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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ELEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 22 June 1960, at 3 p.m.

President:

Examination of annual reports of Administering Authorities on  
the administration of Trust Territories: Ruanda-Urundi /32/  
(continued)

Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories  
in East Africa, 1960: Ruanda-Urundi /5a/ (continued)

Examination of the possibility of sending a United Nations  
observers group to supervise the elections to be held in June 1960  
in Ruanda-Urundi /12/ (continued)

Plans of political reform for the Trust Territory of  
Ruanda-Urundi /16/ (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record,  
will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the  
symbol T/SR.1123 and will be subject to representatives' corrections.  
It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3a, 5a, 12 and 16

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: RUANDA-URUNDI (T/1461, 1495, 1536, 1540, 1543; T/L.985, L.992; T/PET.3/L.10 to L.34; T/COM.3/L.26, 27, 29 to 38) (continued):  
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN EAST AFRICA, 1960: RUANDA-URUNDI (T/1538) (continued);  
EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS GROUP TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN JUNE 1960 IN RUANDA-URUNDI (continued);  
PLANS OF POLITICAL REFORM FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1419 (XIV)) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Reisdorff, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, took a place at the Council table.

Economic, social and educational advancement (continued)

The PRESIDENT: We shall continue the questioning of the Special Representative in the economic, social and educational fields.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): At this morning's meeting I asked two questions about land tenure in the Territory, and I think this problem must be considered an important one, in the light of the report of the Visiting Mission.

As I said this morning, I believe that the economic and political development of the Territory depends to a great extent on the policy adopted in regard to the system of land tenure. This morning I asked a very simple question, which is still pending, and I shall repeat it. I would ask the Special Representative whether he thinks the present system of land tenure is fair and just? This is surely a very simple question.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I shall clarify my thinking on this matter in replying to this question. The present system of land tenure is one which corresponded to the stage of social development in Ruanda-Urundi, which is admittedly now out of date.

(Mr. Reisdorff,  
Special Representative)

Therefore, we should introduce land tenure reforms in accordance with the present system.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (in interpretation from Spanish): This reply is satisfactory; this is what I wished the Special Representative to say. I wanted him to say whether the Administering Authority considers that these reforms are necessary. This would, of course, help to clarify the position of my delegation with regard to this problem and I now come to the second question which is also very simple.

Does the Special Representative wish to comment with regard to the recommendations of the Visiting Mission about the possibility of forming a working party of experts in the Territory and Belgian jurists? This recommendation is made in paragraph 493. To make it easier for him to reply, I can read out this paragraph. I consider it important and I shall read it aloud in English:

(Continued in English):

"The conclusions of the Working Group were that the laws governing land tenure, which are the very basis of the life of every person in Ruanda and in Urundi, have been severely shaken by the development which those communities have undergone. Custom has become unsettled and erratic; faith in judgements has been deeply affected and the fact that a large majority of the judges belong to the dominant race (Tutsi) has only aggravated the situation. The High Councils of the States have been considering reforms but, despite their efforts, have not succeeded in reaching conclusions. It is therefore necessary, in the Working Group's opinion, to establish without further delay a preparatory committee composed of African judicial officers, assisted by Belgian jurists, whose task would be to prepare draft land legislation consistent with the demands of progress.

(Continued in Spanish):

Paragraph 494 reads as follows:

(Continued in English):

"Since the November disturbances, the question of the necessary changes in the land tenure system has become even more urgent; the present position represents an obstacle to lasting peace in the country and impedes the rational utilization of land, without which agriculture and stock-breeding cannot properly develop."

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(Continued in Spanish):

Nothing can be more clear and more specific than the suggestion made by the Visiting Mission. Now, I should like to ask the Special Representative to comment with regard to the suggestions of the Visiting Mission.

Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

These views accord with those of the Administering Authority; even before the report of the Visiting Mission became available in Ruanda-Urundi, I had occasion to say that the question of forming a study group of customs, in the general sense, had been considered; and that the view was supported that two groups were necessary at the present moment. Certainly, the Administering Authority will revise -- in the light of the Mission's report -- its own ideas about the study and the means of changing the land tenure system. However, I can say straightaway that I can assure the representative of Bolivia that these concerns have predominance with the Administration and that it will study and propose reforms, some of which have recently been applied. After the study of the regional measures, we shall have to come to decisive steps and, in the long run, this will be a matter for the representative councils of the people themselves when they have been elected.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): In the report of the Visiting Mission, paragraph 492 contains the statement in the third sentence of the paragraph that no one in the Territory has confidence in the High Council of Ruanda. This sentence reads:

(Continued in English):

"They have contended that the High Council of Ruanda is neither objective nor competent in land matters; being composed almost exclusively of Tutsi, it is, in their view, a party to the delicate issues of which it is also a judge."

(Continued in Spanish):

Now, my question is very simple. Should a land reform programme be proposed, would it be a special commission or simply the legislative commission established in the Territory which will have to carry out this study?

Mr. REISDORFF (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The High Council of Ruanda has come to the end of its term of office, as has the Council in Urundi. It is replaced, in its duties, by the special provisional commission of Ruanda which consists of two representatives of the political parties. The question of knowing how the land commission is to be composed is a question which prejudices the future. However, in principle it is certain that the political parties will be represented so that all sections of the population will be able to make known their views and to defend their interests. Therefore, this commission will normally consist of representatives of the population, as well as technicians and specialists in land tenure.

Once again, this is a personal opinion which I am expressing; it is logical, but it prejudices the intentions of the Administering Authority and the representative of Bolivia must consider this as a personal statement which appears logical.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to thank the Special Representative for his explanation. I agree that at this stage of the debate with regard to this problem, his opinion can only be a personal one. But, in any case, before concluding my intervention, I wish to make one short statement.

I have the impression that in the political development of Ruanda-Urundi, this problem is vitally important. On some occasions, the Administering Authorities, in respecting the fundamental principles of the Charter, have taken account of the necessity of ensuring the progress of the Territories and of respect for the fundamental rights of man; each Administering Authority has done so in the respective Territory under its domain. With a view to the possibility of exercising its constructive power, each Administering Authority can do something to approach extremes, but with regard to land distribution I have the impression that the Administering Authority has, for forty years, been almost passive or the development was at a slow pace in regard to this problem -- in accordance with what I have noted from the report of the Visiting Mission. The development of the Territory is now rapid; there is very little time remaining. I think that this is the opinion of the Special Representative. Basically, I think that we must have consultations with the various political forces in the Territory, but would this delay the Administering Authority with

(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

regard to land tenure, which has still not reached Ruanda-Urundi? One specific mission of the Administering Authority is to establish the law; this is one principle. In any case, I am very satisfied with the replies of the Special Representative because I note that, in this matter, the Administering Authority is prepared to consider this problem. I have no further questions.



The PRESIDENT: If there are no other questions, before I give the floor to the representative of Belgium, I would ask the representative of WHO to make his statement.

Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization): The representative of Burma referred this morning to the detailed observations on health conditions in Ruanda-Urundi which were submitted by WHO to the last session of the Council in document T/1461 and which I will draw to the Council's attention. Since the 1958 report of the Administering Authority was written before the observations of WHO were published, and does not therefore take into account the suggestions made by WHO, which are still valid, it has not been considered that any useful purpose would be served by presenting a paper to the present session of the Council. I should like, however, with your indulgence to make a few brief observations on the 1958 report.

The World Health Organization has studied with much interest the 1958 report and would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the health authorities on the many marks of progress which have been reflected throughout the report. One example is the development of the rural health services, with the building of three new district hospitals and sixteen rural dispensaries, and the considerable extension of the rural water supplies, in which a most outstanding contribution is being made by the Administration to the Territory's development.

Some progress is also evident in the matter of staff for the medical and health services. It is encouraging to note particularly the progressive increase in the numbers of medical assistants and nurses. With regard to the nurses, for example, the success of the training programme is making itself felt both in the substantially increased numbers of registered nurses -- twenty more in 1958 than in 1957 -- and in certified nurse-aides -- an increase of ten in 1958 over 1957 -- as well as in the growing number of trainee nurses, of whom there were ninety-one in 1958 compared with some sixty-two in 1957, and only sixteen in 1953. In view of the extreme importance of training fully qualified professional staff from among the indigenous population -- which, as you will recall, we have stressed in our previous document to this Council -- it is noted with great interest that a medical student from Ruanda-Urundi

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is studying at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris, and that five girls from Ruanda-Urundi are studying at the Nursing School attached to the Lovanium University in the Belgian Congo. It is hoped sincerely that their example will be followed to an increasing extent, as the number of young men and women with secondary school education increases. It is also hoped that the Department of Preventive Medicine will soon be opened at the Lovanium University and that every effort will be made to provide opportunities for medical students from Ruanda-Urundi to take this public health course, so that they may return to work in the public health administration of Ruanda-Urundi.

New developments in the control of communicable diseases include a considerable extension in the scope of the campaign against tuberculosis and of many of the vaccination programmes. This was already referred to by the Special Representative, particularly in the case of poliomyelitis, as well as the increasing use of ambulatory treatment for such diseases as tuberculosis and leprosy. The long-standing control programmes -- such as those against trypanosomiasis and yaws -- also continue to show encouraging results. There are indications that these originally separate control campaigns are being integrated very gradually into the general health services, but it is hoped that even more determined efforts will be made in this direction, thus effecting economies in both staff and budget, and increasing the efficiency of the services.

In this connexion, I would refer again to the suggestion made by the World Health Organization in the document submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Council, concerning the desirability of planning the integration of curative and preventive health services through the initial establishment of a demonstration and training centre on a pilot basis. In response to the interest evinced in this matter by the representative of the Administering Authority at the twenty-fourth session of the Council, documentation on the planning and organization of such pilot areas has already been sent to the health authorities of Ruanda-Urundi, and -- as mentioned before -- WHO would be very happy indeed to give assistance in this matter, if so requested by the Administration.



Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The petitioner whom we have heard, Mr. Rwagasana, has made a general statement which, apart from the assertions which are unjustified, contains others which are insinuations or tendentious. He is a politician and it is quite normal that he should act in this way. I do not intend to give -- nor can I give during this brief reply -- a detailed answer to the various statements of the petitioner. I shall consider certain precise matters which can be explained, but I cannot refute gratuitous affirmations, and it should be noted, moreover, that the majority of the events which he has stated from his point of view -- for which I do not criticize him however -- have been treated in detail in the ample report of the Visiting Mission, which is in some ways different from the point of view of the petitioner. I shall quote an example -- the question of refugees. The Visiting Mission described the situation -- I refer the members of the Council to that section of the report. Mr. Rwagasana, for his part, had another idea and he quoted figures of refugees, all members of UNAR, according to him, in Uganda -- around 52,000, I believe. My colleague from the United Kingdom was sceptical about this, as indeed I was.

Mr. Rwagasana, with regard to the communal elections, calls them confidential and hasty. The documents submitted to the Visiting Mission are sufficiently clear on this point; the elections are not too hasty. They have been planned for many months -- six months at least. Very complete instructions have been regularly distributed to all inhabitants to inform them of electoral procedures, and of their rights and the freedoms they will have, so that they can vote for the candidate of their choice, and measures to be taken to ensure a secret ballot. These measures are perhaps what Mr. Rwagasana described as confidential. In any event, these elections will be held, and they have been demanded insistently by all political parties, except UNAR. They have not been hastily prepared. The election campaign has been going on for some time already, as the Special Representative has said.

Since 1 June, measures taken to guarantee public order have been relaxed to allow freedom of meeting and, to some extent, of movement. This relaxation applied to all meetings connected with the electoral campaign. Mr. Rwagasana, mentioned particularly in his statement that the Administration is arbitrarily opposed to all meetings of UNAR and that all those caught at its meetings are imprisoned or are put in a concentration camp at Nyamata.

There are only condemned persons in prison in Ruanda-Urundi, persons condemned for crimes such as plundering, arson, torture and murder, and there are no concentration camps in the Territory. Mr. Rwagasana alludes to the camp at Nyamata as a concentration camp. It is not a concentration camp but a centre for people who cannot, for the moment, go back to their own regions.

The report of the Visiting Mission makes note of visits which it made to this camp and I am happy to read to the Council the opinion expressed by the Belgian Commission on Human Rights, consisting of Mr. Aronstein, the Secretary-General of this Commission, and Mr. Gofin, a lawyer from Brussels, who is the representative of the Commission in Ruanda-Urundi. They actually visited the camp, during February, and this is what they said about it:

"The Administration is at present installing in the Territory of Bugesera, Tutsi who have been expelled from their farms in the north western part of Ruanda, especially from the Ruhengeri area. Various people have told us that this was a compulsory measure. We visited the place when a group of 1,200 refugees had arrived in the Territory. There were, at the time we visited there, about 5,000 refugees installed there. We interviewed a certain number of persons and, in particular, the Administrator of the Territory, a Mr. Ducène, who is responsible for this operation. We received no complaints; we did not personally note any restrictions. On the other hand, accommodations, on a provisional basis, seemed to us to be satisfactory, in view of local circumstances. Mr. Ducène achieved, by persuasion and by the personal relationships which he maintains with the refugees, the most favourable results."

I can continue, quoting from the provisions decided upon by the Resident of Ruanda, mentioned in his letter of 4 December 1959, when he was called upon to define the purposes of the directive concerning the welcoming of refugees. I quote from this letter:

"The centre for refugees was organized so as to welcome, provisionally, voluntary refugees, and to allow them every possible freedom to take advantage of these provisions, as needed. The welcoming centre at Nyamata gives the refugees adequate material benefits, which we are striving to improve. They receive abundant food; they are well housed and all attentions necessary for their particular situation are provided. The Government is doing everything possible to facilitate the final resettlement of voluntary refugees in areas where they can be received, especially in the Bugesera area."

I shall continue to read -- I apologize for speaking in a rather disjointed and disorderly fashion, but I am attempting to follow, more or less, what the petitioner said. Still referring to the examples which he gave us to put forward the idea that the Administering Authority has been discriminatory in its policy towards the members of UNAR, including those who merely sympathize with them, the petitioner quoted the following example: "A student was immediately thrown into prison -- one who had just come to visit us."

Now I know of one case concerning a student whom the Administering Authority has, in fact, put into prison. This student, who was from the University of Brussels, was, at the time of the trouble, in the Territory, and he was implicated in a case of arbitrary arrest and torture. He was sentenced to -- I think -- two years of penal servitude on a charge of torture.

The petitioner also claimed that judgements given in the courts of Ruanda-Urundi, and in the special court appointed to deal with the accumulation of cases from November, were confidential, and that the Press refused to publish them. With regard to the publication of these decisions by the Press, I do not know on what facts this assertion is based. There is nothing confidential about them, they are not at all secret, they are published, and the Visiting Mission itself has, I am sure, received large numbers of copies. It has received communications from all the courts from which it wished to receive them, in

particular the judgement given in the case of the President of UNAR, Mr. François Rukuba. This has been stated by the petitioner as being a secret judgement, and he does not seem to know what the result was. He can obtain this from the Secretary here, if he so wishes, I believe. This judgement against the President of UNAR -- there were forty-two accusations and I think he was acquitted of some, and the total sentence on the other counts, on which he was found guilty, amounted to six years of penal servitude.

I come now to the question of the participation of UNAR in the preliminary consultation at Brussels. I think the representative of France has asked the Belgian delegation to explain exactly what happened. I have given complete information on this point in my previous statement and therefore I can only repeat that the delegation of UNAR, as were the delegations of all other political parties, was invited to the Brussels consultation and, in fact, the UNAR delegation agreed to attend. It was only a few days before departure -- on 27 May -- that the representatives appointed by UNAR itself, who were the members of UNAR in the Provisional Council of the State, refused to join the group.

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UNAR was therefore invited to this consultation with members of all the parties; these members were appointed by the president of the provisional special council of the State.

The representative of India, I believe, asked for information about a telegram sent by the president or temporary president of UNAR which was read by the Special Representative. Mr. Rwagasana contested the authenticity of this text. The Belgian delegation evidently had no knowledge of the exchanges of views within UNAR itself both before and after the transmission of this text -- it was not a telegram, it was a letter. All that the Belgian delegation can say here is that the message was in fact sent and was signed by the president of UNAR, Mr. Rutsindintuwarane.

The representative of India also asked for clarification about comments made by the petitioner which claimed that the Resident of Ruanda tried, by communications, to ridicule the conclusions of the Visiting Mission's report. Mr. Rwagasana even read part of Communiqué 12 of 8 April 1960. I can do no better than read this text in full, as well as the text of the previous communiqué, which is necessary in order to make the matter comprehensible to members of the Council. First, I shall read communiqué 10 of 21 March 1960:

"The communiqué which I am sending you today unfortunately must note further disorders in two districts of Ruanda. I regret profoundly that I must again speak of disorders, as since 23 November, the date of my previous communiqué to the population, there have been no further cases of disorder.

"In the territory of Byumba, in the chiefdoms of Ruberuka, Rukiga, Buyaga and Ndorwa, some Banyaruanda began to fight among themselves; some expelled others and seized their property. This took place on 5 March and again on 9 March" -- this was the time of the arrival of the Visiting Mission in the Territory.

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"In the territory of Gitarama, on Sunday 13 March, people who had come to welcome the representatives of the United Nations proceeding from Gitarama to Kigali, attacked administration and police officers with sticks and stones. In these two districts there were killed and wounded.

"The incidents in the district of Gitarama were caused by an excited crowd, many of whom were drunk.

"I wish to speak particularly today of the events at Byumba because they have again set one part of the population against another, Hutu against Tutsi. As has been admitted each time these incidents take place in the State -- in Byumba as elsewhere -- a series of rumours has been circulated to frighten the population and to lead to the commission of acts which would not normally be committed.

"The cause of the troubles seemed to be pamphlets from émigré Banyarwanda in Uganda signed by 'the Banyarwanda in Uganda'. In these pamphlets, the independence of Ruanda for the month of May was announced; the departure of the local authorities was noted; it was stated that the chiefs and sub-chiefs had been dismissed without any proper reason; that the Hutu had incited the disturbances in November. The population was advised to make all this known to the United Nations Visiting Mission, which had come, according to the pamphlets, at the request of Rwagasana.

"Excited by these communications from abroad, certain Tutsi in the Territory exploited these lies, giving the impression that the United Nations had come to replace the former authority. They went about in small groups, seeking to intimidate the Hutu farmers, promising the return to dominance of the Tutsi.

"At Ruhunde, on 5 March, the inhabitants drove the Tutsi from the hills. This was only the beginning, and on 9 March, between 5 and 10 in the morning, thousands of Hutus expelled practically all the Tutsi from the three chiefdoms of Rukigan, Buberuka and Ndorwa.



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"In November, the Hutu of Ruhengeri plundered, they said, on orders from the Mwami; this time the Hutu of Byumba pretended to act in the name of the Administration. When this was known, everything was finished and there were only a few plunderers left.

"Investigations are in progress to discover those who are really guilty. They will be brought before the courts. The police are on the spot to prevent any further disturbances and have protected certain neighbouring chiefdoms where bands sought to enter.

"Once again" -- the Resident continues -- "I would ask all Banyarwanda to cease having recourse to such methods in order to solve their problems. A few days ago, the heads of all political parties made a joint declaration in which they made the same request. They condemned all provocations, intimidation and violence.

"Rumours must not be spread among the population to disturb them; others are asked to remain calm and not to prejudice their cause by using violence.

"In a few months you will elect your representatives and, through them, your sub-chiefs. These elections will give you representatives who will resolve, with the Administering Authority, the questions which concern you. These elections will allow all sections of the population to be represented and to discuss together the desirable solutions. Each one has the right to live and the right to defend his own ideas and make them known to his adversaries. By group discussions representing different interests, the points of view of all can be reconciled. This will not be achieved by intimidation, menaces or violence, which all lead to thoughts of revenge, dissatisfaction, disappointment or fear."

The next communiqué, distributed throughout the population of the Territory, made known to the population the entire text of the final communiqué of the Visiting Mission, published before it left Ruanda-Urundi.

(Mr. Claeys Bouúaert, Belgium)

Communique No. 12, which was read in part by Mr. Rwagasana, is as follows -- this is a translation of the proclamation and therefore perhaps is not in the same style as official documents in other circles; we must remember that the people to whom these communiques are addressed are the Banyaruanda.

"Last month was marked by the visit of the United Nations Mission.

"In Communique No. 11, which was made especially for that, you have been able to read the statement of the United Nations representatives on the eve of their departure.

"Today, I should like to point out again the difference between those interested in the welfare of Ruanda and those who are trying to cause trouble in order to satisfy their personal ambitions or their rancour. Vain rumours never realized cannot be the basis of the future of the country. This future can only be based on the agreement of people of goodwill trying to solve their common problems together.

"In the months of January and February, pamphlets from abroad made many promises about the arrival of the United Nations Mission. These promises were repeated and spread throughout Ruanda by excited people who intimidated and sought to inspire fear among the population in order to control them.

"The United Nations Mission had still not left when these people began their propaganda again to the effect that all the promises that were made would never be followed by concrete results.

"The United Nations Mission arrived on 2 March and left on 1 April.

"Have the people who were sentenced by the Court Martial been liberated?

"Have the new interim sub-chiefs and chiefs been replaced by the former ones?

"Have the refugees who fled from justice come back to Ruanda?

"Has the immediate independence which was promised by these false prophets been granted?

"Have all those who were supposed to leave the country left?

"I shall not reply to all these questions. It is sufficient to ask them and all the Banyaruanda will know the reply. They know who is telling

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the truth. They no longer believe those who make all these promises which will never be carried out.

"On the contrary, we tell you, for example, that 'the United Nations Mission is coming to note the progress made, to see those who wish to speak to it and to make a report after its journey'; 'all the Banyaruanda, whatever their beliefs, can see the Mission and say what they think'.

"Is what we told you before the arrival of the Mission not strictly true? Throughout Ruanda, the people demonstrated freely except when it was asked that demonstrations should not take place.

"Has anyone prevented the 8,000 people of Nyanza or the 30,000 people of Gitarama from speaking? Has anyone stopped the UNAR members at Kibungo from crying 'Independence' and the PARHEHUTU members in Ruhengeri from crying 'Democracy' and 'Republic'?

"The Banyaruanda will understand now where the truth lies and which are the false promises.

"And those who want disorder to reign know it also. In several places, were the people not led to believe that they could not read our communiques, that they would have to tear them up? Are they so afraid of the truth? We have never said to the Banyaruanda that they could not read the pamphlets which contained all these promises. On the contrary, we know that in reading them, in comparing them and thinking about them the Banyaruanda will understand where their interest lies and where the danger is.

"There will always be extremists who will try to poison the political climate of the country, but there are also in the population a vast majority who are trying to achieve positive results, to bring about an understanding between all the Banyaruanda, to arrive at solutions which are in the common interest.

"It is towards the latter that the Banyaruanda are now turning, tired as they are of having been so long deceived by those who refuse to understand and those who sow fear in order to harvest disorder.

"In all parts of the country, it is understood that those who believed the false promises and have now been deceived are seeking trustworthy leaders and are breaking away from the extremists who deceived them.

"In all the parties, there are people ready to serve for the good of Ruanda. It is to these that the Banyaruanda, who no longer believe in the false promises, are turning."

Still as regards freedom of information and communiques issued by the Administering Authority for the population, I can further stress as an example that Communique No. 1 of UNAR, signed by the Secretary-General of the party -- a communique sent also to the United Nations in the form of a communication -- was disseminated in its entirety to the population through Rudipresse. I recall that this communique expressed in particular the decision of the Secretary-General of UNAR to prohibit members of the UNAR party from taking part in the elections.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Rwagasana states, with regard to the imprisonment of certain leaders of UNAR, that everyone knows very well that the members of UNAR who were condemned, were condemned because of their complaints against the Administration. I must say quite simply that no one has ever been condemned for criticizing the Administration. No condemnation of this type has been made, the only ones being for infractions of the common law.

The petitioner also refers to the interference of Belgian soldiers in politics. I wish to say that soldiers are not at all concerned with politics. They only seek to maintain public order. The only people belonging to the Administration who have contact with the population are the civil servants of the Administration. The only soldier who has a double post and is also in charge of the Administration is the Special Resident, Colonel Logiest, who is at present on detachment from the army and is provincial commissioner in the civil administration. The military forces are necessary to guarantee public order and prevent disturbances. To ensure public order before the elections, the Special Resident has pointed out that from 1 June, restrictions on freedom of assembly and freedom of movement were enforced for all parties wishing to organize pre-electoral meetings.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

I may say that UNAR has in fact already held several such meetings.

I should also like to speak on a further detail mentioned by the petitioner in his reply to a question of U Tin Maung. This should be clarified. Mr. Rwagasana stated, speaking of the imprisonment of other political leaders of other parties, that none of the leaders of the three parties is in prison, even though official allegations recognize that the bloody disturbances were organized by the sub-chief Mbonyumutwa and that he is now a member of the Provisional Council.

An attempt was made against sub-chief Mbonyumutwa which was the cause of the disturbances in November. This does not mean, as it was stated by the petitioner, that the disturbances were created by the sub-chief Mbonyumutwa. This is far from the truth.

I believe that I have replied in substance to the main points which were made in the statement of Mr. Rwagasana, those points which required rectification in our opinion. If some members of the Council would like to raise further questions, I am at their disposal.

The PRESIDENT: Do any other members of the Council wish to ask for further clarification from the representative of Belgium?

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): Many delegations here, I am sure, are hopeful that a national reconciliation can take place between UNAR on the one side and PARMEHUTU and APROSOMA on the other side. My brief question at this moment will be in the interest of trying to get at the facts so that we can further promote the encouragement of national reconciliation, without which I personally do not believe the Trust Territory can survive for long without a good deal of violence.

The reason for my delay in asking the question is that it might have been answered and I did not get it. My question is this: Why is Mr. Rwagasana, one of the primary leaders of UNAR, subject to arrest if he touches on Belgian soil or returns to his home country of Ruanda?

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): So far as the Belgian delegation knows, no verdict has been delivered against Mr. Rwagasana. I do not, however, have cognizance of the files of the

(Mr. Claeys Boumaert, Belgium)

prosecutor of Usumbura. I do not know what accusations have been made against Mr. Rwagasana; I cannot therefore express myself on the subject of what has been stated by Mr. Rwagasana, that is, that if he returns to Ruanda-Urundi he will be arrested. He must know this better than I.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I see clearly the very human difficulty with which the Belgian representative is confronted as he does not have those files. But, if I recall correctly, last night Mr. Rwagasana said that on his way to appear here as a petitioner he was given to understand that if he touched on Belgian soil he would be subject to arrest and for that reason he came to the United States via Paris. I will not press it further, but the point I am trying to make here can be seen. Here is one of the primary leaders of UNAR, a man without whom many of us, I think, believe there can be no national reconciliation, and he does not dare go back. I will not press it further because the representative of Belgium has said that he simply does not possess the information. I merely made the comment to show the kind of interest I personally take in the hope that something can be done to get this idea of national reconciliation onto the tracks. I thank the representative of Belgium very much for his very frank and fair reply.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no other observations and no further business on our agenda for today we shall adjourn. I would draw attention of members to the tentative time-table which has been distributed today and to the items appearing on it for tomorrow. Two meetings are scheduled for tomorrow and we shall therefore meet again at 10.30 tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.