it possible to give any indication of the proportion of cases in which the advice of the Council does have practical consequences in that way?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): With the procedure now followed in consulting the Council and in the reform for the creation of institutions in Ruanda-Urundi, it is very difficult to determine the contribution of each person or each assembly to the final result. When a decree comes out and is submitted for signature to the King, it is the result of an extremely extensive consultation. The administrative authorities of Ruanda-Urundi have been consulted; the native councils have been consulted; the Council of the

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Vice-Government-General has been consulted. All of this has been filtered through the Colonial Council, and a draft decree emerges as a result of this which is submitted for signature to the King. It is difficult to distinguish the contribution of each of these bodies to that final result.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): Is it possible to say whether the Council is becoming increasingly influential in the actual formulation of government policy? I am sure that this is an objective which the Administering Authority would have in view. I was wondering what degree of progress might be advisable.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Council of the Vice-Government-General plays a very important part in political development just because its advice, as I have said, is given by people who know what they are talking about. However, the concern of the Administration has been to enlarge and increase the number of Councillors so that these consultations may be even more fruitful.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): In view of the references which the special representative has made to matters on which the Council is consulted, does the initiative rest entirely with the Government, or is there any practice for individual members of the Council to raise matters? Is there any move or tendency in the Territory in favour of the members of the Council's taking more initiative in that respect?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The organic provisions of the Council of the Vice-Government-General provide that it is enough for a recommendation bearing the signature of three members of the Council for the matter to be up for discussion by the Council. On many occasions the members of the Council have made use of this possibility.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I should like to thank the special representative for these answers which give me, at any rate, a much clearer idea of the actual operation of the Council and of the importance of its work.

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I have one final question about the Council and it is this. Could the special representative say whether there are any pressures within the Council or outside the Council in the Territory for the development of more specific legislative powers at this stage?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Outside the Council in the Territory, I know of no such pressures. The only outside pressure is that exercised by the Trusteeship Council to recommend to the Administration the extension of the powers of the Council of the Vice-Government-General. Within the Council from time to time it happens that certain actions are undertaken by Councillors, and I am referring to the associations of colonists to extend the powers of the Council to the detriment of the powers of the Administration, in which they hope to play a rather important role.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I should like to ask a few questions now relating to the system of indigenous councils which I think is of special interest also to the Trusteeship Council. The effect of the establishment of the system of indigenous councils under the Decree of 14 July 1952 was, as I see it, to revolutionize the whole position of the Bami vis-à-vis the people since the authority of the Bami was thus greatly and suddenly restricted.

Could the special representative state whether the Bami have accepted this situation in practice in a spirit of co-operation? Have they developed any significant divergencies of view between the Bami, on the one hand, and the newly established indigenous councils, on the other?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): In both countries, in Ruanda as well as in Urundi, the Bami have received the new political organization in a spirit of complete co-operation. I would even say that they have received it in a spirit of relief, because they felt the heavy responsibility, the somewhat anachronistic responsibility, which was on their shoulders and which was shared by a council. They received the council with great favour.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should add that the Bami now preside over the High Council of the country. In the past, their authority could not be questioned. The Mwami exercised autocratical authority. Now the Mwami must put questions to the vote; he cannot take a decision without the agreement of the Council. This has resulted in an extremely delicate situation in which the Mwami may vote one way and the majority may vote another way. This assumes the nature of an opposition which, in the eyes of the population, is almost un crime de lèse-majesté. One may note, in these conditions, a tendency to make the Bami truly constitutional monarchs. There is even a tendency to question whether it would not be better for the Mwami not to preside over the High Council or, more or less, not to vote in that Council, so that there would never be any conflict between the chief of the country and the majority, to whose views he must submit himself.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): The remarks of the representative of Belgium and of the special representative reflect the complexity of the situation. I find those remarks very interesting.

I wonder whether the other traditional leaders, such as the chiefs at a lower level in the indigenous structure, are readily accepting the introduction of more democratic principles into the political life of the people, and whether the people of the country are taking the same interest in the proceedings of

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their local chiefdom and sub-chiefdom councils as they appear to be taking in the activities of the High Councils.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In a very general way, the chiefs have accepted rather easily the establishment of these councils, the agreement of which is necessary before any decisions can be taken. I would recall that these councils did exist to a certain extent. When the chiefs and sub-chiefs had important decisions to take, they consulted certain elders, certain customary advisors. Therefore, the chief did not pass overnight from a type of isolated authority to the of political consultation. I do not know of any place in which there was real difficulty in establishing the new system. There was no difficulty either in the chiefdoms or the sub-chiefdoms. It is possible that some chiefs may have been rather angry about this system, but that is merely a supposition. I do not know of any concrete cases.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): Has the introduction of the system of indigenous councils and their operation given rise to the development of organized political groups in the Territory -- political groups in the nature of political parties?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): No; so far there have been no such political groups or parties. This may be explained by the fact that we are just at the beginning of a political organization of the Territory on a democratic basis. The people are not yet organized into parties.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I have two questions of a less general nature. What was the reaction of the population to the suppression by the High Council of Ruanda of the Ubuhake system? Could the special representative give us a brief review of the political implications of the abolition of that system?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I believe that I need not repeat before the Council now the complete description of the Ubugabire system in Ruanda and the Umugabire system in Urundi. These two systems are rather similar. In times past, cattle as well as land were considered to belong to the Mwami. All those who possessed cattle or occupied land did so only under the licence of the Mwami. From the Mwami down, there was a dependency system which was a type of feudal system. Approximately nine-tenths of all the cattle was affected by these contracts and dependencies. The large majority of cattle holders were not the owners of the cattle. They could not freely dispose of that cattle. The abolition of the Ubugabire system, therefore, was very favourably received by the people of Ruanda-Urundi. From then on, for example, someone who had six cows became the owner of two or three cows, and he was in fact the actual owner of those two or three cows. It may even be said, to a certain extent, that the people wanted the former system to disappear.

Mr. WALKER (Australia): I have one further question regarding the activities of the indigenous councils relating to the particular question of taxation. I presume that these councils have certain powers in respect of the taxation of the people of the Territory, perhaps more in connexion with local taxation. Could the special representative state whether there has been any tendency, since the councils were established, for taxation rates to be altered on the initiative of these indigenous councils?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The indigenous councils and authorities in the field of taxation can intervene in two ways. The first way consists of establishing additional quantities on the taxes due to the budget of Ruanda-Urundi. The taxes which are owed by the natives that are due to the budget under the law may be increased by additional sums for the profit of the country and the chiefdoms. These additional amounts are determined by the Mwami in agreement with the council. The only limit which the law imposes is that these additional amounts may not exceed 40 per cent of the principal tax due. The Mwami and the chiefs may also establish taxes for the country or the chiefdoms, which are also established in agreement with the councils. When this measure is taken by the chief, it must be approved by the Mwami and the High Council of the country. Since the establishment of the councils, there have been certain changes in the tax system, but all this has been discussed and weighed, and one cannot say that there has been a general trend toward increase or decrease.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): As I said yesterday, most of the questions which my delegation had with regard to the political development of this Territory have already been answered in the replies of the special representative and the representative of Belgium to questions put by other delegations. Furthermore, the representative of Australia has just greatly assisted me with the questions he has put with regard to the indigenous councils, because they greatly clarify the questions which my delegation had in mind. However, I have a few questions left, and I shall put them to the special representative.

These questions of mine cover four or five aspects of the political development of this Territory. In the first place, I have a very general question. I see in last year's record a reply given by the special representative to questions put by the representative of the United States, to the effect that there were three principal political reorganization in the thirty-five years of the Belgian administration of the Territory -- one in 1917, another in 1943, and another in 1952. In his preliminary statement at the present session, the special representative pointed out that, by April of 1956, it is planned to reform the Vice-Government-General's Council. I should like to know whether this reform is of a political nature or whether they are simply

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broadening the Council, in the three senses laid down by the special representative the other day. And, in case it is a general reform, how far will it involve a general political reform? How far will it go?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): When I spoke last year of three reforms of political organizations since the Belgian administration of Ruanda-Urundi, I was referring to three great reforms in the political indigenous structure -- that is, the position of the specifically indigenous organs of the Administration. It is perfectly obvious that, if I had meant to refer to all of the changes which had any political implications and which had occurred since 1917, a day would not have been enough for that.

The reform of the Council of the Vice-Government-General is a reform which will be very important in its results, but it is not a reform which affects the structure of the political indigenous organizations. It might affect the structure of the relations between the Belgian administrative organization and the local political organization, but it is not a profound structural reform affecting the natives, the Council of the Vice-Government-General having been considered up to the present time as an organ of the Belgian administration, tending more and more to become mixed in character through the incorporation of African elements.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I believe that this has been a very good reply to the question I had in mind with regard to this matter. I should like in advance to point out -- not in connexion at all with the reply which has just been given -- that the questions to be put by my delegation are put without any malice aforethought, and I would ask for patience on the part of the special representative if I seem to duplicate questions which have already been put.

There is another general aspect which my delegation would like to have further described, although it may have been covered a bit yesterday. I refer to the relations between the Territory of Ruanda and the Territory of Urundi and between both of them and the Belgian Congo. In the first place -- and once again I say that I am not speaking with any malice aforethought -- perhaps there is the instinctive tendency, when you envisage the problems of two

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Territories, to think that the solution to everything is to join them or merge them. I know that there are recommendations of the Council to the effect that, for the benefit of these two Territories and their inhabitants, these two parts of the Territory ought to attempt to become united. But, in spite of that, I should like to know -- I believe I am in order -- whether the Administering Authority at any moment has ever studied or considered the possibility or the advisability or the feasibility of administering these two Territories even more separately. It seems that there are great obstacles in uniting them.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I in no way suspect the representative of Guatemala of malice aforethought. On the contrary, I am happy at the clarification requested of me when this may be useful to the development of the Trust Territory.

The question put by the representative of Guatemala is extremely delicate. One may say, when one considers the respective situations of Ruanda and Urundi, that there are as many reasons for urging their union as for urging their separation. It is certain that a policy of separation of the two Territories would meet with the favour of the inhabitants and would certainly be the easiest solution. However, I continue to believe that the recommendations made by the Council on numerous occasions, urging the union of these Territories, have been made after mature consideration and that they should not be given up overnight at the first difficulty.

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I repeat: There are very great similarities between the two territories and, therefore, many reasons for union of the two. I wonder what would happen -- especially from the economic, educational and social points of view -- if the two territories were to be separated and if, for each of the two, we had to repeat the efforts which have already been undertaken for the two territories as a whole. I continue to believe -- and in saying this I am perhaps going somewhat beyond my role as special representative, called upon to offer clarifications of the report -- that the union of these two territories is more desirable than the separation of the two. I also continue to believe that the union of the two territories with the Belgian Congo is absolutely necessary to the development of the former.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The difficulty may not be quite as great as the representative of Guatemala professes to believe. The two countries have marked individualities. It is clear, for instance, that the identical history course could not be given in Ruanda and Urundi. The Urundi people say that the history of Ruanda does not interest them. The kings of Ruanda are foreigners to the Urundi people. The Urundi people say, "We are not interested in the conquests of the Ruanda people; we just do not care. We are interested in our own conquests". That is what I wished to say about unification.

The questions which the Government of the Administering Authority has considered are federal questions which had never been raised at all by the indigenous inhabitants. There was never any question of a common road network, because there was no road network. There was never any question of a common economic policy, because there was no economic policy. The inhabitants had a subsistence economy; there was no question of an economic policy, therefore. The questions relating to unification are new questions which had no part in the preoccupations of the indigenous inhabitants. The indigenous inhabitants may continue to have their own national life even while cultivating the common interests which have been created by a central administration. For example, they have no objection to a common court of appeals. Why should there be any objection? They have agreed that, when Banyarunda people are involved, Banyarunda assessors should be used; and, when Barundi people are involved,

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Barundi assessors should be used; they have agreed that the judges should be selected impartially.

The same is true as regards questions concerning the organization of the medical services. These are, indeed, common interests which do not touch upon the national life itself. What these people do care about is retaining their own national individuality. For instance, any attempt to unify the language would run into a blind wall of opposition. The Banyarwanda do not want to read books in kirundi, and the Barundi want books in kirundi and not in kinyarwanda. The people do not want the two languages to be unified. Any attempt to do so would meet with absolute opposition.

But so far as the European administration is concerned, the collective interests, the common economic interests, are not incompatible with broad national interests. These are new matters which never preoccupied the populations before the appearance of the Belgian administration.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to thank the special representative and the representative of Belgium for the very complete replies which they have just given to my question.

I do have one other question of detail; this is perhaps a mere matter of form or of language, but it may have a certain substantive importance. In any case, I should like to have some clarification as to whether the question does have any substantive importance.

Speaking of this same problem of the difficulties raised by the relationship between Ruanda and Urundi, the special representative said yesterday, in one of his replies, that the differences between the two territories were such that, if one of the two wanted to unite with another territory, it would turn to a foreign territory rather than Ruanda or Urundi, respectively. I do not know if, in saying that, the special representative wished merely to use a picturesque example to emphasize the differences between the two territories, or if he intended his remark to have a substantive importance.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I had no special intention in making the remark to which reference has just been made. What I wanted to make clear was that the state of mind of the Barundi in Urundi was such that they would prefer a union with a third territory -- without knowing whether that union would bring good or evil -- to a union with their natural neighbour. That was the general meaning of my remark. I had in mind no particular third territory or people.

Mr. APENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): That was my understanding of the position, but I wanted to be sure that it was the correct one.

I now turn to another aspect of this problem of the relationship between the two parts of the Trust Territory. Yesterday, the representative of India suggested that it might be possible to have neighbouring district councils in the two States meet along the frontier between the two to discuss common problems. That suggestion raised some doubts in my mind.

It seems to me that the indigenous councils, the chiefs and sub-chiefs -- and there are chiefs in Urundi and chiefs in Ruanda -- are established on the basis of a territorial division. That is the aspect of the problem which I wish to have clarified. The extremely interesting experiment of the Law of 1952 attempted to take a first step away from the traditional indigenous organization and towards a more democratic organization, as we understand it. I should like to know if there are cases in which a chief is the chief of some human elements living in a region lying on the boundary between Ruanda and Urundi, or if the territorial division is always a clear and absolute one.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The territorial division is clear and absolute. We found two States when we arrived there. The Belgian administration soldered them together, as it were. But there is no case of a Munyaruanda chief exercising functions in Urundi, nor of a Murundi chief exercising functions in Ruanda. Either case would be inconceivable.

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Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My memories go back farther than those of Mr. Leroy, if I may say so, and I would add that in times past, prior to the Belgian occupation, it sometimes happened that a chief dispossessed by the Mwami of Ruanda would take refuge in Urundi, and the Mwami of Urundi, in order to enrage the Mwami of Ruanda to the greatest possible extent, would present the exiled chief with a small piece of land, such as a hill. But this was a purely formal arrangement because the chief who had come to take refuge in Urundi could not get along with the local population and usually left again fairly quickly. But this kind of thing was done, particularly by the respective Bami, each of whom sought to cause his counterpart on the other side of the frontier as much annoyance as possible.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like now to proceed to another aspect relating to a problem similar to that of the relationship between these two Territories and the Belgian Congo. During questions and answers yesterday afternoon it was repeated that the fact that an administrative union exists entails no advantage or disadvantage, either concrete or apparent. I do not know whether this question is out of order, but I should like to know the feeling of the Administering Authority if it has studied the problem. The Belgian Congo is a territory which is progressing towards self-government -- I do not want to mention independence, but will just say "self-government". Ruanda-Urundi comprises two territories progressing in the same direction. From the point of view of the policies laid down is there, in the opinion of the Administering Authority, any difficulty which would keep the territories of Ruanda and Urundi from obtaining self-government before it was obtained by the Belgian Congo, or vice versa? Would there be any difficulty, because of this administrative union, in one territory or the other achieving self-government first?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Difficulties might arise if, for example, the Belgian Congo were to obtain independence. The situation of Ruanda-Urundi might then become somewhat analogous to that of Togoland under British administration, which is now administered in the framework

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of an administrative union with the Gold Coast. It is clear that once the Belgian Government had no longer anything to say to the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo it would be inconceivable for that official still to exert any authority over the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi. Therefore, in that event alterations would have to be made in the Trusteeship Agreement, but I see no difficulty in an independent Ruanda-Urundi retaining an administrative and customs union with the Belgian Congo. There would, of course, no longer be any question of subordination of the Governor or chief of state of Ruanda-Urundi to the Governor-General of the Congo. That relationship would lapse, but the customs union might well continue to exist if Ruanda-Urundi found it advantageous. I do not see any difficulty in that.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to thank the representative of Belgium for his reply, which has dissipated any doubts which remained in my mind. Most of my third set of questions were answered yesterday, and others have been answered today. I should, however, like to put a question relating to the electoral process. As the result of all the replies which have been given only two small doubts remain in my mind, and I will express them although I imagine that the answers are very simple. First, in one of the many documents that have been supplied to us I seem to remember that it was stated that the number of notables was twice the number of posts available. In one reply yesterday the representative of Belgium pointed out that in many cases the number of notables might be 150 or more. I should like to know whether my memory serves me correctly in this connexion. And to supplement this, there is a second aspect relating to elections. I understand that the voting is by ballot; that is to say, it is done in writing. I should like to know whether the ballot is secret. It may be that illiterate voters are accompanied by a literate person, and I should like to know more about this.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): As the representative of Guatemala very aptly put it, this list which amounts to double the number of available seats is a minimum. There may be more, and in practice there are almost always many more. With regard to the nature of the balloting,

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Special representative)

we ran into substantial difficulties when we organized the voting. The ideal, of course, would be to adopt one of the systems used in countries which are highly developed politically -- a ballot paper with a square to be marked with a cross or a circle to be blacked out, or something of that kind, secrecy being maintained by the use of a balloting booth. But we had great difficulties because of the presence of illiterates and of the many possibilities of misunderstanding of this kind of machinery when it was first introduced. Therefore we felt that at first the best formula would be as follows. We gave each elector a piece of plain paper bearing merely the imprint of the seal of the Territory in one corner for purposes of identification as an official document. The elector was then asked to write down the list of persons for whom he wished to vote. In the case of illiterates it seemed to us that the best way of ensuring the secrecy of this operation was to ask them to bring with them a personal friend -- usually a relative such as a brother or, as was more often the case, a son -- to whom they could dictate the list which would then be written on the ballot paper by the friend or relative. We felt that this would involve the least risk. If a better method could be suggested I should be very happy to hear it and I am sure that the Administration would be very happy to consider it. But the balloting is certainly secret.

Mr. APENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): That has disposed of my fourth series of questions also, and I now come to the fifth series. These questions will appear to deal with different aspects of detailed matters, but they may result in our obtaining a better picture of the political, civic and juridical situation in the Territory. Throughout the documents we find mentioned the efforts of the Administration to improve the status of the inhabitants, although it feels that for a long time it will be impossible to unify the legislation. I wonder what is meant, for example, in one particular paragraph which I have before me, by "unifying the legislation". And this is closely connected with the electoral system because in speaking of the voters

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Guatemala)

I believe that the summary records of the fifteenth session of the Council said that every three years the sub-chief was required to compile a list of notables, that is persons residing in the area who had certain abilities and qualifications and who represented the points of view of the inhabitants, in proportion to the number of taxpayers.

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Therefore, the whole electoral system and, it seems to me, the whole system of citizenship there, in so far as it exists, is closely connected with the tax system; and, therefore, it is closely connected with the idea of knowing whether the taxation was passed by metropolitan law or whether it is a traditional taxation.

In regard to an increase in taxation, I believe that the question was answered by the special representative in reply to a question of the representative of Australia, but I should like some clarification as to the status of the indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi. Citizenship does not yet exist in the Territory. I believe that the representative of Belgium said last year that there was such a thing as nationality and that the question had never arisen as to whether an indigenous inhabitant was an inhabitant of Ruanda-Urundi and not of the Belgian Congo, for example.

But there is also the problem of citizenship. I know that full citizenship does not exist but the incipient characteristics of citizenship have begun to appear. Upon what is this based? Upon the amount of taxes which the inhabitant pays? I should like to know exactly what distinction is made between indigenous inhabitants and non-indigenous inhabitants, and between inhabitants under customary law and inhabitants under extra-customary law, etc.

Mr. PYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): These are rather delicate issues. To begin with, from the indigenous point of view, to be a Munyarunda or a Murundi means, as in many other countries, to belong to a national minority. Those whom the Banyarwanda consider as one of themselves are Banyarwanda, and those whom the Barundi consider as one of themselves are Barundi; that is all. The same thing exists in the Middle East; it is known who is Christian and who is Moslem; one knows those who belong to the Moslem community and those who belong to the Christian community, even if they are not particularly zealous.

From the legal point of view, the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi are nationals of Ruanda-Urundi, a Territory under international trusteeship administered by Belgium, and they have all the rights which attach to their capacity as such since, after all, Belgium has ratified the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

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As to the question of who is a national of Ruanda-Urundi from the point of view of written law, if somebody shows up and asks for a passport -- is he or is he not a national of Ruanda-Urundi? -- the legislation is the same as that of the Belgian Congo; that is, when a person is regarded as a Congolese in the Congo, in the same circumstances such a man would be regarded as a national of Ruanda-Urundi in Ruanda-Urundi. In order to dispel any misgivings, since there was no civil status in the past, an inhabitant of Ruanda-Urundi is regarded as such if his father was a national of Ruanda-Urundi. It is very difficult to push affiliation back far enough, but there are a number of presumptions. He who lives and was born in Ruanda-Urundi is presumed to have been born of a father who was a national of Ruanda-Urundi. He who lives in Ruanda-Urundi is presumed to have been born there. If someone appears and declares: "I am a Munyarunda", the presumption is in his favour. He is in Ruanda-Urundi; therefore, he is presumed to have been born there unless the contrary is found to be true. He is presumed to have been born there; therefore, he is presumed to have been born of a father who was a national, unless the contrary is proved. Therefore, in practice, no difficulties ever arise. If an inhabitant claimed to be a national of Ruanda-Urundi and it could be proved that he was born in the Belgian Congo of a Congolese father, he could be told: "You are not a national of Ruanda-Urundi because the presumption which would ordinarily operate in your favour can be proved not to operate at all. This is how the problem is solved in practice.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish):

I am grateful to the representative of Belgium for his explanation. He has dispelled many of my doubts. These were detailed matters, but there is still one point which I have not fully understood. I may be exaggerating somewhat in the way in which I put my question but I am trying to put it with precision. Since citizenship does not exist in Ruanda-Urundi, let us take a hypothesis. If there were citizenship, if it were characterized by two fundamental rights -- the exercise of the right to vote and the possibility of being eligible for a post in

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one of the councils, for example -- it would be useful to know who has the right to vote and to occupy such a post. This determination is made, in practice, if my understanding is correct, by the fact that the chiefs and the sub-chiefs choose a number of notables whose names are submitted for the approval of the Administering Authority, approval which, in most cases, is accorded. Now, if I am not mistaken, women are not among these notables on the list and, therefore, the circle is reduced even further.

I should like to know whether this status of notables has, under law or custom, certain qualifications or prerequisites which could lead a chief to exclude a given notable from the list because he lacked the necessary qualifications. In choosing these notables, does one take into account only their social influence and prestige before their names are put on the list? I think my question is rather complex, but I believe that it has been understood by the special representative.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

If we look at the matter from the indigenous and customary point of view, there would never be an indigenous inhabitant who would claim to be a national of Ruanda-Urundi unless he wanted a passport. In all other cases, he would declare himself to be a Munyarunda or a Murundi. Therefore, legally speaking, one faces a citizenship which the customary administration has defined in a certain measure but which law has not defined. Therefore, speaking from the customary point of view, we face two states and two citizenships, if I may use this term in its restricted sense, which, customarily speaking, have never involved any doubt regarding the persons concerned.

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When the decree of July 1952 entered into force, the Belgian Administration asked the chiefs and sub-chiefs to draw up lists of notables, not in the customary sense but in the real sense of the term, that is to say, all those who in any manner at all exerted influence in the customary circles and in the chefferies. The Commission of the Colonial Council which examined the draft decree in Belgium before it was signed had this to say:

"The Commission wonders whether it would not be advisable to have sitting in the Council not only elements representing the traditional influences, but also young and forward-looking elements, especially teachers and traders. The Commission feels that, even while endorsing this point of view, there is no need for that purpose to modify the text of the provision. It considers that the term 'notable' not only applies to those whom tradition designates as such, but also to those who, by reason of their abilities or the situation acquired by their own resources, deserve to be comprised in that category."

It will be seen that the Commission of the Colonial Council, which examined the draft decree after the African authorities had done so, clearly expressed its intention to depart from the traditional manner of designating notables.

Mr. ABRAHAM CATALAN (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): That has further cleared my doubts, but I should like to put another concrete question. If that is the nature of a notable, what is the relation between the notables and their political function and the taxpayers? Are there taxpayers who could not be notables? The question may seem to be somewhat candid, but even if the reply is what I imagine it will be, I should like to have it in the record.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The idea of taxpayers was taken into consideration in this decree only in respect of the element of counting or listing which was involved. So far, we have no census of the population. The number of taxpayers, however, is a specific

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figure which can be obtained, and by using this figure of the number of taxpayers it has been possible to set up councils with a membership roughly proportional to the size of the circonscription. The idea of notable and taxpayer are co-terminous or coincident, because any adult man who is the head of a family is a taxpayer, whereas a notable under the decree is a person who exercises some influence in the chefferie or circonscription.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): In the records of the session last year when the Trusteeship Council dealt with this Territory, there is a sentence which, while not dealing exactly with this problem, in my opinion is somewhat connected with the political scene. In reply to a question put by the representative of France, the special representative said:

"Sums due in lieu of customary services were collected by the tax collector along with the ordinary taxes."

This apparently has no political connotation in the sense of the question I have just put, but it might have some political connotation with regard to political freedoms, for example. What are these sums which, rather than customary services, cover the taxes, and how do they restrict the individual liberties, if they restrict them at all?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The sums collected in this manner mostly represent surcharges which the indigenous authorities are authorized to add to the tax in order to obtain a source of revenue for the indigenous circonscriptions. In order to give a concrete example of this, let us suppose that the poll tax is 100 francs, and the indigenous authorities have fixed the surcharge at 25 francs. The chief or sub-chief who is the tax collector collects 125 francs in one sum. To the accountant of the Territory he hands over 125 francs, and the accountant enters 100 francs into the account of the State and 25 francs into the account of the chefferie concerned. I certainly do not feel that this can have any impact whatever on the political liberties of the inhabitants.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I agree with the special representative that this can have no influence upon the political freedom of the indigenous inhabitants, but, in the terms in which the question is drafted in the record, I received the impression that there was some sort of obligation not to pay a tax but rather to pay in lieu of certain services which were obligatory, or, on the other hand, to render certain services when the indigenous inhabitant could not pay the tax. Similar practices have occurred in other countries, even in independent countries, when certain under-privileged classes in the population were obliged to work because they could not pay certain taxes. I wish to know whether the phrase I quoted referred to the existence of such a practice in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, but it appears from the reply given by the special representative that it means something quite different from that.

Those are all the questions I wished to put, and I would thank the Council for its patience and the representative of Belgium and the special representative for their very interesting replies.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to give to the special representative an assurance that I do not intend to test his endurance too much, since some of the questions I had intended to ask have already been asked by other representatives, though perhaps in a slightly different form.

In answering yesterday a question put by the representative of Syria, the special representative stated that the two sections of the Territory, Ruanda and Urundi, were not very enthusiastic about the idea of a close union between the two parts.

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In a statement made subsequently, I understood the special representative to say that there was not much of a chance for the two parts of the Territory, taken in isolation, to make any real, serious or constructive progress if they continued or persisted in this parallel development. In other words, he suggested that it would be advantageous if there were some sort of a federation set up between them or some sort of a union. I would like to ask the representative of the Administering Authority the following question: Has the Administering Authority considered some way of overcoming this obvious reluctance of the inhabitants of the Territory by pointing out to them the advantages that would accrue to them from a union which would safeguard their spiritual patrimony, language, culture, traditions etc., the picture of which has just been sketched to us by the special representative? Could the special representative tell us to what extent his Administration has endeavoured to overcome this stubbornness of the indigenous inhabitants by pointing out to them the advantages that would accrue to them from a fusion of the two States?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): We never attempted to overcome this resistance to merging because we felt that the national feelings of the two territories were perfectly legitimate and respectable and that there was no reason to evince opposition to it. The Banyarwanda and the Barundi see no objection to the two territories having certain common services, such as agricultural services, medical services, and so forth. They have no objection to that and they agree that there should be such a federation. But it is a federation which does not affect their individual existence. We have had no difficulties in getting them to agree that the Administration should set up an agricultural service, a radio service and a mail service, on a common, joint basis. We have never had any objection to that. But the Administration has never attempted to overcome their resistance to a merger because of their national feelings.

I do not think that Ruanda-Urundi will ever be one single country. When they reach independence, the State may take on a federal shape, but I do not think that it will ever be a unitary country. However, these are speculations as to the future.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My second question has already been touched upon by the representative of Guatemala. On page 14 of the annual report, the following statement appears:

"The words 'indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi' have not been defined by the law."

In the preceding paragraph which appears on page 13 of the annual report, we read the following:

"Indigenous inhabitants are referred to as 'indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi'."

Could the special representative clarify these two sentences which seem to be incompatible? On page 14 it says that the term "indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi" has not been defined by law, and on the preceding page there is the text "Les autochtones sont dits 'indigènes du Ruanda-Urundi'", which seems to say just the reverse.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The difficulty is not really so apparent. If we think of the whole of the Territory we use the term "indigenous inhabitant of Ruanda-Urundi". But the law has never defined what an inhabitant of Ruanda-Urundi is. The law has never defined how one can acquire or lose such a status. I do not think that I have any further explanations to give on this factual situation.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Along the same line of thought, I have examined the working paper prepared by the Secretariat. Paragraph 9, which deals with the status of the inhabitants of the Territory, says that the juridical status of the inhabitants of various sections of the Territory are very complex. May I ask the special representative how this complexity of status is evidenced. Is it bilateral? Is there one status for Ruanda and another for Urundi, or are there any distinctions as to status within the States or within parts of these States? Could the special representative clarify that point?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): There is very great complexity in various types of status, but this complexity does not work as suggested by the representative of Haiti. For example, let us consider the question concerning the personal status of the individuals. The personal status of these inhabitants is governed by their custom. The personal status of the Arabs is governed by their national law; the personal status of all foreigners is governed by their own national legislation. If we take another juridical aspect of human relations there, the status of property is not the same under the land system with the indigenous inhabitants, where very complex customary laws govern, as with the non-indigenous inhabitants who are governed by written law; that is to say, factual circumstances have imposed a special status upon almost all the categories of the population.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): At its fifteenth session, the Council adopted a resolution which recommended to the Administering Authority that it should undertake certain studies as to the possibility of instituting joint citizenship for inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi, conferring upon them the rights deriving from their status as inhabitants of a Trust Territory. I would like to inquire to what extent this recommendation of the Council, adopted at its fifteenth session, has begun to be implemented in some way.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I admit that I do not clearly see what the Trusteeship Council wishes in this matter. People have the status of Ruanda-Urundi nationals and they enjoy all rights attached to the status of the inhabitants of a Trust Territory. They enjoy these rights under the Belgian law. After all, Belgium ratified the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. Thus they enjoy these rights. They do not have to be granted these rights; they have them already.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): In that case, I may conclude that the resolution of the Council was somewhat superfluous, since the Administering Authority recognizes that the need to undertake the studies suggested has not been felt; which leads me to another question relating to central administration, or rather to the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the higher executive posts of the Administration.

The question was raised yesterday by the representative of China, and I was very happy to hear the special representative state that no barrier was imposed with respect to the participation of indigenous inhabitants in executive posts in the Territory. The representative of the Administering Authority even expressed the hope that these jobs will soon be within the actual reach of the indigenous inhabitants. My delegation also feels that it is desirable to express desires but that it is more desirable to consider ways and means of translating these desires into reality.

This leads me to the field of education. I have before me the observations of UNESCO, which state that there exists no higher educational institution in the Territory. The nationals of the Territory, as in the past, have continued to pursue their higher studies abroad. The number of twenty-six Ruanda-Urundi students who are studying abroad is a small one and is only slightly higher than the figure of 1953, which was twenty-four. This means that the number of indigenous inhabitants who have had the concrete opportunity to pursue higher education abroad has increased by two within a year.

I should like to ask the special representative whether, in addition to these two scholarships, the Administration has not considered other ways and means of making higher posts in the Territory concretely acceptable to the indigenous inhabitants.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There are no other ways of making these higher posts in the Territory accessible. When I say "higher posts", I use these words in a restricted sense. I mean higher posts in the European administration because the posts of the Bami and the chiefs are of the very greatest importance with great responsibilities. They can also be considered as higher posts.

When you speak of introducing natives into the higher posts of the European administration, we must admit that that is not possible unless the native candidates for these posts have fulfilled the necessary requirements; that is to say, in practice, when we have university graduates among the natives. In order to secure a university diploma, we first have to provide secondary education. We have secondary education but the calibre of it was not sufficiently high to admit its graduates to universities. We had to overcome this difficulty by

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setting up a pre-university institute which formed a bridge between secondary education and university education. We will have the first graduates from this pre-university institute this year. Thus, we will see the results of this new institution.

Along with that, we opened two institutions: the Inter-Racial College of the Jesuit Fathers and another centre at Usumbura. These are European-style schools. The students being graduated from these institutions will go right into university work.

With regard to universities themselves, we decided to establish a university at Elizabethville, and there is a university at Kimuenza. Frankly, I do not see what more we could do in two years' time in view of the resources of the Territory.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I have one last question under this chapter. At its fifteenth session, the Trusteeship Council noted that some officials of the Territory who exercised some powers within the executive branch also were exercising certain powers which belonged to the judicial branch. I should like to ask the special representative in what way the recommendation of the Council was implemented, the recommendation which asked the Administering Authority to take measures to ensure a separation of executive and judicial powers so as to make certain that the same official should not have powers within the two branches. Could the special representative give us some clarification on that score?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): When Belgium occupied Ruanda-Urundi, it found that country operating under frightful penal laws. Offences were punished not according to their gravity but according to the importance of the person injured. Slight offences like the theft of a cow had as a result crucifixion, garroting and various tortures. Very often, the Bami just left it up to the executioner to decide what to do.

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Belgium attempted to put an end to this bloody orgy. In order to do this, we had to transfer the powers of justice to the Belgian administration, and of course you would expect a certain improvement. There were **only** functionaries on the spot. A skeleton staff was set up, and we conferred upon this staff all the responsibilities of the Territory, especially the responsibility of putting an end to such a state of affairs. The district chiefs were called upon later to direct the tribunals, and once again to get the offenders out from under the jurisdiction of their former judges. All rather serious offences were heard by Belgian officials. The Residents were called upon to judge all the serious crimes and could even hand down sentences of capital punishment.

In 1948, the movement in the direction desired by the Council was undertaken, and these judges, who were also functionaries, no longer heard the more serious crimes. The more serious crimes were heard by career magistrates. This is true of all crimes which might lead to a sentence of twenty years or more, and they were heard in the tribunal de première instance which was presided over by a career judge.

In the cases which were left within the jurisdiction of the Residents' functionaries, the Residents were assisted by attorneys, whose principal function was to protect the native inhabitant.

The Belgian administration believes, just as does the Trusteeship Council and certainly the representative of Haiti, that the separation of powers is an ideal to be obtained. We hope to achieve that ideal where there will be a separation between civil and judicial administration. You must remember, however, that only a few years ago the indigenous mentality was unable to understand that the chief could not also be a judge. These judicial functions constituted the most important power that a chief had. We are **gradually** trying to educate the natives so that they will abandon this conception, but it will take time.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have no more questions under this chapter. I should like to thank the special representative and the representative of Belgium for their replies to my questions. I should like to assure them that my questions were only designed to elicit information on this situation in the Territory for the benefit of my delegation.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): If I may, I should like to ask one more supplementary question on political conditions.

Having been to this Trust Territory, I have some little knowledge of it, and I do realize that we are dealing with two different countries which have two different languages and two different cultures, inhabited by two different tribes. Nevertheless, one must keep in mind the fact that the beginnings of the union between the two territories can be found in the common centralized Belgian Administration for the two States. One must also remember that even though there are two different languages, the leaders, the chiefs, the sub-chiefs do understand and speak to each other in the French language. That is a common point of contact, and we feel that around that nucleus could perhaps develop a federal or other form of union between the two States. But the point on which we should like some clarification here is this. It seems to us that to some extent the key to the union of the two States, federal or otherwise, may be with the two Bami, in the sense of their character, their powers at present. We know that the autocratic character of the Bami is gradually disappearing with the democratization of the indigenous structure of the Administration. At the moment, traditional loyalty is, as it were, focused in the Bami. Once this focus is weakened, then territorial consciousness may develop. In this connexion, we should like to have some information about the future of the Bami or the institution of the Bami, and how, for instance, his inheritance to the title of Bami is arranged.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): It is extremely difficult for me to foresee how the position of the Bami will be developed in the future. It is quite certain that the establishment of the councils has considerably reduced their power and position.

The rule of success of the Bami is provided for in the Decree of 14 July 1952. On the death of a Mwami, he is replaced by someone designated by custom, with the approval of the Administering Authority. Custom in this case is rather flexible. The successor of the Mwami is not necessarily his eldest son; it is usually one of his sons, and in practice it is the one whom he designates as his successor during his lifetime.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to thank the special representative for his reply. For our part, we shall watch with interest the future development of this institution of the Mwami.

Economic advancement

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): We see from the table on page 133 of the annual report that 41.43 per cent of the land in Ruanda-Urundi is classified as arable land. Could the special representative tell us whether any of this 41.43 per cent remains to be cultivated or is it all under cultivation already?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This 41.43 per cent is land which can be cultivated; it represents 22,440 square kilometres. The total cultivated land is 1,436,000 hectares, or about 14,000 square kilometres, which is two thirds of the amount of arable land. The surplus is land which is not cultivated now because it is marsh land. It may be because these marshes have not yet been drained or because the land is too dry and is awaiting irrigation or because the lands are situated in uninhabited regions.

The attention of the Administration has been directed to these lands. It may not be without advantage to recall here that since the occupation of the Territory, the Administration has, either through irrigation or through drainage of marsh lands, recovered more than 1,000 square kilometres of land. It is in the same spirit that the Administration is concerned with organizing indigenous

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husbandry in Mosso, in the southeast part of the country, and in the Ruzizi Plain, which are less densely inhabited now. A third of the cultivable land can be recovered. The more progress that is made in the work, the more difficult it becomes because there are lands whose irrigation poses very grave problems. This would require considerable capital.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): That is a very interesting reply and has some bearing on the question of the large population of the Territory.

My second question relates to a figure given page 145 of the annual report which shows that agricultural production increased by 4.51 per cent during 1954. This figure, incidentally, is considerably in excess of the percentage of population increase as shown on page 329, that is to say 2.3 per cent. Could the special representative tell us by what methods the Administering Authority expects to derive a continuing increase in agricultural production in future years?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The increase in agricultural production for the year exceeded the population increase. It nevertheless remains true that the Administration must continue to devote all its efforts to a continual increase in this production. It will do this as it has done it up to the present time, that is by draining marshes, by irrigating desert lands and, at the same time, by anti-erosion work in order to prevent the deterioration and loss of soil.

At the same time, the Administration is carrying on a certain development of commercial crops in the Territory which may permit the purchase of imported food. It is considering the gradual replacement of food crops by commercial crops, which would bring in greater income. In this field we must be extremely cautious because there is a very small margin between production and consumption. At the present time we do not have the means to be sure of importing food. We must therefore keep a safety margin to avoid shortages or famines.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): My third question is with reference to page 149 of the report. Could the special representative give us a brief description of what has recently been done to curb the increase in the number of livestock?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There have been two types of measures taken: one is the reduction of cattle of poor quality through the intervention of the veterinary service, and the other, of which we expect much more, is the suppression of cattle contracts. A large number of animals have been affected by the elimination of these contracts. At the end of 1954, it was estimated that almost 40,000 had been the subject of such action in one of the territories, because the Mwami had been particularly active in that respect.

The carrying out of this measure has led to the fact that cattle have been shifted and sent to market -- and this was one of the elements we counted on. The holders of cattle have become owners without restriction as to their cattle, and they were also in a position to sell them when they needed to or wanted to. Therefore, on the side of both the holders and the new owners, there has been a movement of cattle toward the market, and we count on the extension of this procedure to achieve an important reduction in the number of cattle.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): On page 146 of the report, it is stated that there was no famine in the Territory during the past year. Does the special representative consider that there is now any serious danger of famine in any part of the Territory? I ask this question because in Nigeria it was always a possible danger until the time came when the roads and other transport facilities were sufficiently good to allow the movement of foodstuffs from one part of the country to another.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): There is no danger of famine or shortage in the Territory at the present time. But I repeat that the situation of the Territory is still rather precarious. Two or three consecutive bad harvests would be enough to render the production of the Territory insufficient to feed its inhabitants.

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We have a very satisfactory road network and considerable means of transportation between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi which would allow us, if necessary, to help that Territory.

These last few years, we have had some apprehensions, but there has not been any general shortage or famine. We were happy to note that any shortage occurred only in extremely localized areas, and it was easy to cope with.

Mr. RITAI (Syria): I have only a few questions, and I really wonder whether they have not been asked in the past. Just for further clarification, however, and for my own knowledge, I should like to put them again to the special representative.

My first question is with regard to co-operatives. On page 15 of the outline of conditions in Ruanda-Urundi which has been prepared by the Secretariat, I note that the Administering Authority has disbanded two co-operatives in 1954. I fail to see any reference to these two disbanded co-operatives in the report submitted by the Administration. I would welcome any clarification on this point and any statement as to the reason why these co-operatives have been disbanded.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): As far as I recall, one of these co-operatives was disbanded in the sense of a modification. The co-operative had been set up as an indigenous co-operative -- that is, under the control and with the assistance of the Administration. After certain difficulties, the co-operative in question preferred to separate from the Administration and set itself up as a commercial company. This is the consumer co-operative of Usumbura. This co-operative is now a common-law company, which is no longer controlled by the Administration and which no longer expects any assistance from the Administration.

Another co-operative -- I think this must be the one at Kigali, but I am not sure of that -- was disbanded after very bad management which made it difficult to continue.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I notice that on page 98 of the report of the Administering Authority, in the section dealing with the control of prices, it is said that if prices are normal, no measures are taken to control prices; but, if unjustified increases are noted, the Governor can set the price of merchandise and tariffs.

How does the Administering Authority determine the normality of prices, since prices are always fluctuating according to external and internal factors, and the normality of prices is not always steady and constant? In that respect, I would like to know how the control takes place.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): It is the Department of Economic Affairs which intervenes to control prices when that is thought necessary. As far as possible, the Administration refrains from intervening. It intervenes as little as possible in this field, but there are cases in which intervention becomes a duty. Such is the case, for example, with hotel rates. We have few hotels in Ruanda-Urundi and, at certain periods, we have an influx of tourists and visitors. In 1955, for example, we had a rather high recruitment of teaching staff for the schools; we had some difficulty in housing these people in houses belonging to the State, and we had to rent hotel rooms on a permanent basis in order to accommodate them. The hotels, feeling that they were very much in demand, raised their prices considerably and intervention was necessary in order to bring the prices back to a proper level. It is only where it is absolutely necessary that the Administration intervenes.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): In the report of the Administering Authority, reference is made to the poor soil in the Territory. In this connexion, I should like to know what progress has been made in enriching the soil and in carrying out the measures devised by the Administration to improve conditions.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I shall be happy to reply to the Syrian representative's question, but I would say, first, that I do not believe that there is any place in the report where it is laid down as a principle that the Territory has poor soil. It is true that there are places in Ruanda-Urundi which are not suitable for cultivation, either because the land is marshy or, in the mountainous regions, because the slopes are too steep. Sometimes these areas can be used for forestation.

We have a whole system of soil protection and recovery. We are constructing anti-erosion ditches to prevent rich surface soil from being carried away. Also, as I have already said, we are draining the marshlands to recover rich soil and are establishing irrigation canals so that land which so far could not be cultivated may be made fertile. But the arable lands are excellent, and it cannot be laid down as a general principle that the Territory has poor soil.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): This is a mere question of agricultural technique. The special representative has said that the land in the Territory cannot be regarded as particularly poor. Well, I think that if the report does not say that the land is poor, it should do so. I think that it is a fact that the soil in the Territory is poor. It can be improved; the indigenous inhabitants are using natural manure. I do not think, however, that -- with the exception of the volcanic lands of the extreme north -- one can speak of the soil in this Trust Territory as being particularly well suited for agriculture.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have before me the Administering Authority's report, and the words "pauvreté du sol" are used. What I was interested in knowing was what progress had been achieved in carrying out the measures listed in the report in this connexion.

(Mr. Rifai, Syria)

I turn now to my next question. I have read in the Outline of Conditions prepared by the Secretariat that:

"The tourist industry, which is in its early stages, is to be considerably expanded". (Conference Room Paper No. 1, paragraph 64)

I should like to know what results have been achieved so far in this connexion. Are there many tourists and visitors in the Territory? Have any plans actually been made to encourage tourists to come to the Territory?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): So far, we have not had a large number of tourists in the Territory. A few tourists do come, but Ruanda-Urundi is very far away and few people can afford to visit it. Of course, people from neighbouring countries do come, but I am referring to persons whose visit to the Territory would contribute to the establishment of a tourist industry. We do not as yet have a real tourist industry in Ruanda-Urundi.

As regards the encouragement of such an industry, we find ourselves in what might be called a vicious circle. Tourists do not come to a country unless they find there comfortable hotels, and so forth. Tourists do not mind sleeping in tents for one night while they are out hunting, but when they get back to the city they want a hot bath, electric lights and so forth. As I have already said, we have very few hotels in the Territory, and the rooms in those hotels are in great demand. When we ask the hotel owners to improve their hotels, they say that they are not interested because their present business is profitable enough. And when we ask more tourists to come to the Territory, they say, "Why don't you provide some good hotels?". Hence, we are in a vicious circle. We have established a publicity office in Brussels and have, in fact, done everything we could to interest more tourists to come to the Territory. But Switzerland is perhaps more attractive than a country so far away as Ruanda-Urundi.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My next question relates to land tenure. As we all know, there are two, co-existing systems of land tenure in the Territory. My question now relates to the recommendation in this respect which the Trusteeship Council made last year; namely, that:

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If we were to say today, under the written law that is, that the indigenous inhabitants could become the owners of the lands which they have planted or on which they have built we should be deluged tomorrow with requests for the surveying and delimitation of these lands which would keep us busy for many years to come. Another consideration which stops us and which requires very thorough study is our fear that the chiefs and indigenous authorities might attempt to profit from this possibility to establish large estates. Of course, we do not wish to permit that. We want no latifundia in Ruanda-Urundi. All of this creates many difficulties, and this problem of the access of Africans to private ownership is one of our great concerns at the present time. We are thinking of trying to begin it in the extra-customary centres where a certain land register and demarkation already exist, and we hope that this can be extended little by little to the customary areas. There is no doubt that the intentions of the Administration are oriented in that direction. The ways of carrying this out are now under study, but they have still to be found.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I should like to know what are the rules which apply to the concession to individuals or companies of land governed by the customary laws. Are they the same as would apply in the case of land desired or taken by the Government for public utilities? I notice in this connexion that, as I understand it, the Administering Authority cannot treat land containing mines as falling in the same category as land which is used for public utilities, because in the main it is exploited and used for profit, not put to public use.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

The procedure followed is essentially the same for the assignment of land to public services and for the granting of land to private persons or corporations. It is rather complicated because much time may elapse during the process of verification, and so on, but in principle the outline is as follows. When land is desired by anyone -- whether by the State or by an individual -- the indigenous inhabitants residing thereon are surveyed to see what customary rights apply to the land in question. These rights may comprise occupation by some houses or fields, or there may be water rights, passage rights, hunting

rights, rights to collect wood or branches to cover houses, or any other of the multiple rights which exist under customary law. Upon the completion of this survey, which is carried out by the judicial authorities under the control of the territorial authorities, in collaboration with the chief and the Residents, the holders of the rights are consulted to ascertain whether they would consent to cede such rights. If they do not consent the matter rests there. If they do consent the State, or the individual or corporation concerned, buys the land, and may, in turn, rent it, convey it, and so on. There is one other possibility which exists, as it does under all legislation, namely, the possibility of condemnation or expropriation for public use. This, however, is rather exceptional. For example, land could be condemned in order that a road might be built across it, but that is not what I suppose the representative of Syria referred to in his question.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have no more questions, and I am grateful for the replies which I have received from the special representative.

Mr. TORNETTA (Italy) (interpretation from French): On page 79 of the report we find a number of export products listed. Agricultural and industrial crops recently developed in the Territory are predominant among these, especially coffee. In order to avoid the risk of a situation arising in which only one kind of crop is cultivated, what are the prospects of a development of cotton and certain other commodities referred to in the report?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Coffee, and especially Arabic coffee, is the crop which is most suited to the Territory. As the Council knows, the greater part of the Territory is at an altitude of between 800 and 1,200 metres above sea-level. This is an altitude which is particularly suited to the cultivation of Arabic coffee. The cultivation of cotton can be contemplated at present only in the lower regions along Lake Tanganyika and the Ruzizi River. This part of the plain, between the lake and the river on the one hand and the Ruanda and Urundi Mountains on the other, is quite narrow. Therefore, extending the cultivation of cotton would be rather a problem if, as I suppose, the representative of Italy is thinking of large-scale cultivation. It is now planned to begin the cultivation of

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sugar cane in the Ruzizi River delta on the border between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, north of Lake Tanganyika. We also have a programme of extending rice cultivation in the Ruzizi plain, north of Usumbura, but there should be no illusion. Most of these opportunities for new industrial and export crops are limited, except in the case of coffee.

Mr. TORNETTA (Italy) (interpretation from French): I have one other question. To what extent is it possible to envisage an extension of agricultural mechanization in the Territory? I realize that this depends upon the income of each farmer, the nature of his land and, especially, the extent of his agricultural enterprise. Perhaps it might be difficult to contemplate a great extension of agricultural mechanization, but is it possible that there will be at least some?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): As the representative of Italy believes, we cannot envisage comprehensive agricultural mechanization throughout the Territory. Other African territories, after having tried to introduce comprehensive mechanization, have been forced to revert to more rudimentary implements because the agricultural machinery tended to exhaust rather too rapidly a topsoil which was not deep enough. We have planned, and have carried out, some mechanization of agricultural work among the peasantry where we have, for instance, the flat plain land in the Ruzizi area, where there are irrigation facilities and all the other necessary conditions. There we have used agricultural machinery in order to assist in the installation or the settling of new indigenous farmers. Whenever we have the opportunity to do so, we use machinery for this purpose.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): May I add that if the mechanization of cultivation work has limited opportunities, there are indeed broader opportunities for the mechanization of the processing of agricultural products, such as the shelling of the coffee beans, milling, and similar procedures. There, mechanization does produce good results.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I see in the Outline of Conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, prepared by the Secretariat, that part of the cotton, coffee and ore production of 1954 had not been exported. Does the special representative have any information as to why part of these products were not exported, and how they have been disposed of since 1954?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I can offer an answer as regards coffee. The 1954 coffee season was disastrous for exporters. The indigenous inhabitants sold their coffee for as high as 40 and 42 francs per kilogramme, and then, when the purchases from the indigenous inhabitants were completed, something happened in Brazil; coffee prices dropped vertiginously, and exporters -- at least, some imprudent exporters -- found themselves with vast quantities of coffee on hand for which they could only get

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25 francs per kilogramme. In other words, they lost about 15 francs per kilogramme. The exporters sat tight, but, of course, they were unable to get rid of their stocks, and at the end of the year they had to sell as best they could. By now the situation is normal again. There are no surplus stocks of coffee. The 1955 production was excellent; we had 15,600 tons in 1955 as against 9,000 in 1954, and the merchandizing of this will be normal, I am sure. The exporters, however, had received a sound beating and learned a good lesson.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): My next question concerns the budget. I see that about 17-1/2 per cent of the territorial revenue comes from indigenous taxes. Could the special representative throw some light on the nature of these taxes that are contributed to the state's revenues?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The major part of these taxes is comprised of the capitation tax, which applies to all male adult and fully able indigenous inhabitants. The amount of this tax is determined region by region according to an estimate of the resources of the region. To this capitation tax is added a tax on the additional wives of polygamous persons and a tax per head of cattle, not all of which are held by indigenous owners. There are some indigenous inhabitants whose income is more than 18,000 francs per annum -- a few hundred of them -- and as such they are exempt from the capitation tax. They pay either a personal tax or an income tax.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I see that chiefdoms have their own separate budgets. Could the special representative tell us the source of the revenues of the chiefdom budgets?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): The chiefdoms have, as their resources, principally the taxes which they collect from the inhabitants, together with the additional amounts to the taxes which, with the consent of the Mwami, they can establish. These might be called

surtaxes. These are the two principal sources of income of the chiefdoms. Information in this regard can be found on page 69, where it is stated that, in addition to these taxes, there is a tax on polygamists, and also a surtax which is paid into the administrative budget of these circonscriptions. It cannot exceed 40 per cent of the amount of the tax. In 1953 it was fixed at 30 per cent of the principal tax -- that is, the personal tax.

These, as I have said, are the two principal sources of revenue or income for the chiefdoms. There would be, in addition, the revenue from the collecting of fines, etc., by the courts in the chiefdoms. Articles 54 to 60 of the decree of 14 July 1952 mention as resources for the chiefdoms the taxes due from the indigenous inhabitants: additional amounts of surtaxes, judicial receipts and, as accessory resources, the subsidies allowed by the budget of Ruanda-Urundi, inheritance tax, etc. These are rather rare, however.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): In the Trust Territory there is a government institution which has been conducting experiments in processing. I think that this institution was interested in beeswax and banana beer. Can the special representative give us some information about the experiments carried out by this institution and about the results that have been achieved? Could he also tell us what processing industries are likely to be sponsored by the Administration?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The Office de valorisation des produits indigènes of Ruanda-Urundi seeks to improve the products of cultivation and cattle-raising. It deals with everything with the exception of coffee, since coffee, as is known, is dealt with by a special organization. As yet, the beeswax industry has not constituted a large source of revenue, but it has occasionally yielded some revenue. The question of indigenous beer production is still under study. As I said a while ago, the question of instituting sugar factories is being studied, and we are about to achieve results, as we are with meat-packing in connexion with the slaughter of excess cattle. In addition, we may also institute a tannery. However, so far the studies along this line have been a little disappointing, and the results have not been very promising. Those are the main activities of the Office de valorisation des produits indigènes.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): With regard to the budgets of the indigenous circonscriptions, the representative of India will find complete information on pages 401 and 402 of the annual report, which contain tables giving the sources of all receipts and the expenditures.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I thank the representative of Belgium for drawing my attention to these pages. I will look into them more carefully.

My last question is the following. Some time ago, when the Administration inaugurated the formation of coffee co-operatives in the Territory, there was a certain amount of opposition from the colons. Could the special representative tell us what is the present position?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The existing coffee co-operatives are prosperous and flourishing, more so than some of the others because agents of the Administration and Europeans direct and control their operation. We now envisage the establishment of a new co-operative in the Kisenyi area. Opposition from the colons continues, but we just disregard it very politely and they become accustomed to the idea.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I have no further questions to put, and I should like to thank the special representative for his replies. In relation to the question put by the representative of Italy about the mechanization of agriculture, I wonder whether mechanization of agriculture on any extensive scale is a good or a necessary thing, particularly in a region where the pressure of population on land is said to be the heaviest in Africa.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): Following the statement made by the representative of India about the mechanization of agriculture, I recall that last year the representative of Belgium referred to a technical mission which had studied the prospects of using in Ruanda-Urundi equipment which is standard in advanced agricultural practice in temperate zones. If I remember correctly, the results of this study were negative and it was found that the techniques could not, on the whole, be transplanted, for reasons which he explained at that time. I wonder whether, arising out of this mission's work, there have been any positive results. Since this was a technical mission, it might have devised some techniques more suited to conditions in Ruanda-Urundi.

As a second part to that question, is there any reason to believe that the physical conditions in Ruanda-Urundi are in any way unique compared with the conditions in neighbouring zones? My delegation has, of course, noted from the statement of the special representative that two pilot biological projects have been established, and we assume that these are related in some way to the earlier surveys.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): Inquiries undertaken some years ago by experts led to no practical innovations. The experts recognized the efforts made by the Belgian Administration, and, in general, reached the same conclusions as the Administration. The two pilot

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projects now functioning in Ruanda and Urundi were preceded, we must not forget, by the INEAC experimental stations in Kisosi in Urundi and in Rubona in Ruanda. Members of the Visiting Mission visited the experimental station at Rubona. INEAC has already done much good in producing seed grain and in suggesting improvements in methods of cultivation. However, in the present stage of our knowledge we are not in a position to look forward to revolutionary changes in the present cultivation methods.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): With regard to the question of reafforestation, the Trusteeship Council is well aware that for years the Administering Authority has had a very successful and most extensive reafforestation programme. I have two questions on this. First of all, I should like to know to what extent the indigenous councils play any part in the encouragement of this reafforestation policy. Secondly, I should like to know whether the Administration has found it desirable to carry on any publicity campaign of education in the need for replacing trees felled or destroyed, or whether the programme can continue successfully without such a campaign.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): This campaign for reforestation, like all campaigns in the agricultural field, requires constant propaganda and publicity from the Administration. If the agricultural experts and administration functionaries were not constantly with the chiefs and sub-chiefs, and if they did not constantly recall their duty to the indigenous inhabitant, it might be that we would end up with catastrophic results. But generally, a considerable change has taken place since the decree of 1952. Up to 1952 the European administration laid down a programme of work to be carried out by each indigenous inhabitant, and that work was done under the supervision of the chiefs. At the present time the Belgian administration limits itself to drawing up the general programme to be executed and it is the indigenous authorities themselves who are concerned with the details of the job. They distribute the various tasks; they organize the work. But the reforestation has been carried out along the same lines. This is now due to the initiative of the indigenous authorities. However, the two higher councils are convinced that such reforestation must be accomplished and the indigenous councils follow them very willingly.

At the present time I think that all of this reforestation work is no longer done by the indigenous inhabitants individually but by teams of workers paid through the chiefdom budgets, and this is becoming communal reforestation in each chiefdom.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I am sure that development must be encouraging to the Administration and also very welcome news for the Council. The last question I have is partly social, as well as economic. The special representative, in reply to an earlier question about taxes, referred to a tax on polygamy. I should like to ask, first, what is the aim of the tax on polygamy, and secondly, is the Administration satisfied that the purposes of this tax are clearly understood by those who pay the taxes?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French):

Essentially, the purpose of this task was social in nature. We sought to combat polygamy at a time when it was still fairly solidly anchored in the way of life of the people. Actually, since 1948 polygamy has been forbidden; which means that no second, etc. marriages, can any longer be contracted if the first marriage has not been dissolved. So that all that remains is old polygamous persons whose situation we could not obviously alter, since if we did try to do that we would have left many women completely bereft of support. Therefore, old polygamous homes have been left undisturbed. But they have to pay the tax. No new polygamous homes can be set up, at least officially.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): Following the question put a little while ago by the representative of Syria, on the development of co-operatives in 1954, may I ask the special representative whether he can give us some evidence of further progress in the development of the co-operative system in 1955. Could he describe to us what has happened during the last year.

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): No specially striking developments have occurred in this field in 1955 except that the coffee co-operatives have flourished. But may I repeat that co-operatives so far have only functioned well where Europeans were in charge of the management or in control of the management. The Administration is now organizing a new coffee-producers' co-operative in the Kisenyi region, which is in the northwest corner of the Territory, where the state of mind of the people seems to favour, in fact welcome, this idea.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): With regard to the curbing of cattle raising we have been pleased to learn that the Belgian administration has taken very drastic action towards that end. We have been especially pleased to note that two decrees were promulgated and carried into effect by the Mwami of Ruanda in 1954, which abolished the Ubugake system. We also note that a similar decree for the abolition of this system was under consideration by the Mwami of Urundi. Will the special representative tell us whether by this time this other decree has been put into effect?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French):

I find it a bit difficult to answer. The decree concerning Urundi has either already been promulgated or it is about to be promulgated any day. I cannot answer with certainty, but I know that it is about to enter into force. However, I cannot say with certainty that this has already been done. It may well have already been done. I may find this information in my papers, but I cannot promise it to the Council in the next few days. What I can tell the Council is that Urundi will surely follow the developments in Ruanda. It is simply a matter of drafting and adjusting the texts. It is not a matter of any opposition by the Mwami or indigenous authorities, not at all.

Mr. S. S. LIU (China): My next and last question relates to the system of trading centres, to which attention was devoted by the Council at the fifteenth session. In fact, the Council noted with satisfaction the facilities provided by the Administering Authority for the participation of indigenous persons in commerce, and expressed the hope that these activities would be enlarged by providing the inhabitants with greater credit facilities, training in accounting and business methods. Has there been any further development in this matter during 1955?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): In the field of commercial credit for the indigenous inhabitants, there has actually been no progress. This is due to the fact that people who could grant credit, the bankers, want collateral or considerable safeguards or some hope for profit. They do not find such safeguards among the indigenous inhabitants.

As far as the State is concerned, it has focused its efforts on the granting of credits for indigenous housing improvement loans. But there again credits for commercial operations under present conditions appear to be well outside the realm of possibility.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): My first question is of a budgetary nature. In the report, I have examined the tables showing the budgetary situation year by year, and I see that an evolution has been taking place: an increase in receipts and an increase in expenditures. In these two facts, we must see some consequence of the Administration's actions. An increase in receipts is a consequence of the improvement of the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants, an increase in their purchasing power and an increase in their ability to pay taxes. But the development of administrative action and the establishment of hospitals, dispensaries and schools and the improvement of production brings about an increase in expenditures.

The result of this double evolution makes the budget run the risk of sometimes having a deficit. The situation generally looks excellent, but sometimes immediate solutions are required.

The question which I wish to put to the special representative is as follows: How is the budgetary deficit made up? I believe that the Belgian Treasury furnishes advances without interest so as to supply the extraordinary budget. But how about the ordinary budget? I understand that Ruanda-Urundi does have financial reserves. On page 62 of the report we see a table showing the portfolio of holdings of Ruanda-Urundi, and I believe that funds can be taken from that reserve. But there may be other means of overcoming this deficit. Does the Administration envisage making up these deficits in the ordinary budget?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The situation is precisely as presented by the representative of France. The present regular budgets have a deficit which we fill out of reserves from past budgets. This allows us to balance the budget. As far as the extraordinary budget is concerned, since 1953, Belgium has voted every year as a subsidy an interest-free loan of 400 million francs. As to whether the Belgian Government wishes to or envisages subsidizing Ruanda-Urundi in such a manner as to enable it in the future to balance its budgets, it is quite beyond the competence of the special representative to say. I am unable to answer.

Mr. BANGUES (France) (interpretation from French): The report of the Administering Authority indicates that the energy consumed by the population is furnished by six power plants -- three hydroelectric plants and three thermal plants which use fossil fluids imported from the Belgian Congo. Under the ten-year plan, however, a new power plant was to be built. It will, I think, be completed next year. It appears that this plant will be a substantial one since the report speaks of 20,000 installed kilowatts.

The price of industrial power furnished by this Ruzizi plant will be no more than one franc per kilowatt, which, I should say, would open up remarkable opportunities. But the problem also arises as to how this electric current will be used. I ask this question because the problem also arose in French-administered Territories, especially in the Cameroons under French administration. Domestic consumption can only increase fairly slowly, and therefore industrial uses arise. Industrial uses are of particular interest in this case since, as I have indicated and as the report indicates, the sales price of the electric power will be very low and thus very attractive. Has the Administering Authority looked into this problem? Does the Administering Authority plan to use the power output of the Ruzizi plant for industrial purposes? I ask these questions because the special representative, in his introductory statement, spoke rather sketchily about the problems facing the Administering Authority in the industrialization of the Territory.

Mr. IEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I regret that I am compelled to be rather less optimistic one year after the drafting of the 1954 report than I was when the report was written. The Ruzizi can surely produce abundant electric power, far more than the Territory can hope to consume. Unquestionably the Administration has also intended to furnish electric power for industry, and industrialists have told us that they would move into the Territory once abundant and cheap electric power became available.

The Administration of Ruanda-Urundi, however, is in the hands of the experts at the moment. Doves of experts have come to study the situation on the spot. Some are in favour of building this power plant under the open sky; others want tunnels; and others say that the building of this plant is unreasonable on account of leakages involved in the transport of electric power. They want a smaller power plant there and other power plants in other places.

All these experts, as far as we are concerned, are equally competent. They are all supposed to be competent. We do not know any better, and we find ourselves in a rather difficult quandry. We hope that light will come from Brussels.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): If it will console the special representative, I would tell him that the hesitations of the experts and their difficulty in reaching some agreement does not only occur in Ruanda-Urundi. Generally speaking, with regard to industrialization, I note that there are some industrial establishments in the Territory. There are some mechanical or engineering industries, there are some cement plants, there are some weaving plants etc. The industrial plant, however, is rather rudimentary. At the outset of industrialization, what is usually envisaged is the processing of agricultural products or of what is extracted from the subsoil. There may be box factories and canning factories; there may be beer plants and cigarette plants, factories for local consumption, and also factories for the processing of imported fossil fuels like petroleum.

Is Ruanda-Urundi now economically dependent on the Belgian Congo or on neighbouring foreign territories, or can Ruanda-Urundi act on its own resources at present? Is there some industrialization programme which the local authorities have laid down in a more or less comprehensive manner?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): I have already had occasion to note the direction in which the efforts for the industrialization of the Territory run. To what I said before I may add, along the line of thought of the representative of France, that a beer manufacturing industry has been inaugurated in Ruanda-Urundi. Unfortunately, the factory was inaugurated the day I left for New York so I missed the ceremony.

As far as other industries are concerned, there is the processing of agricultural products, coffee and cotton. So far we have no industry which carries out the secondary processing of such products, the processing one step further.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I read with great interest the passages of the report relating to the activities of the geological and mining services. The compiling of the geological map is almost completed,

and the ten-year plan also envisages extending mining prospecting activity. Does the special representative have some information as to the hopes and projects which seem to be indicated on the basis of the prospecting done so far? I am thinking of the great successes of mining activities in the Belgian Congo which should be a beacon of shining hope in Ruanda-Urundi. Could the special representative give us some information as to the possibilities or opportunities indicated by researches made so far either through the operation of public authorities or of private initiative?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative)(interpretation from French): Many things are possible in prospecting for minerals, but up to the present time prospecting has not yielded much success. Since 1954, the year under review, prospecting under the ten-year plan was concentrated in a block located to the west of Usumbura. The prospecting went on during most of 1955. Soundings and other work was done, but negative results were the only thing we obtained. It seems that the subsoil is not very rich. We hope that unexpected discoveries may occur from one day to the next, but nothing has really come of it.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): This is regrettable because positive results would have balanced the economy of the Territory better, but of course hopes should not be given up. The rapid development of technology may of course render profitable minerals that may have been neglected.

My next question is somewhat different in nature. I read in the report that considerable efforts had been made for ameliorating cattle raising and that these efforts have been successful. The report speaks of the setting up of production centres, of slaughter houses, of markets where the cattle are sold on the hoof or in quarters. This is an important resource for the economy of the Territory. I suppose that here, as in all other matters -- and this is a problem which I will raise myself in connexion with my next question -- a problem arises, and that is the problem of the merchandising of the products. Cattle raising may give excellent results in Ruanda-Urundi. That is true, but there are places where sleeping sickness is endemic or epidemic, and where the population finds it difficult to get enough food. Leopoldville, for example,

(Mr. Barges, France)

used to get its food, its meat, from Angola and Brazzaville got it from the Cameroons. Brazzaville now gets meat from the Chad, but I do not know how Leopoldville is supplied now. Have there been plans for exporting meat through modern means and facilities so as to utilize and market the meat which may be available as a result of the encouragement of cattle raising and cattle slaughtering which the Administration has so laudably undertaken in the Territory?

Mr. LEROY (Special representative) (interpretation from French): This is one of the points under study by the Office de Valorisation des Produits indigènes. We should like to set up a meat industry and we may wish to establish some type of market outlet for the meat.

I should like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the Barundi and the Bahyarwanda at the present time eat very little meat. If we could convince them to eat at least a certain amount of meat, then this meat surplus would be rapidly eliminated and the question of exporting meat would not arise. Near Ruanda-Urundi is the Belgian Congo, where there are scarcely any cattle. Thus, the meat surplus might very well be exported in that direction.

The PRESIDENT: As it is almost 6 o'clock I propose to adjourn the meeting and the first speaker at our meeting on Monday will be the representative of France. Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to inform the Council that the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions will meet Monday, 13 February, at 10.30 a.m., in Conference Room 7.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.