



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-first Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Emilio ARENALES CATALAN
(Guatemala).

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; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; 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 for 1956 (T/1338, T/1352, T/L.810);
- (ii) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957 (T/1346)

[Agenda items 4 (b) and 6 (b)]

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 REPRESENTATIVE AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (*continued*)

Political advancement (continued)

1. Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand) said that he had noted with interest the statement in paragraph 65 of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957 (T/1346), that it had been decided to grant sub-chiefdom councils in Ruanda the right to assign holdings of less than two hectares. Noting that in rural areas, where traditional influences were still strongest, the successful functioning of the councils depended largely on the personal qualities of the sub-chiefs, he asked whether any councils had met with difficulties in carrying out their new task and whether the Administration had had to exercise any form of supervision to ensure that the land was assigned impar-

tially. He also asked whether it was thought that the reform could be extended to Urundi in the near future.

2. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) agreed that in many cases the sub-chief was still a customary authority with little interest in promoting the development of his sub-chiefdom along democratic lines. The authorities had for that reason felt it necessary to exercise some supervision over distribution but no abuses had so far come to their notice. The experiment could, he believed, be extended to Urundi and might indeed already have been extended.

3. Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand) asked whether the Administration agreed with the view expressed by the Visiting Mission (T/1346, para. 96) that the inhabitants of the two states (*pays*) might be readier to accept common institutions if the General Council met at Astrida from time to time.

4. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the only physical problem involved, that of providing accommodation for the councillors at Astrida, would not be insuperable. However, as the inhabitants of Ruanda were accustomed to having the Council meet at Usumbura in Urundi and had never asked that it should also meet in Ruanda, it seemed unlikely that the suggestion would do much to foster closer relations between the peoples.

5. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) wished to know whether the documentation supplied by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Education Service was regularly distributed to schools in the Territory. It would be useful if the Administering Authority reports were more detailed in that respect.

6. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that in the past the general documentation concerning the United Nations and the Trusteeship Council had been sent to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, who had received some forty copies and had regularly distributed them to the heads of educational establishments and to school libraries. The Administration had supplied the Visiting Mission, at its request, with the addresses to which material should in future be sent direct.

7. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed that Belgium naturally reserved the right to decide who would be the recipients. It had no intention of keeping United Nations documents from the people, but wished to reaffirm the principle that as Administering Authority of Ruanda-Urundi it was the intermediary between the people it administered and the United Nations as far as the official distribution of United Nations documents was concerned.

8. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked what steps the Administering Authority had taken to facilitate the access of indigenous inhabitants to senior posts in the force of public order (*force publique*) with a view to giving effect to the recommendation adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its nineteenth session (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 57).

9. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that in that, as in all other fields, training was necessary and

that as yet no indigenous inhabitants had the knowledge required to occupy senior posts. He could not say how long it would be before indigenous inhabitants occupied senior posts in the force of public order.

10. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the power of the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi to suspend the application of decrees temporarily in case of emergency and to sign legislative ordinances with the force of decrees was a discretionary power or governed by specific rules.

11. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that in theory the power was a discretionary one granted to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi in all cases in which the usual procedure was impossible, i.e., when examination by the Colonial Council at Brussels and the King's signature would take too long for the proposed measure to be applied. Such cases were extremely unusual and in practice the Governor referred the matter to Brussels before taking action.

12. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the Administering Authority proposed to take measures which would make it possible to determine the age of the indigenous inhabitants for electoral purposes by more rational means than the appearance of the adult male. Development, he noted, was not the same in Europe as in Africa.

13. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the registration of births had been compulsory in all Native districts since about 1953. The particulars of all children now five years of age were therefore known. The approximate age of older children born of Christian parents was shown by the baptismal certificates. In all other cases, the Administering Authority had had to make use of physical development as a criterion, bearing in mind the differences which existed between Africans and Europeans.

14. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) noted that it was one of the fundamental principles of justice everywhere that no one could be charged with an offence except on the basis of a written law. The Native courts of the Territory, however, adjudicated disputes in accordance with complicated and ill-defined customary standards. He asked whether it would not be desirable to codify customary law in order to eliminate the present uncertainty, which was prejudicial to the interests of the inhabitants.

15. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) agreed that the absence of written laws permitted uncertainty and arbitrary action. As, however, the rules were normally well known, the people would react sharply if a judgement was not according to custom. The Administration felt that certain customs, such as bride-price, which had been the target of so much criticism in the Trusteeship Council, would evolve and finally disappear of themselves, and that it was better not to prevent them from developing by making them legally binding.

16. In reply to further questions by Mr. MUFTI (Syria), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the representatives of the judicial power (i.e., the officers of the judicial police, the magistrates of the *parquet* and the alternates of the *Procureur du Roi*) decided whether accused persons should be arrested and determined whether there was strong evidence of guilt, and whether the offence was serious. Detention pending trial must be approved every fifteen days by the judge of the court of first instance, who was a professional magistrate. Any period of detention pending trial was deducted from the sentence imposed. If the accused was acquitted or found not guilty, he had no recourse in

respect of the detention to which he had been unjustly subjected.

17. The draft legislation to modify the organization of the judiciary had been transmitted to the Colonial Council at Brussels for examination and would probably be submitted to the King for signature at an early date. The text would probably be communicated to the Trusteeship Council in the course of 1958.

18. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether 1959, the date by which the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi had indicated that the sub-chiefdom councils would be elected by direct suffrage, was a final date and whether that reform was not one of the steps which had been suggested by the Trusteeship Council.

19. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the case in question was one of those in which the Administration had been able to fix an intermediate date for a stage of development. He hoped that nothing would happen to impede the process of development that had been initiated and that that date could be adhered to.

20. In reply to a further question by Mr. MUFTI (Syria), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that he was unable to state which of the some 300 political recommendations (*vœux*) made by the Territorial councils the Administering Authority had been unable to carry out.

21. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked why the Administration had not given effect to the recommendation of the High Council of Urundi concerning the institution of a state holiday.

22. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that in the past the Sorghum feast, the state holiday of Urundi, had been celebrated in style and that while the orgies associated with the feast had possibly had ethnic and magical significance, they had in certain respects been out of keeping with international morality and civilization. The Administering Authority had stopped the celebrations as being inconsistent with the type of development which it was hoped to encourage in the Territory. There was reason to believe that if such a national holiday was re-established it would be accompanied by the same rites. It might also strengthen separatist tendencies in Urundi. Although not formally opposed to the celebration of a national holiday, the Administration had never encouraged it.

23. Mr. HOOD (Australia) asked what form of encouragement the local administration gave to the formation of an indigenous Press.

24. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that while all newspapers, whether indigenous or not, had to apply for a permit before publication, the precautionary measure was principally designed to prevent unscrupulous persons from swindling the public. He knew of no case in which a permit had been refused in Ruanda-Urundi, and there was no censorship of the material published. Some manifestos had appealed to the Administration to encourage the establishment of indigenous newspapers, i.e., to supply funds for printing them. Because of financial limitations, the Administration had only been able to offer assistance on a small scale. It had merely taken out a number of subscriptions to certain newspapers.

25. In reply to a question by Mr. HOOD (Australia), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that many foreign newspapers, both Congolese and Belgian, and United States and British magazines and periodicals were sold in the Territory, but that the main newspapers

read by the indigenous populations were printed in Ruanda-Urundi. A list of the publications was given on page 169 of the annual report.¹ Some newspapers, such as *Hodi*, *Hobe*, *Kindugu* and *Ndongezi*, had a large circulation. The newspaper *Temps nouveaux d'Afrique*, which was published in French but had many indigenous contributors, had a more limited circulation but was very influential.

26. Mr. HOOD (Australia) asked what work the General Council had accomplished at its session in January and what atmosphere had prevailed at that session.

27. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi had considered the replies given to the recommendation previously made by the Councils, the question of languages in education, the economic situation and the improvement of the situation of the indigenous inhabitants, the indigenous *circoscriptions* and extra-tribal centres, and the status of urban centres. He would furnish the records of the Council's meetings to any delegation on request. The members of the High Councils had shown a real understanding of their functions and had taken a constructive part in the work of the General Council, whose discussions had been extremely useful.

28. Mr. HOOD (Australia) asked whether the question of a permanent delegation had arisen again.

29. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the establishment of a permanent delegation had not been contemplated. Nevertheless the Council had decided that education was one of the most pressing problems and had established a standing committee on education to study all educational matters, submit proposals concerning the use of budgetary funds and stimulate educational advancement in the Territory. Some members of the Council had suggested that other committees should be established, but their suggestions had not been followed.

30. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) reverting to the Bahutu-Batutsi problem, noted that the Mission suggested in paragraph 43 of its report that the problem might grow worse, but went on to say that the problem carried in itself the seed of its solution. He asked whether the special representative could explain that passage.

31. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought that there was a possibility that the problem might solve itself. The Batutsi and Bahutu were not rigid castes; it could almost be said that one was a class of cattle-raisers and the other a class of farmers. It was therefore possible to pass from one category to the other, and educational advances would eliminate the distinctive features of the two classes. Furthermore, the Batutsi, i.e., the cattle-raisers, had only half-heartedly opposed the abolition of feudal contracts, although that measure had been most disadvantageous to them. He was convinced that the rising generation of Batutsi, aware of the trend of political and social advancement, would be able to make the necessary sacrifice.

32. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked what proportion of the Bahutu received secondary or

higher education, and whether that proportion was increasing.

33. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) was unable to quote any figures. It was a fact, however, that the Batutsi had been the first to send their children to school, partly because they understood the importance of education and also because their children were not needed for work in the fields. Despite their late start, Bahutu pupils were now 15 to 20 per cent of the total in some schools, and the proportion of Bahutu was increasing from year to year.

34. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) felt that the point was an important one. In his own country, where the elements of a class society were still, at any rate vestigially, present, the strength of society came from the ready flow from one level to another. In that connexion he asked whether the Bahutu could enter the local or central civil service.

35. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) felt that the situation was hopeful because the Bami,² in particular, had recognized the need for enabling the Bahutu to enter the posts for which they were qualified. In the central civil service, social origin was not taken into account, and the Bahutu filled posts at the same level as those filled by the Batutsi.

36. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), turning to the question of national loyalty, asked whether the General Council was a truly representative body for the Territory as a whole, whether the people were conscious of its debates, and whether they looked to it as a body which would solve their problems.

37. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the population attached great importance to the Council, but that local loyalties were still deep-rooted. Thus, when the Council had considered the question of the status of the towns, and in particular of Usumbura, the chief town, the representatives of Ruanda had taken little interest because the matter was in their eyes of concern to Urundi only.

38. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) requested some particulars on the information services. Were there any broadcasting stations which could reach a large part of the population through inexpensive, battery-operated radio receivers? Had the possibility of publishing information bulletins in vernacular languages been considered?

39. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that there were broadcasting stations at Leopoldville and that in the large populated centres the Administration had set up public address systems which broadcast news. The public address systems could reach only a relatively limited number of persons, however, because the population was widely scattered and the use of battery-operated sets was uncommon.

40. The newspapers played an important role. They were printed in the missions, with the collaboration of many indigenous inhabitants.

41. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked what was the Administration's view as to the success of the elections. He also asked whether there was any sign of political parties in the Territory.

42. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Administering Authority was very gratified at the result of the elections. Seventy-five per cent of the electorate had voted and the quality of the candidates elected was also a source of gratification, even though

¹ *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1956* (Brussels, Imprimerie Fr. Van Muyswinkel, 1957). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1338).

² "Bami" is the plural form of the word "Mwami".

the votes had been rather divided. In some hills, for example, most of the voters had voted for themselves. The elections had been conducted in complete freedom and the secrecy of the ballot had been maintained. There were as yet no political parties in the Territory.

43. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked for information concerning the number of indigenous inhabitants who held positions in the higher ranks of the civil service of the Territory and in the technical services. Was any increase in that number anticipated as a result of the expansion of education?

44. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that there were no indigenous inhabitants in the central civil service, but the Bami, the chiefs and even the judges of customary courts had important responsibilities. The indigenous inhabitants would be recruited to the central civil service as soon as they could meet the requirements set for the European staff; it would then be possible to unify the government service by combining the regional and central administrations. That process would probably begin in the technical services, as it was easier to employ an indigenous inhabitant as a doctor or engineer—if he had the necessary qualifications—than to entrust him with political functions.

45. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked the special representative whether he thought the majority of students pursuing higher education would find their way into government service and, if so, whether they would enter the central civil service or the regional civil service.

46. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that it was difficult to make predictions but that at the Collège interracial du Saint-Esprit, at Usumbura, for example, the pupils—like those at European establishments—tended to choose widely different careers: in the most advanced class of students following a classical course, five or six pupils wanted to study medicine, three or four agriculture, five or six law and half a dozen engineering, while still others wanted to go into business.

47. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) wished to know if students from the Territory were likely to meet difficulties in finding places in universities in the Congo or in Belgium, owing to overcrowding.

48. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought that it was premature to evaluate difficulties of that kind.

49. In reply to a question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) with reference to paragraph 57 of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1346), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the purpose of the 1956 elections had been merely to choose electoral colleges, which in turn, had elected the sub-chiefdom councils. The results of the elections had been known as soon as the ballots were counted, and the councillors had been meeting ever since. The Governor hoped that it would be possible in 1959 to choose sub-chiefdom councillors by direct elections.

50. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) added that in the Governor's view the 1956 elections had still had all the technical features of a two-level election, which he was planning to convert into a system of direct elections as soon as possible.

51. Mr. YANG (China) referred to paragraphs 112 and 113 of the Visiting Mission's report, which revealed that the present judicial system did not inspire confidence and opened the door to abuses. Had any special

measures been taken, or were measures being contemplated, to train Bahutu judges and to remove the impression that justice was always in the hands of the Batutsi?

52. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) observed that the Administration selected judges from among those who were qualified for that office, whatever their origin. There were Bahutu judges and Batutsi judges. African peoples did not have the same conception of justice as the peoples of civilized countries. If a certain number of judges did not inspire complete confidence in those under their jurisdiction, the reason was to be found in the traditional conception of justice in those territories rather than in corruption or prejudice. On some occasions, the indigenous inhabitants had asked that all courts should be administered by Europeans but it was impossible to consider such a solution. The development of secondary education and the teaching of law would provide a solution of the difficulty. The decree concerning Native courts now before the Colonial Council would certainly represent genuine progress over the provisions in force in all matters which the Trusteeship Council had requested the Administering Authority to study.

53. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to know what had been the powers of the old so-called feudal administration and whether, in particular, it could decide such questions as planning, budgets and finance, education, public health, etc.

54. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that each of the administrative levels (Mwami, chief, sub-chief, High Council of the state, chiefdom council and sub-chiefdom council) possessed fairly extensive administrative powers which had been defined in the Decree of 14 July 1952. It was that local administration which allocated farm work. The budgets of the two states were prepared and administered by the High Councils of the states, acting together with the Bami, whereas the chiefdom councils were responsible for the budgets of the chiefdoms. All the councils had very broad powers. They were in charge of planning in various matters, such as agriculture. In education they generally limited themselves to making recommendations, which they submitted to the European authorities. In fact, the two administrations collaborated all the time.

55. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was his impression that although, as had been explained, the local administration discussed some matters, it did not have the power to decide any of them.

56. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) recalled that, on the contrary, the High Councils of the states and the chiefdom councils had executive and deliberative functions with respect to budgets and expenditures, for example, while the European administration had only a veto right which it very seldom used.

57. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) gave several examples of matters for which the local administration was responsible, such as the planning and maintenance of a complete road network, swamp drainage, the construction of dams and water-supply systems in ponds for pisciculture, reservoirs, etc.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

58. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the special representative of the opinion of the High Council of Ruanda which was

quoted in paragraph 63 of the Visiting Mission's report: "... at the moment the functions of the High Council of the State are very narrowly circumscribed and that even its advisory capacity is sometimes merely illusory". The real powers of the High Council were clearly shown in paragraph 123: "The intervention of the Governor was required before the Council finally adopted the following motion. 'The General Council agrees to approve ...'" In view of such an assertion by the High Council itself, he concluded that any assurances that were given the Council that the High Council could decide certain questions could hardly be regarded as convincing.

59. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed, with respect to paragraph 63 of the report, that the opinion expressed there did not appear in an official document of the High Council of Ruanda but in a "Statement of Views" signed by a certain number of individuals (T/1346, annex II), some of whom were members of that Council. With respect to paragraph 123, the reference was to a loan granted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. That question, however, had never been submitted to a High Council, but had been brought before the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi.

Economic progress

60. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what part of the Coffee Stabilization Fund had been invested in Congolese loans and why it had not been considered possible to use those sums for the development of the Territory.

61. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought that the part of the Fund invested in the Congo was fairly large but he did not know the exact figure. It could not be invested in the Trust Territory because it had to be available at any moment: investments in Ruanda-Urundi would have tied it up for years. Moreover, Ruanda-Urundi had not had any special need for a loan at the time when the money in question was invested. When such a need did arise, it was considered preferable to apply to the International Bank rather than to transfer the resources of the Stabilization Fund.

62. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that an analysis of the Territory's budget showed that the basic capital investments had been put into road and port construction. In any case, the lion's share of the so-called interest-free advance made available by Belgium was used for those purposes. As had now become clear, a loan of \$5 million, or 240 million francs for those purposes had been received from the International Bank. He wished to know what part of the budget was devoted to industrial enterprises.

63. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that since 1952 Belgium had loaned more than \$60 million to Ruanda-Urundi without interest for the purpose of carrying out its ten-year plan. In 1957, the International Bank had granted the Territory a loan of \$4,800,000 which was to be used exclusively for the construction of the port of Usumbura and a part of the Usumbura-Astrida-Kigali highway. That loan had released certain funds and the Government Council had considered the use which should be made of them. Hence only a part of the funds advanced was allocated to road projects. He referred to his opening statement at the 849th meeting, and again gave the Council details concerning the allocation of funds under the ten-year plan.

64. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that Ruanda-Urundi was not living under the system of a State economic monopoly. There were no restrictions on investments, particularly in industry. The investment situation was encouraging. In order for them to continue, it was necessary to establish an economic infrastructure—that was the role of the State—hence the importance of investments in communications and of social investments.

65. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that those explanations confirmed his opinion that hardly any funds had been appropriated for the establishment of industrial enterprises. He asked for how long and on what conditions 1,600 hectares of arable land had been assigned to the factories of the Central African Sugar Corporation.

66. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) thought that the concession was for thirty years. The company had been set up in an area where there were few inhabitants or cattle. Its work was a feature of the industrialization of the Territory. The true situation with regard to the occupation of the land could be gathered from the fact that only 0.4 per cent of the land was held by non-indigenous persons.

67. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered the land utilization system as one of the outstanding questions requiring settlement. He asked how much research had been done on the matter and what action had been taken by the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories.

68. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) pointed out that the difficulties of the land question were due to the considerable rate of increase in the population and the very complicated nature of the indigenous land tenure system. He could not say at what stage the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories had arrived in its work.

69. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) desired details on the practical measures taken for the construction of hydro-electric stations and on plans for the near future.

70. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) referred the representative of the Soviet Union to paragraphs 205 and 206 of the report of the Visiting Mission. He emphasized the importance of the hydro-electric plant on the Ruzizi, which would suffice to supply the needs of the entire Territory.

71. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not think that paragraphs 205 and 206 of the Visiting Mission's report gave a satisfactory answer to the question which he had asked, as they gave no details about the prospects for the future development of that branch of the economy, or its relation to the development of industry, agriculture and the economy of the Territory as a whole.

72. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) inquired whether the Administering Authority was expecting the trend towards increasing deficits in the ordinary budget, observed since 1956, to continue, or whether it had taken measures at least to reduce those deficits.

73. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) did not think that it would be possible to balance the budget in the next few years, in view of the very heavy expenditure on social services and, in particular, of the cost of education, which was steadily increasing. The ten-year plan, the constitution of pilot-sectors, and the formation of rural engineering teams were all intended precisely

to improve the economic situation of the Territory. In 1958, the budget would be balanced by means of a special interest-free loan of 125 million francs, granted by Belgium.

74. In reply to a further question from U TIN MAUNG (Burma), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority would probably be obliged to levy new taxes in order to balance the ordinary budget. He was not in a position to state what sections of the ten-year plan would have to be abandoned owing to lack of financial resources.

75. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) drew the special representative's attention to the reluctance shown by the General Council in respect of the conditions for the loan granted by the International Bank to finance the construction of the new port of Usumbura and the construction of the new main road from Usumbura to Astrida and Kigali. In what circumstances had the General Council expressed its views on the subject?

76. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) explained that the International Bank had, before granting the loan, required the formal agreement of the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi, which had thus for the first time been called upon to debate and take decisive action on a question. Some members of the Council had thought at that time that the conditions (rate of interest, rate of interest on sums not yet drawn, guarantees by Belgium) laid down by the International Bank were very onerous, and had inquired whether it would not be possible to obtain easier conditions elsewhere. A financial expert from the Ministry for the Colonies had been sent out from Brussels in October 1957 to explain to the General Council that Belgium's efforts to secure loans elsewhere had been unsuccessful; the Council had then accepted and ratified the loan, without being subjected to any pressure.

77. U TIN MAUNG (Burma), referring to the attitude of the Governor, as described in paragraph 127 of the Visiting Mission's report, inquired whether the Administering Authority was now devoting a large part of its financial resources to the development of indigenous agriculture and industry, rather than to the construction of aerodromes, highways and luxurious buildings not destined for the indigenous inhabitants.

78. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that expenditure on aerodromes, roads and harbour installations was closely connected with the economic development and industrialization of the Territory. Generally speaking, the development of industry had been left in the hands of private enterprise and the action of the Administration had been directed chiefly to promoting the utilization of electrical energy resources. The development of agriculture was being encouraged by means of the rural engineering teams and the establishment of pilot-sectors.

79. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) stressed the imbalance between the imports to Ruanda-Urundi from the Belgian Congo (valued at 1,165,000 francs) and the exports from Ruanda-Urundi to that country (valued at 297 million francs). He asked whether a detailed study had been made of that situation, especially with reference to the question of the administrative union with the Belgian Congo.

80. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) recalled that there was no customs frontier between the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, that the goods sent to Africa for Ruanda-Urundi paid duty to that Territory, whether they entered via the Belgian Congo or by

Ruanda-Urundi. The situation caused by the consignment of goods to the Congo for subsequent importation into Ruanda-Urundi and the consignment of goods to Ruanda-Urundi for subsequent introduction into the Congo was being studied.

81. In reply to a question from U TIN MAUNG (Burma), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the Administration had always paid the closest attention to coffee production and that the temporary decrease in production in 1956 had probably been due to weather conditions and also perhaps to a campaign sponsored by the Administration for the cutting back and replanting of coffee shrubs. As a result of that measure, the crop in 1957 had reached the record level of 28,000 tons. The rural engineering teams were making surveys to find the land best suited to the cultivation of coffee, and the Administration was also considering introducing the use of fertilizers.

82. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) pointed out that the income derived from cotton production was considerably lower than that derived from coffee production, and asked whether the Administration had taken measures to intensify the production of cotton, in view of the fact that a one-cash-crop economy was rather risky, given the fluctuations in world prices. Would the production of coffee for the current year perceptibly raise the level of living of the indigenous farmers?

83. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the Administration was fully aware of the dangers of a single-crop economy, but that the configuration of the country was very favourable to the cultivation of coffee whereas cotton could only be cultivated over a very small area. Moreover, it seemed that the coffee crop, which had earned about 775 million francs for the indigenous farmers in 1957, had appeared on the international market at a very favourable time. The Administration was at present trying to introduce the cultivation of tea. But it must not be forgotten that Ruanda-Urundi was situated 1,500 kilometres from the sea and that consequently all exports were liable to transport charges which hampered them in competition on the international markets.

84. In reply to a question from U TIN MAUNG ((Burma), on the production of paddy, Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) read a brief note prepared by the Economic Affairs Service in Ruanda-Urundi, stating that rice was grown only in Urundi, on the Ruzizi plain and on the plain south of Nyanza-lac, that the production of paddy for the season 1956-1957 had been 1,900 tons, that the yield per hectare for the current season had been 4,400 kilogrammes, that such yields were only possible on specially prepared land, that by the end of 1958, 1,000 families would have settled on the 1,500 hectares of paddy fields available in the district of Usumbura, and that over the next two years 1,000 hectares would be specially prepared in the district of Bubanza. The greater part of the 1957 paddy crop had been sold to the Swahili to repay loans which had been made to the planters.

85. Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand) said that his delegation was satisfied that progress in Ruanda-Urundi in the economic field had been fully maintained. He asked how international fluctuations in prices affected the minimum prices paid to coffee producers and the operations of the Coffee Stabilization Fund.

86. Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that the minimum prices paid to coffee producers varied frequently during the same season, in accordance with

fluctuations in world prices, but that they were fixed, in order to prevent speculators from buying coffee from the indigenous producers at prices lower than the real value. The Coffee Stabilization Fund was managed by a committee consisting of officials, members of the Ruanda-Urundi Native Coffee Bureau, private individuals and indigenous inhabitants. The Fund's resources were provided by a tax levied on exported coffee by the Native Coffee Bureau. On 31 December 1956, the Stabilization Fund had amounted to 372,561,911 francs.

87. In reply to a further question from Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) said that he did not know whether the surveys for ascer-

taining which of the soils in the Territory were best suited to the production of coffee and the use of fertilizers had already begun, but that in any case they would begin shortly.

88. Following on a question from Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand), Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) replied that the dismissals of workers from the mining industry had had no serious social repercussions, because the workers in question were usually farmers, who remained in the mines only for a short time; the mining companies concerned had been able to send them back to their places of origin.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.