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**Chairman:** Miss Angie BROOKS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 49

**Question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi: report of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi (A/5126 and Add.1; A/C.4/516 and Add.1-4) (continued)**

1. Mr. GASSOU (Togo), Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi, replying to questions asked by the representatives of Nigeria and the United Arab Republic at the 1307th meeting, pointed out that the pressing economic and financial problems confronting Rwanda and Burundi were dealt with in chapter VI of the report of the United Nations Commission (A/5126). Apart from long-term considerations, Rwanda and Burundi would have to face complex and urgent problems immediately on achieving independence. In order to solve the most serious problems, the two States would need special assistance over and above what could be given under the existing assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Commission had therefore appealed to the Member States to establish a special fund to cover at least some of the most pressing needs, in the form of an emergency fund, the terms and conditions of which would be settled by the General Assembly. At the present stage it would be difficult to anticipate the scope and duration of the fund, but he was in a position to provide certain data which would give the Committee some idea of the magnitude of the problems facing Rwanda and Burundi.

2. With regard to the need for foreign experts and technicians, it was estimated that a minimum of 350 to 400 would be required to maintain essential services. That estimate included military technicians and instructors. If by agreement between the two Governments and Belgium a substantial number of Belgian experts and technicians were retained, and if Belgium agreed to finance them, United Nations participation in that field could be correspondingly reduced. It was not yet possible, however, to foresee how many Belgian experts and technicians would remain in Ruanda-Urundi after independence. The figure of 200 had been mentioned unofficially; if that figure was correct the international bodies would have to finance the recruitment of 150 to 200 experts and technicians, representing an expenditure of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 per annum. In that connexion he recalled that \$675,000 had been provided for Ruanda-Urundi

under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the years 1961 and 1962.

3. In addition to the immediate needs of the two States, the question of economic development raised a number of long-term problems. A study had been made by the European Economic Community and some of its findings were included in section VI of the Commission's report. The Survey Mission mentioned total investment for the period 1962-1971 of some \$280 million, or about \$28 million per annum (A/5126, para. 273). On the basis of the estimates made by the Survey Mission and other data concerning private investments, it would appear that Rwanda and Burundi should obtain some \$10 million per annum from public sources to finance economic development during the next few years. Since the total of the various contributions which Rwanda and Burundi might obtain under the various multilateral, regional and bilateral programmes was not yet known, it was impossible to make any exact estimate of the deficit to be anticipated under that heading in the immediate future.

4. A total budget deficit of approximately \$6 million was anticipated for the current year, including expenditure for Belgian experts and technicians. That deficit related only to the regular budget; no special budget had been prepared for the current year.

5. In view of the uncertainty of the situation, the Commission had been unable to suggest a definite figure for the special fund. On the basis of the available information, however, the Commission considered that the fund should be set up for a minimum period of three years and that a minimum sum of \$10 million should be anticipated for that period.

6. With regard to the public debt, the Commission considered that that question should be elucidated by the Administering Authority.

7. Mr. SPAAK (Belgium), referring to the question put by the representative of Syria at the 1308th meeting, said that he was at a loss to understand why there should be any need for Belgium to amend or abrogate the Colonial Charter before 1 July 1962, since it would automatically be abrogated on the day on which the Trusteeship Agreement was terminated and Rwanda and Burundi achieved independence. The question arose whether the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement must be sanctioned by a Belgian law. It might be considered that the acceptance by Belgium of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement would suffice, but if a law must be passed it would be extremely simple and could be adopted very rapidly by the Belgian Parliament. It could not, however, be drafted until the United Nations and the Administering Authority had decided to terminate the trusteeship.

8. The reply to the second question put by the representative of Syria, namely whether Legislative Order No. 08/32 establishing the national army of Burundi

under the authority of the Mwami should be confirmed by a metropolitan law, was in the negative.

9. The time required for the adoption of a metropolitan law would depend on the will of the Government and the goodwill of Parliament. In the present case he could assure the Committee that any legislation concerning Ruanda-Urundi could be adopted by the Belgian Parliament in record time.

10. The Syrian representative had requested the Belgian delegation to make available to the Committee a copy of the Colonial Charter. If a majority of the members of the Committee requested that that should be done, it would of course be possible, but he was unable to see what useful purpose would be served at the present stage by reading the Belgian Colonial Charter, which was already obsolete.

11. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that he was not entirely satisfied with the replies to his questions. He asked whether the Colonial Charter included a provision that it should automatically become null and void on the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. He reiterated his request that the document should be circulated to the members of the Committee.

12. Mr. SPAAK (Belgium) said that if his reply had not been very clear it was probably due to the fact that he did not see the point of the question. It seemed to him obvious that if the trusteeship was terminated by a decision taken by the United Nations and accepted by Belgium, the Colonial Charter would no longer have any application to Ruanda-Urundi and would automatically be abrogated.

13. With regard to the request that copies of the Colonial Charter should be circulated to the Committee, the document must undoubtedly be available in the United Nations Library. If there was a formal request by the Committee that copies of the Colonial Charter should be circulated, the Belgian delegation would request the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements. The Belgian delegation would have no objection to doing so, although it did not consider that any useful purpose would be served.

14. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) thanked the Belgian delegation and said he was satisfied with that reply. The point of his questions had been that since the transfer of powers on the basis of the Colonial Charter was a very lengthy process, if it was to be carried out after the achievement of independence there was a danger that the transfer of powers might not be effected smoothly and harmoniously.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that she had received a request from the representative of Senegal stating that he had to leave New York and would be obliged if the Committee would allow him, at this stage of the discussion, to make the statement that he had intended to make during the general debate. If there were no objections, she would give the floor to the representative of Senegal.

*It was so decided.*

16. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) congratulated the Chairman and the members of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi on their informative report (A/5126 and Add.1), which gave a clear and comprehensive picture of the situation in the Territory.

17. It was clear from the report that under the colonial régime the two countries had learned to live together in the form of a federation, with joint institutions. It would be most unfortunate if the achievement of independence as two separate entities were to undo the benefits of forty years' association. From the point of view of external assistance, there could be no doubt that a unitary State of Ruanda-Urundi would appear more stable and more attractive. The technical experts at Addis Ababa had all agreed on the necessity for a unitary State endowed with supra-national powers over the two administrative entities and had demonstrated that that solution would be in the real interest of the peoples of the Territory. The authorized spokesmen of Rwanda and Burundi had, however, stated categorically that it would be impossible for the two countries to achieve independence in the form of a federation or a confederation. Nothing remained, therefore, but to accept the facts and to comply with the wishes of the authorized representatives of the two countries.

18. Nevertheless it was the duty of the Committee to advise them to set up immediately joint organs of co-operation and in that connexion he recalled the proposal made by Mr. Kayibanda, the President of the Republic of Rwanda (A/5126/Add.1, annex X), and endorsed by the Prime Minister of Burundi. They had agreed that in order to lay the foundations of a future unitary State they would preserve a joint Bank of Issue, institutions for customs and exchange control, and an Office du Café. They should be strongly urged to establish those joint institutions without delay.

19. The General Assembly would have preferred independence to be achieved in the form of a federation or a confederation having supranational powers, and the Senegalese delegation considered that such a solution would be in the best interests of the populations. Since, however, it was not acceptable to the authorized representatives of the two countries, the General Assembly must accept the separate independence of Rwanda and Burundi, while recommending them to establish without delay joint organs of technical co-operation.

20. The date of 1 July 1962 for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the achievement of independence should be maintained. Any delay would be likely to arouse suspicion and misgivings. Every effort must be made to assist the people to achieve independence with calm and confidence.

21. With regard to the important question of the maintenance of order, if it became evident that the assistance of foreign troops was necessary the decision should rest with the independent States themselves.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.