Ruanda-Urundi

2 New African Nations Threatened By Chaos

By ADRIAN PORTER

KIGALI, Ruanda-Urundi (A)—A piece of African real estate smaller than West Virginia is being split into two nations, and it looks as if the United Nations will have some more hot potatoes to handle.

Once part of Germany's East African holdings,

Ruanda-Urundi has been under Belgian trusteeship since World War I.

Independence is due July
1. The northern part of the
territory is to be known as
the republic of Rwanda, with
a "W." The other part is to
be called the kingdom of Burundi.

A threat of civil war affects mainly the Ruanda part. Central figures are the tall, aristocratic Watutsi tribesmen, long feudal masters of the land, and the Bahutu tribesmen, who for generations did the farming and most of the menial work.

THE BAHUTU turned on their masters three years ago, killing hundreds and driving thousands out of the land. The Bahutu, who make up 83 per cent of Ruanda's population, proclaimed a republic and took over the government in U.N. - supervised elections | ast September. Now the Watutsi are vowing to settle old scores.

Ruanda President Gregorie Kayibanda has urged his Bahutu tribesmen to keep the peace and offered the Watutsi leader, Michel Rwagasana, a share in Ruanda rule. A government has been formed with the Watutsi getting two minor ministries.

In Urundi, the Watutsi and Bahutu have managed to live together without bloodshed, but they have been at odds politically.

Urundi's political parties are dominated by the Watutsi. A Watutsi king or mwami rules the land, and the Bahutu have been alloted only 3 per cent of the government posts. Nepotism is a big factor.

have plagued both Ruanda and Urundi. Five million Africans try to eke out a livelihood by producing coffee, cotton and some minerals, but not enough to get along.

White residents, mindful of what happened when the Congo became independent, have begun pulling out. Belgian authorities estimate that by independence day, 6,000 of the 8,000 whites living in the two territories will be gone.

The U.N. has told Belgium to pull her 1,100 troops out after independence, but with only a half-trained force of 1,500 Africans left to keep order, Ruanda and Urundi may need help.



-Associated Press Map