



CONTENTS

	Page
Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (<i>continued</i>):	
(i) Annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1197, T/1201, T/1223);	
(ii) Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.3/L.5, T/PET.3/L.6)	
Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the special representative (<i>continued</i>)	39

President: Mr. Mason SEARS
(United States of America).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (*continued*):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1197, T/1201, T/1223);**
- (ii) **Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.3/L.5, T/PET.3/L.6)**

[Agenda items 3 (b) and 4]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, took a place at the Council table.

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND
REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (*continued*)**

Social advancement (concluded)

1. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked what would be the functions of the two new radio stations which the special representative had mentioned in his opening statement (654th meeting).

2. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the installations were for telecommunications purposes only and would not be used for broadcasting. They would transmit, receive and forward messages.

3. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) had been interested to hear the report made at the previous meeting by the representative of the World Health Organization. Referring to the figures in Conference Room Paper No. 1,¹ he noted that there had been a decrease in the

number of European medical assistants and public health officers, in indigenous uncertificated assistant nurses and assistant health officers and dressers. He asked what had caused the decrease.

4. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) stated that from the budgetary and practical points of view there had been no actual reduction in medical personnel, which the Administration had always sought to increase. It was possible that one set of statistics had been compiled at a time when most of the medical officers were in the Territory, and the other set, at a time when a number were on leave. It was also possible that a number of nurses or assistant nurses had been promoted to the next category, in which the number of staff had increased in 1955. Citing the figures for 1955, he pointed out that the number of doctors had increased from sixty-five in 1954 to seventy-one in 1955, the number of dentists had remained at four; the number of medical assistants and public health officers had increased from forty to forty-six, and the number of nurses, assistant nurses and midwives, which had been approximately sixty-five, had increased to seventy-six in 1955. The Administration intended to continue its efforts in that field.

5. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) said that he was satisfied with that answer.

6. Turning to the question of the curfew and the restrictions on the movement of indigenous inhabitants at night, he said that, in answer to the Trusteeship Council's recommendations, the Administering Authority had repeatedly stated that those restrictions could not be removed until there was an adequate police force and adequate lighting of the districts concerned. He wondered if the special representative was in a position to say how soon the police force and the lighting might be sufficient to obviate the necessity of maintaining the restrictions.

7. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that he was unable to give a date by which the changes in question could be carried out. The police force and lighting were only two of the factors involved; the indigenous authorities themselves desired the curfew to be maintained. Furthermore, whenever an indigenous inhabitant had to return to his home late at night he had only to obtain a paper signed by his employer or by an agent of the Administration in order to go and come freely. Similarly, a European must have a special permit to go to the extra-tribal centres at night.

8. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted the special representative's statement that the Administration's legalization^a of the classification of indigenous inhabitants into more and less advanced elements should not be over-emphasized since it was seldom applied in the Territory. That being the case, and in view of the criticism of that discriminatory legislation expressed by the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust

¹ Working paper distributed to members of the Trusteeship Council only.

Territories in East Africa, 1954, he asked whether the Administering Authority was considering its repeal.

9. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that registration had been envisaged as a means of combating racial discrimination rather than perpetuating it; its purpose was to put European inhabitants and indigenous inhabitants who had obtained a similar degree of civilization on the same legal footing. He cited the statements to that effect made by the chairman of a commission which had met at Brussels in 1948 to conduct a study of the civilized population of the Congo. The measure was infrequently applied because the more advanced elements of the indigenous population had retained their customary status voluntarily.

10. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the special representative's remarks seemed to indicate that the Administering Authority would not grant the indigenous population equal rights until it attained the same degree of civilization as the European population; if that was the case it would probably be many years before the indigenous population enjoyed the same rights as Europeans.

11. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that in practice the legislation on registration was of no importance, as the advanced elements of the population realized that custom evolved at the same time as the *élite*, so that they need not renounce customary law in order to lead a civilized life.

12. The legislation could not be abolished, for it was essential to be able to apply written law to those indigenous inhabitants who had finally broken with tribal customs. In Ruanda-Urundi there was equality of rights, for every person was subject either to the law of the country of which he was a national or to customary law; the judges applied Belgian, British, United States law, etc., as the case required. In the case of persons subject neither to the national law of one of the European countries nor to local custom, the Congolese Civil Code was applied. If Congolese law was no longer applied to such persons, their status would be indefinite. If the Council wanted that legislation repealed, it must indicate what system of law should be applied to indigenous inhabitants no longer subject to customary law: Belgian law, the law of a European or Asian country, or a purely local system of law.

13. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that it was the first time he had encountered a situation in which each individual was subject to the laws of the country of which he was a national. As people of many nationalities resided in the Territory it must be very difficult for the courts to adjudicate the cases brought before them.

14. It was not a matter of depriving some indigenous inhabitants of their rights but of granting them equal rights with Europeans; that equality must be secured, not by applying to each individual the law of the country of which he was a national but by applying to all a single system of law peculiar to the Trust Territory. He intended to present some draft recommendations on the subject. Meanwhile he would merely point out that at its fifteenth session the Council had recommended the Administering Authority to consider other methods of conferring personal status on indigenous inhabitants who might wish to be free of the jurisdiction of customary law than by requiring them

to be enrolled on the register of civilized persons (A/2933, p. 78). That recommendation had not been complied with.

15. Turning to the question of restrictions on the movement of the indigenous inhabitants, which were a form of discrimination since they applied only to the indigenous population, he asked whether the Administering Authority intended to amend the existing legislation or to keep it in force for a further period.

16. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) stated once again that the Administration intended to unify the situation of all inhabitants of the Territory, irrespective of race, at the earliest possible date. It was true that an indigenous inhabitant had to obtain his chief's permission to travel, or at least notify him. That provision, however, applied only to absences of thirty days or over; an indigenous inhabitant was free to come and go as he pleased for up to twenty-nine days. The Administration had imposed the requirement only because the Territory was one where everyone had to work in order to ensure that the needs of every inhabitant could be satisfied. Long absences were subject to regulation for that reason alone. The relevant legislation embodied adequate safeguards and in many cases a transfer passport could not be refused.

17. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that, according to the annual report,² indigenous inhabitants could be sentenced to the birch, up to a maximum of four strokes. He asked whether the Administering Authority intended to repeal that provision, which, in the USSR delegation's view, was not merely a punishment but also a humiliation for the indigenous inhabitants.

18. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Administering Authority had been endeavouring to reduce the penalty from the outset. It was not a sentence imposed by the courts but purely a disciplinary measure used in the prisons, and was subject to a great many restrictions. During the year the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi had decided to abolish the penalty altogether in several prisons as an experiment, and had so informed the prisoners. If order could be kept on those terms, the punishment would be abolished in all prisons.

19. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the laws protecting the rights of the population gave the indigenous inhabitants the right to express their aspirations freely in any manner whatsoever. There was a provision to that effect, for example, in the Act of 21 August 1925. However, under Ordinance No. 44 of 1924 the authorities might take administrative action to send away from their homes any persons who took part in political agitation. The Ordinance was inconsistent with the 1925 Act. Moreover he wondered what was meant by the term "political agitation".

20. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that an article of the Belgian Constitution which had been made applicable to Ruanda-Urundi provided that religious liberty and freedom of public worship, as well as free expression of opinion in all matters, were

² *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1954*, Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muysewinkel, 1955 (transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1201).

guaranteed, unless crimes were committed in the use of those liberties. Even though the Administration guaranteed all those freedoms, its first duty was obviously to maintain law and order. The freedom to express an opinion was always respected provided it did not involve the commission of an offence or disturb the public peace; that was the case in all countries.

21. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had asked the question because the ordinance referred not to the inhabitants of the towns and centres but to people living in the chiefdoms. He was surprised that there had been political activity in the chiefdoms which had not come to the knowledge of the Council. He also wished to know whether "political agitation" meant criticism of the Administering Authority or of a chief.

22. With regard to the labour system, Mr. Grubyakov referred to page 181 of the annual report and noted that the Administering Authority, despite the Council's recommendations concerning the abolition of penal sanctions and the raising of wages, considered it fair to maintain the use of fines and imprisonment on the grounds that the indigenous inhabitants had not reached a sufficient stage of advancement. He asked for further information on that point.

23. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that it was true that the indigenous inhabitants were still not sufficiently scrupulous in their respect for labour contracts freely entered into and that their labour discipline was inadequate. Furthermore the Administering Authority had tried to put the Trusteeship Council's recommendations into effect. The Decree of 30 June 1954 provided that the penalty of imprisonment should no longer be imposed in such regions as the Governor-General might designate; Ruanda-Urundi was such a region. Fines could, however, still be imposed. That clearly showed the effort the Administration was making to develop its legislation on the lines desired by the Trusteeship Council.

24. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the Administering Authority had indicated that the quality of indigenous labour was unsatisfactory. Moreover, according to the table on page 480 of the report there was a different scale of wages for Europeans, Asians and indigenous inhabitants in the same occupation, for example that of tractor-driver, Europeans being paid five or six times as much as the other groups. In such occupations as that of tractor-driver he wondered whether it was really impossible for indigenous inhabitants to be as highly skilled as Europeans.

25. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that an African worker could undoubtedly attain all the degrees of skill achieved by a European or Asian. The report depicted the situation as it was; hence it was essential to take into account the real differences in skill of persons living in Ruanda-Urundi. Companies employing those workers would certainly not pay a European 300 francs for his work if they could have the same services from an indigenous inhabitant for fifty francs.

26. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recognized that, economically, it was absurd to pay a European 300 francs when an indigenous inhabitant could be found to do the same work for fifty francs. But the fact that there was such a wide gap between the wages of Europeans and those of the indigenous inhabitants led to the conclusion that the

indigenous inhabitants were subjected to altogether unjustifiable discrimination.

27. Referring to page 182 of the annual report, he asked whether the indigenous inhabitants had to obtain special authorization before they could take up permanent residence in the European quarters.

28. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that, owing to circumstances, the Administration had formerly been obliged to establish, in the urban *circumscriptions*, a European residential quarter, an Asian quarter, often both residential and commercial, and an African quarter. Every inhabitant of any of those quarters had to obtain authorization in order to take up residence in any other, but such authorization was never granted to a European or Asian wishing to take up residence in an African quarter for business purposes, as the Administration wanted to protect the indigenous inhabitants from the direct competition of traders who had more capital and wider business experience. The criteria applied in regard to the residence of Asians and Africans in the European quarter or of Africans in the Asian quarter were not based on colour but on factors like social status, degree of advancement, customs and public health. Three or four Indian families were at present living in the European quarter of Usumbura and Africans also occupied two houses in the same quarter.

29. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that, from the point of view of equal rights, the provision prohibiting the indigenous inhabitants or Asians from living in a European quarter without special authorization was altogether unjustifiable.

30. Further, it was apparent from the data on page 202 of the report that the authorities could compel the indigenous inhabitants to do certain types of labour without remuneration for as much as sixty working days, or more than two and a half months. He wished to know what kind of work was meant.

31. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the indigenous inhabitants were obliged to cultivate certain areas sown to food crops, namely thirty-five *ares* per year for seasonal crops and twenty-five *ares* per year for non-seasonal crops, at least fifteen *ares* of which must be manioc. Such work was unpaid because the indigenous inhabitants did it in their own fields for their own benefit exclusively.

32. In reply to another question from Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) stated that the Territory had more than 8,000 kilometres of roads. Portage was resorted to only when road transport was impossible, a rare occurrence, and it was confined mainly to carrying the luggage and personal belongings of officials who had to proceed to localities distant from roads.

33. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that trade unions normally had statutes setting forth general rules for their operation, the conditions of membership and the obligations of members to the union. He was therefore surprised that, on page 223 of the report, the Administering Authority referred to the provisions which it had adopted to govern all those matters.

34. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that, there again, the Administration had acted in the interest of the peoples of the Trust Territory. There had been no occupational organization until 1946. In 1946,

the Administration had considered that it was desirable to establish one. It had itself paved the way for the trade unions to develop, by providing the indigenous workers with an occupational organization.

35. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was surprised that the indigenous inhabitants bought a large quantity of used clothing and footwear which were imported. It was known that cotton was grown and that cattle were raised in the Territory. As the Territory had the necessary resources, he asked whether the Administering Authority proposed to develop the textile and footwear industries, in order to halt the importation of used clothing and footwear.

36. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that quite prosperous textile factories were established in the Belgian Congo, some of them close to Ruanda-Urundi. As there was no customs barrier between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, the Territory benefited directly from that local industry. The establishment of a leather industry was still under study. Admittedly, some used clothing was sold in the Territory, but new locally manufactured clothing was relatively plentiful and the indigenous inhabitants bought more new than used footwear.

37. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that there were four dentists and sixty-three general practitioners in the Territory. Although the number of doctors had increased in 1955, the number of dentists had been the same. He asked how four dentists could be sufficient to care for a population exceeding 4 million.

38. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the doctors often had to do dental work. The entire health organization of the Territory was developing rapidly, but the Administering Authority could not claim to have specialists in every field. Moreover, in order to obtain a medical diploma from a Belgian university students had also to study dentistry.

39. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that, even if all the doctors had to do dental work, it was obviously impossible for them to provide a satisfactory service because of the size of the population.

40. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that, in addition to the seventy-one doctors at present at work, there were in the Territory some forty-six medical assistants at a very advanced stage of training, as well as nurses and a whole medical staff with considerable responsibilities. Nor must it be forgotten that, thirty years before, there had not been a single doctor in Ruanda-Urundi.

41. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that, in a period of more than thirty years, the authorities had not trained a single indigenous doctor. He asked whether, in a few years, the Territory would have several score qualified African doctors.

42. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that it was hardly likely that the first African doctor would start to practice for four or five years, but after that fairly rapid strides would be made. In three years, a substantial number of classes would finish their secondary studies. Six years later, those pupils could have completed their medical studies. In nine or ten years, the Territory could have a number of African doctors. The educational process could not be ex-

pedited, because a doctor could not be trained in three years.

43. Mr. BARGUES (France) congratulated the Administering Authority on having submitted such a comprehensive report.

44. Reverting to the question of personal status, he pointed out that the Belgian Government had been obliged to concern itself with the status of those indigenous inhabitants who, having reached a more advanced level of civilization than the great majority, had been no longer able to retain the personal status deriving from tribal custom.

45. The French Government had, of course, encountered the same problem. The solution which it had adopted was less complete and less complex than that chosen by the Belgian Government. The indigenous inhabitants had a personal status based on custom, or in the Muslim areas, on Koranic law. They could renounce their personal status, but they had not the choice which the Belgian system offered. If they gave up their personal status, they were obliged to assume a status based on the French Civil Code. In that connexion, the French system made no distinction between indigenous inhabitants and Europeans, as it conferred the same status on both. Some members of the Council had criticized that system, however, on the grounds that it constituted an improper policy of assimilation.

46. With regard to the Belgian system, which had been criticized on other grounds, the indigenous inhabitants obviously could not, on the pretext of being assimilated to Europeans, be forced to abandon a status which they valued, nor could Europeans be forced to relinquish the status which they derived from the metropolitan country or their country of origin.

47. The Council had been concerned to find out how far certain laws applying to only one section of the population could be eliminated, in order to achieve unity of legislation. The report mentioned legislation relating to the importation, possession, preparation and consumption of alcoholic beverages; certain provisions of the local regulations applied only to the indigenous inhabitants. The Administering Authority had not been trying to discriminate, but it had applied the Convention relating to Liquor Traffic in Africa signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1919. He wondered whether, in order to meet the wishes of the Trusteeship Council, the Belgian Government was intending to amend the regulations governing the sale and consumption of spirituous liquors, with a view to repealing any provisions that applied to only one section of the population; and, if that were so, whether it intended to approach the other signatories to the Convention of Saint-Germain.

48. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) recalled that economic equality in the conventional basin of the Congo had been guaranteed to all countries by the Convention of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, and that principle had been restated in the Trusteeship Agreement as applying to all Members of the United Nations. But it had been suggested in some circles that the Convention of Saint-Germain should be renounced and that the protection of the indigenous inhabitants against alcohol, and the principle of commercial equality for all should be abandoned simultaneously. Belgium had always refused to ask for a revision of the Convention of Saint-Germain; on the contrary, it would be delighted to see

the principles of that Convention applied to all the African territories, but its view would doubtless not be shared by all the countries concerned.

49. U THAN HLA (Burma) thought that there were still some points requiring clarification. The Trusteeship Council had recommended in resolution 36 (III) that the Administering Authority should disseminate information on the United Nations and particularly the Trusteeship System as widely as possible. In its annual report for 1954 (p. 288), the Administering Authority had stated that instruction on the subject was given in both government and mission schools. But such instruction could achieve results only in secondary schools; as there were only 233 African students in the official secondary schools and 141 in the subsidized secondary schools, he wondered whether the Administering Authority was considering taking appropriate measures to ensure wide use of United Nations emblems in the Territory and of other means of making the Organization known there. He also wondered whether the Administering Authority was thinking of including programmes on the subject in the broadcasts from the Leopoldville radio station and whether the missions could include any articles on it in their publications.

50. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought that pupils in the more advanced stages of secondary education or receiving higher education were in the best position to understand the situation. The Administration had accordingly taken the measures indicated on page 288 of the report.

51. The Administration had no power to issue instructions concerning newspaper articles. But the local newspapers were certainly reporting to their readers on the debates in progress in the Trusteeship Council, which kept them informed about the work of the United Nations.

52. Replying to further questions from U THAN HLA (Burma), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the penalty of imprisonment for breach of labour contracts had been abolished in Ruanda-Urundi.

53. With regard to the system used for the treatment of juvenile delinquents in prisons, they were segregated from the adult prisoners and given very light work to do, usually with the women. Magistrates always took age into account at each step of the corrective procedure.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

54. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) inquired, in connexion with the organization of labour, whether it would be possible for workers to have two weeks' holiday with pay per year instead of the present six days, which he did not consider enough. Furthermore, he wondered whether workers forfeited their day's leave to which they were entitled after two months' employment if an illness or accident befell them which temporarily incapacitated them.

55. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that it was because the workers were in the habit of staying away from work on the slightest pretext that the condition of "two full months' service", mentioned on page 208 of the annual report, had been laid down.

56. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) inquired, in connexion with the fact that non-Europeans were prohibited from residing in the European quarters of urban

areas, whether, in view of the shortage of doctors and dentists, it would not be desirable to encourage some mingling of the various sections of the population. That might help to remedy the unsanitary conditions from which the indigenous population was apparently suffering. Some of the indigenous inhabitants were relatively advanced; he wondered whether they were allowed to live in the European quarters.

57. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that they could undoubtedly obtain that right.

58. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) wanted to know who edited and produced the newspapers for the indigenous inhabitants, whether those inhabitants were aware of their status, of the work of the Trusteeship Council on their behalf and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also whether the newspapers were produced by officials.

59. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that, on page 183 of the report, there was a list of the newspapers published and circulated in the Territory. There were two newspapers published in French, produced by Europeans who were not officials; *Temps nouveaux* was produced in French by a group of indigenous inhabitants. The newspapers, *Temps nouveaux* in particular, always provided very specific answers to the questions raised by the indigenous inhabitants concerning their rights.

60. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti), referring to the refusal, mentioned on page 184 of the report, to grant an authorization to associations whose existence might endanger the civilization of the indigenous inhabitants or constitute a threat to the peace and public order, inquired what those associations were.

61. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that they were chiefly secret societies, which were a sign of retrogression and a return to xenophobia, and which might eventually incite their members to murder.

62. Mr. JAIPAL (India) wanted to know whether the Administration had any additional information on the incidence of tuberculosis in the Territory and whether it had taken any measures to combat that disease among the Batutsi, who appeared particularly susceptible to it.

63. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Batutsi were scattered throughout the Territory. An active anti-tuberculosis campaign had been in progress in Ruanda-Urundi for years and had been of benefit to all concerned, whatever group they might belong to, but there were no special measures applying to the Batutsi. Two sanatoria had been built, one at Kibumbu and the other at Rwamagana.

64. Mr. JAIPAL (India) inquired whether the curfew was enforced in other places besides Usumbura, and whether a later hour had been set for it, as suggested by the councils of the extra-tribal centres. He also asked if the curfew was enforced in the villages and in the rural areas too.

65. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the curfew was enforced only in the urban areas; it was not an annoyance to the population and the indigenous councils themselves wished to have the measure continued. He did not know what times had been set for it; they might vary in different places.

66. Mr. JAIPAL (India) inquired whether there was any need to continue the system of permanent residence permits for non-Europeans.

67. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the purpose of the system was to prevent people living in very unsanitary conditions from settling in residential neighbourhoods.

68. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that the indigenous inhabitants were not eager to settle in the European parts of town because land cost much more there. In the indigenous parts of town, land was made available to the inhabitants free.

69. Mr. JAIPAL (India) was under the impression that that system implied a certain discrimination.

70. With regard to personal status, he asked what the position was of people who were not included in the register of the more advanced elements of the population and did not hold cards of civic merit. The Decree of September 1952 seemed unnecessary.

71. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the question of registration affected few of the indigenous inhabitants. The Administration applied one set of legislation for all, but where personal status was involved, the difference in status was essential.

72. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) explained that that legislation had had to be introduced in Ruanda-Urundi because it already existed in the Congo where the indigenous inhabitants had pressed for its adoption. The impression could not be given that the Banyarunda and the Barundi were being excluded from the benefits of a legislation which the Congolese themselves had demanded. In the same way, France had granted representation in the French Parliament to the indigenous inhabitants of its Trust Territories because it did not want them to seem to have fewer rights than the indigenous inhabitants of its colonial territories.

73. Mr. JAIPAL (India) still felt that it was unnecessary to apply the legislation to the Territory; Ruanda-Urundi was linked to the Congo only by an administrative union under which Congolese laws were not automatically applied in the Trust Territory.

74. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) asked whether, in view of the many exceptions and distinctions which existed in matters of human rights, the Administering Authority intended to draw up a fundamental statute to safeguard the legal position of the indigenous inhabitants.

75. Since the indigenous inhabitants appeared to be in a juridically inferior position, he asked whether, in addition to the labour inspectorate and special commissions, there was any administrative authority with special responsibility for ensuring observance of their basic social rights.

76. He also wanted to know how the minimum wage was established, particularly whether the social work and welfare commissions merely sanctioned the decisions of the Governor.

77. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) recalled that, when Belgium had taken over the administration of the Belgian Congo in 1908, it had applied to the Territory the bulk of Belgian legislation relating to fundamental human rights. When the fundamental law of Ruanda-Urundi had been promulgated in 1925, the texts of the Constitution had likewise been made applicable to the Territory. The indigenous inhabitants enjoyed all the guarantees provided by those texts.

78. With regard to labour questions, he explained that the Vice-Governor-General was assisted by the Indigenous Affairs and Labour Department, to which the labour inspectorate was attached. It should not be forgotten that the number of enterprises employing indigenous labour was rather small and that the number of persons employed by those enterprises was not very great either in proportion to the total population of the Territory. Labour inspectors regularly visited those enterprises and saw to it that employers fulfilled their obligations towards their employees and *vice versa*. The inspectors made recommendations to employers and, if they were not taken into consideration, legal proceedings were instituted. For its part, the whole territorial civil service collaborated in securing compliance with labour regulations throughout the Territory.

79. With regard to the procedure for fixing the minimum wage, he explained that the commissions for labour and indigenous social progress tried to determine whether the wages set by the last ordinance of the Governor corresponded to prevailing needs. They submitted their conclusions to the Governor, and on that basis solely, the Governor issued a new ordinance fixing the minimum wage. The Administration members and the non-indigenous members had always reached agreement with the indigenous representatives on the labour measures to be adopted. The report showed in what proportion the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were represented in the indigenous works councils, the local committees of workers and the commissions for labour and social progress.

80. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) noted that the number of prisoners in the Territory had risen from 2,159 in 1952 to 2,518 in 1954, and asked whether the Administering Authority had taken steps to cope with that increase in crime.

81. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) did not think there had been any increase in crime in the Territory. The increase in the number of prisoners was a result of the increase in population and of the fact the law enforcement services were developing gradually. However, the crime rate in Ruanda-Urundi was not so high as to require special studies on prevention. The prevailing system, which concentrated chiefly on preventing crime and reducing the number of law-breakers by education, improved sanitation, etc., seemed quite adequate. However, mention might be made of the studies made by the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa on the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi and their behaviour.

82. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that, during the year under review, there had been sixty-two people murdered or assassinated out of a total population of 4 million. For a country where the indigenous inhabitants were still not very far advanced, that proportion could hardly be called alarming.

83. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) asked for additional information on the general application of the system of family allowances and housing for workers, particularly as to whether there had been any developments in the Administration's policy in that respect, or at least, whether the standards described at the Council's fifteenth session had been maintained.

84. He also asked whether the Administering Authority had noted that the fact that the worker's family was compelled to live with him during the period of

his contract made for greater stability in the labour force, greater productivity and generally better social conditions.

85. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the Administration had redoubled its efforts, particularly with regard to the housing of workers in Usumbura and to labour inspection. Furthermore, various measures had been taken in connexion with housing, rations and wage increases. Measures had also been taken, at the end of 1954, to recruit and acclimatize the indigenous inhabitants. All such action had been taken in line with the Council's recommendations.

86. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), replying to the last question put by the Australian representative, said that family recruitment had been the practice in the Belgian Congo for about thirty years; experience had shown the clear advantages of that form of recruitment. Of course, it was much more expensive than the recruitment of unmarried persons, but it promoted the stability of the worker and increased

his interest in his work. Moreover, when the worker had a happy family life, he tended to develop into a professional worker instead of being a man who left his village for six months or a year and came back without any real vocational training. The large companies found it more advantageous for themselves as well as for the workers to recruit on a family basis. For small firms, that form of recruitment had always been followed.

87. In reply to a question from Mr. JAIPAL (India), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the assistant nurses were generally people undergoing a kind of in-service training who normally obtained their diplomas after a certain period.

88. In reply to another question from Mr. JAIPAL (India), concerning sleeping sickness, Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) referred the Indian representative to page 495 of the annual report on the Territory, where that information was given.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.