

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1079th
MEETING**

Thursday, 8 December 1960,
at 11.10 a.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Agenda item 45:</i>	
<i>Question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi (con-</i>	
<i>tinued)</i>	
<i>General debate.</i>	<i>475</i>
<i>Organization of work</i>	<i>476</i>

Chairman: Mr. Adnan M. PACHACHI (Iraq).

AGENDA ITEM 45

Question of the future of Ruanda-Urundi (A/4404, part I, chap. VI, sect. G and part II, chap. II; A/C.4/455-457) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

1. Mr. MORSE (United States of America) said that his delegation's position was based on the recommendations of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1960, which it fully endorsed. The Mission had recognized the urgent need for measures designed to bring about national reconciliation and particularly for a conference of representatives of all political trends in the Territory; it had appealed to all parties and political leaders to approach the conference in a spirit of compromise; it had advocated amnesty measures, approved the Administering Authority's intention to conduct legislative elections early in 1961 and recommended that the elections should be based on universal suffrage; it had advised against basing the elections to the legislatures on the results of the recent communal elections; it had further recommended the accelerated Africanization of the public service and had expressed the hope that the question of the independence of Ruanda-Urundi would be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixteenth session at the latest.

2. In his delegation's view those recommendations were sound and—except where they had been overtaken by events—they must form the basis of the General Assembly's decisions, if they were to bring independence and democracy to the peoples of Ruanda-Urundi. The Visiting Mission had seen the serious conflict between the traditional interests of one racial group and the aspirations of other groups for better political and economic conditions. At the same time, it had recognized the earnest desire of all groups for independence, and the need to safeguard their legitimate interests, it had seen the importance of a national reconciliation that would permit freedom to be enjoyed in a true democracy. The petitioners had shown that it would be difficult to achieve such a reconciliation, but his delegation sincerely hoped that it would be attained without sacrificing the fundamental principle of equal rights for all the inhabitants of the Territory.

3. He welcomed the Administering Authority's declared intention to give the Territory independence early in 1962; he hoped that it would be possible by that time to set up the machinery of democracy and ensure that it was properly used. The elections to be held under United Nations supervision would be the principal means of achieving that end.

4. When elected, the legislative bodies would have serious problems to face, particularly the problem of refugees. His delegation believed that means could and must be found, with the co-operation of the Administering Authority and the United Nations, to return the refugees and displaced persons to their normal places in the Territory without delay and with full guarantees. The Administering Authority had already taken steps to that end.

5. In his view, the unification of Ruanda and Urundi, though difficult, was possible; there was general agreement among the petitioners from both areas that it would be mutually beneficial. He accordingly hoped that when the legislative bodies were set up they would give urgent attention to the matter and that, by the time the Territory attained independence, agreement would have been reached between the two areas on the establishment of close ties and common institutions.

6. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) said that the Administering Authority's request that the United Nations should supervise the elections in Ruanda-Urundi had impressed upon the members of the Committee, who had the lesson of the Congo clearly before them, the very serious collective responsibility they bore. It was not surprising therefore, that they preferred not to come to any hasty decisions. The most important of the Visiting Mission's recommendations concerned the difficult problems of the amnesty, national reconciliation and the elections; the United Nations must not give the impression that it endorsed all the steps taken in those matters by the Administering Authority. Particularly in the matter of the elections, its action, to be effective, would need much more than two months and would have to be very carefully prepared. A number of delegations were at present studying a series of measures which they would shortly submit to the Committee.

7. Sir ANDREW COHEN (United Kingdom) said that he understood that the members of the Committee could not, for the time being, come to any definite opinion on the very important and very difficult problem before them. Two main trends had emerged from the statements of the petitioners and would have to be taken into account. On some general points agreement would no doubt be possible and he hoped that the delegations concerned would meet with the Belgian representative with a view to preparing a draft resolution which the majority of the Committee could support.

Organization of work

8. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) recalled that the Committee had, on his proposal, requested the Rapporteur to hold back all the Committee's reports to the General Assembly pending the outcome of the debate on colonialism in the Assembly. It seemed essential now not only to keep matters in abeyance but even to hold open the possibility of amending the various draft resolutions the Committee had adopted for the purpose of facilitating, if necessary, the implementation of the resolution which the Assembly would eventually adopt on the subject of colonialism. A statement to that effect should therefore be adopted by the Committee.
9. The CHAIRMAN said that that was a matter for the Committee to decide.
10. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand), proposed that, once the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and the representative of New Zealand had been heard by the Committee, the Committee should continue and conclude its discussion on Western Samoa, which, he ventured to think, ought to be less controversial, and then resume its debate on the question of Ruanda-Urundi.
11. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) thought it would be better if the Committee did not take a final decision on the order of its work until after it had heard the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and the New Zealand representative.
12. Mr. VEISTRUP (Denmark) asked when the elections to the Committee on South West Africa and the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories would be held.
13. The CHAIRMAN replied that elections to the Committee on South West Africa would be held during the afternoon meeting of 9 December; the elections to the Committee on Information could not take place until the General Assembly had examined the various draft resolutions concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.