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EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS: RUANDA-URUNDI, 1948.

Report of the Drafting Committee on annual reports

The Drafting Committee on annual reports has adopted the following passage for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly covering its sixth and seventh sessions, and submits it herewith for approval by the Council.

INTRODUCTION

The annual report of the Government of Belgium on the administration of Ruanda-Urundi for the year ended 31 December 1948 was received by the Secretary-General on 1 July 1949 and, having been transmitted\* to members of the Council on 5 July 1949, was placed on the agenda for the sixth session of the Council.

During the 22nd and 24th meetings the representative and the special representatives, Mr. L. Pétilion and Mr. P. Leroy, of the administering Authority answered oral questions concerning the report and the administration of

the Territory put by members of the Council. The special representative also submitted written answers\*\* to written questions addressed to him by members of the Council.

At the 25th and 26th meetings the Council held a general discussion with a view to formulating conclusions and recommendations relating to the report and to conditions in the Territory.

At the 15th meeting the Council set up a Committee of the Whole on annual reports to undertake the preparation of a report in accordance with rules 100 and 101 of its rules of procedure, for inclusion in the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly.

At its fourth meeting the Committee appointed a drafting sub-committee composed of the representatives of the Dominican Republic, France, Philippines and United Kingdom, to prepare a preliminary draft report concerning the annual report and the administration of Ruanda-Urundi for the year 1948.

The drafting sub-committee met on 21 and 22 February 1950. The representative of the Philippines, Mr. Melchior P. Aquino was elected Chairman. The representative and special representative of the Administering Authority participated in the work of the Sub-committee.

The draft prepared by the sub-committee was considered by the Committee of the Whole on annual reports at its fifth meeting on 23 February 1950.

The draft prepared by the Drafting Committee was considered by the Council at its ..... meeting on the .....

\* T/361  
\*\* T/L.19

PART I

OUTLINE OF GENERAL CONDITIONS AS STATED IN THE REPORT  
OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY

I. GENERAL

Population

The indigenous population of the Territory rose from 3,718,545 in 1947 to 3,793,922 in 1948, an increase of 75,377. European inhabitants numbered 2,805 in 1948 as against 2,349 in 1947, and Asians 2,504 as against 2,367.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Status of the Territory

The Trusteeship Agreement for Ruanda-Urundi, as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 December 1946, was ratified by the Belgian Law of 25 April 1949.

The Territory remains united administratively with the Belgian Congo as provided for by the Law of 21 August 1925, which made Ruanda-Urundi a Vice-Government-General while preserving its distinct juridical personality and its own finances and assets. The administering authority considered that there was no need to revise this Law.

Legislative and Executive Powers

No changes took place during 1948. Laws are enacted by the Belgian Parliament, which is the superior legislative body. Ordinary legislative power is exerted by the King in the form of decrees which, except in cases of urgency, are submitted to the Colonial Council. The Governor-General issues legislative ordinances; but ordinances which do not specially concern

Ruanda-Urundi are only applicable in the Territory after they have been promulgated by order of the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, who in exceptional circumstances, may temporarily suspend the decrees and sign ordinances having the force of a decree. Executive powers are vested by law in the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi who exercises them by means of ordinances.

#### Administration

There were no changes in the situation during 1948. The administration of the Territory is under the authority of a Governor who bears the title of Vice-Governor-General. He is assisted in his duties by a Provincial Commissioner and by a staff of officials who are appointed to the various administrative departments. 77 European officials are at present employed in the general administration as against 76 in 1947.

The Territory is divided into two Residencies, Ruanda and Urundi, each of which is divided into eight territories.

The number of Europeans employed in local administration has risen from 78 to 108 in Ruanda and from 78 to 116 in Urundi. There are 414 Africans employed in the administration in subordinate positions as book-keepers, clerks, registrars, overseers, policemen etc.

#### Council of the Vice-Government-General

By Decree of 11 April 1949, the Mwami of Ruanda and the Mwami of Urundi were appointed ex-officio members of the Council of the Vice-Government-General of Ruanda-Urundi, an advisory body of twenty-two members, 7 of which are ex-officio members, and 15 appointed members. The Bamis' alternates are African notables.

In this way African members took part in the work of the Council of the Vice-Government-General for the first time in April 1949.

#### Journey of African Notables to Europe

The Administering Authority decided to invite the two Bamis and a few notables to Belgium for a short stay as guests of the Belgian Government.

The Mwami of Ruanda and four of his notables did in fact make this journey in April and May 1949.

### Indigenous Political Structure

The Territory is divided into two native states, or "Pays", Ruanda and Urundi, each headed by a hereditary Mwami who is invested by the Governor. Both countries are divided into chiefdoms under chiefs who are appointed by the Mwami in accordance with customary law and invested by the Governor. There are 52 chiefs in Ruanda and 36 in Urundi. Each chiefdom is divided into sub-chiefdoms, the heads of which are appointed by the Mwami and invested by the Resident. There are 633 sub-chiefs in Ruanda and 516 in Urundi.

Councils for Ruanda, for Urundi and the various chiefdoms assist the Bami and the chiefs; the law provides that in some cases they must be consulted.

The two "Pays" and the chiefdoms have autonomous budgets and treasuries which the European officials help the indigenous authorities to administer whenever the latter's inexperience prevents them from administering them themselves.

The Bami, the chiefs and the sub-chiefs are responsible for indigenous administration and for numerous functions prescribed by law.

An important reform of indigenous administrative organisation is being studied. The effect of this reform would be to establish new councils at the sub-chiefdom and Territorial levels. The hierarchy of chiefdom and country councils which existed in 1948 will thus be amplified by sub-chiefdom councils and a Territorial council. Election of the members of the various councils (representatives of the population and chiefs or sub-chiefs in equal numbers) will follow a procedure corresponding to the stage of development reached by that section of the population.

The Chairman of each council will be chosen by its members from amongst themselves. The country councils will be given legislative powers in so far as that is considered feasible.

These proposed reforms have been submitted for the consideration of the Colonial Ministry and for approval by the Belgian Parliament.

The Administration is also endeavouring to introduce a uniform accounting system for the administrative Treasuries of the chiefdoms throughout the Territory. The indigenous authorities will be in charge of these Treasuries under the control of the Belgian Administration.

The indigenous inhabitants used to have to pay numerous levies or tributes, either in kind or in labour, to the Bami, the chiefs and sub-chiefs. These levies have been gradually abolished by the Belgian administration. In 1947 the redemption of all payments in kind was made compulsory and they were replaced by a payment in cash to the Bami and the chiefs. Certain contributions in the form of labour, the redemption of which was optional, were still imposed, but in 1948 their redemption was also made compulsory. All tribal dues have therefore now been replaced by taxes payable in cash.

#### Justice

No important reforms occurred in 1948. There are non-indigenous criminal and civil courts and there are also indigenous courts which are competent to deal with African civil and tribal questions and which also have limited power in penal matters.

A decree of 5 July 1948 which came into force in Ruanda-Urundi on 1 July 1949, increases - as far as non-indigenous courts are concerned - the separation of powers as between the administration and the judiciary,

As regards the indigenous courts, customary law did not provide for the separation of political from judicial powers, both of which still remain in the hands of the Bami and the chiefs. As soon as the Legislative council for the Pays is set up and operating normally, however, the Administration plans to study the reform of the judiciary structure with a view to the separation of judicial, legislative and executive powers.

### III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### Agriculture

Kuanda-Urundi is primarily an agricultural country.

It is estimated that 1,103,745 hectares or 20.3% of the total area of the Territory are under cultivation. Of this total, 1,073,700 hectares are used for growing indigenous foodstuffs.

All adult and able-bodied inhabitants of a chiefdom are compelled to cultivate 35 acres of seasonal food crops and 25 acres of non-seasonal food-producing plants. These regulations are for famine prevention purposes. They are imposed in the exclusive interest of the farmers, who may freely dispose of the crops.

Industrial crops, although encouraged by the government, are not obligatory.

The production by Africans of Arabian coffee amounted to 11,000 tons as compared with 8,500 tons in 1947. 1,382,292 coffee shrubs were planted during the year, nearly all of which were for replacement purposes. Non-indigenous coffee production is negligible (310 tons).

The 1948 cotton crop all produced by the indigenous inhabitants amounted to 3,656 tons of cotton seed as against 4,035 in 1947. The number of elacin palm trees (Tanganyika Lake area) increased by 7% in 1948.

Palm oil production amounted to 600 tons in 1948 as compared with 387 tons in 1947.

Owing to lack of demand the administration has not been encouraging the growing of castor oil and red pepper plants.

Owing to a slump in the market, the production of pyrethrum fell by more than 60%. Indigenous production amounted to 98 tons and European production to 414 tons as compared with 190 and 1,130 in 1947.

There was a slight increase in cinchona plantations.

The indigenous inhabitants are advised by the Administration's agricultural experts and are furnished with selected seeds from the experimental stations.

With a view to increasing the area under cultivation, the Administration has embarked on a works programme which achieved the following results in 1948:

1) The drainage of 1,580 hectares of marshland which brings the total area of land reclaimed and made available for indigenous agriculture to 78,000 hectares.

2) 3,775 hectares of irrigated land are under cultivation.

3) 15,000 kilometres of hedging and ditching providing for the terracing of 20,000 hectares was carried out for anti-erosion purposes. This brings the total length of hedges and ditches to 140,000 kilometres and the area of terraced land to 200,000 hectares.

For famine prevention purposes the Indigenous Welfare Fund provided 50 million francs for the purchase of equipment and warehouses to store 12,000 tons of foodstuffs.

#### Animal Husbandry

The cattle population amounts to 965,884 heads all belonging to the indigenous inhabitants. The cattle are of indifferent quality but are considered as a sign of wealth and require an area of pasture land which encroaches to a dangerous extent on land available for cultivation. The Veterinary Department is making great efforts to reduce the number and improve the quality of cattle.

Supplies of beasts for slaughter from Ruanda-Urundi stock farms for 1948 may be broken down as follows:

For consumption in Ruanda-Urundi

70,995 cattle; 131,940 sheep and goats; 1,749 pigs.



For export to the Eastern districts of the Belgian Congo:

20,000 cattle; 800,000 sheep and goats; 4,072 pigs.

### Fisheries

Fishing is practised on Lake Tanganyika and also, since the recent introduction of tilapia fry, on Lake Mohasi. The quantity of fresh fish caught in 1948 is estimated at 2,265 tons, 150 tons of dried fish were exported to the Belgian Congo.

A fishery supply board was established at Usumbura in 1948 with a capital of 100,000 frs. for the purpose of providing fishermen with equipment at reasonable prices.

Tilapia fry has also of late been introduced into a number of other lakes.

### Land Tenure

The indigenous inhabitants own about 36,000 sq. km., the Government 120 sq. km. and the non-indigenous inhabitants 248 sq. km. of land. The Government acquired an area of 6.99 sq. km. in 1948 for the establishment or extension of indigenous townships.

### European Settlement

The Administration frowns on large-scale agricultural settlement. It allows small-scale agricultural settlement in so far as this does not interfere with the best interests of the indigenous inhabitants.

There are 152 European and 7 Asiatic agricultural settlers in all. They occupy 10,517 hectares.

In 1948 there were no new agricultural settlers and no land was conceded for agricultural settlement.

The Administration welcomes commercial, artisan and industrial settlers.

### Mines

The exploitation of mineral resources is entirely in the hands of mining companies and settlers.

Mining legislation guarantees the Territory the right of control, supervision and participation in profits through the allocation to the Government of a certain number of the mining companies' shares.

Prospectors' licences are not being granted at the moment. A new mining company has been formed, in which the Territory has a 50% participation.

Production figures are as follows:

Gold . . . . .	0.286 tons as against	0.356 tons in 1947
Tin Ore . . . . .	1,900.300 " " "	1,942.000 " " "
Wolfram . . . . .	172.746 " " "	165.000 " " "
Columbite . . . . .	3.500 " " "	18.000 " " "
Mixed Ores	29.970 " " "	20.000 " " "

#### Communications

Ruanda-Urundi possesses 7,805 km. of roads. About 70 km. of new roads were built in 1948.

No new road construction work will be undertaken until the necessary equipment is available.

Unpaid native labour for the upkeep of roads was completely abolished in November 1948 and replaced by an annual tax of 7 frs. per taxpayer.

#### Foreign Trade

Export and import trade is left to private non-indigenous interests. Nevertheless, in 1948, certain indigenous traders imported dried fish from Tanganyika.

Trade in certain products such as coffee, castor oil, pepper and skins is controlled by the government to ensure good quality in the products intended for export.

Imports in 1948 amounted to 50,503 tons with a value of 671 million francs, as against 46,200 tons and 647 million francs in 1947.

Exports in 1948 totalled 73,489 tons with a value of 713 million francs, as against 57,622 tons and a value of 624 million francs in 1947.

The principal imports are cotton goods, salt, cement, petrol, industrial machinery, vehicles, etc. the principal suppliers being the Belgian Congo, Belgium and the United States of America.

The principal exports are coffee, cattle, skins, tin ore, gold and cotton, the principal customers being the Belgian Congo, Belgium and the United States of America.

### Internal Trade

Internal trade for the most part consists of the purchase of indigenous products and the sale of trading goods.

A third of the shops are run by Europeans, half of whom are Greeks. The remainder are run by Indians and Arabs. Steps have been taken to increase the number of indigenous shopkeepers. There are 21 indigenous commercial firms.

Indigenous traders are taking an ever-increasing share in the cattle trade.

### Industry

There are 758 industrial undertakings or establishments, consisting of 243 agricultural and mining undertakings, 450 manufacturing establishments and 60 connected with transport.

Of this total, 299 are indigenous, including 132 workshops for the preparation and drying of skins, 58 unmechanised brick works, 21 tile works and 30 hotels and restaurants.

### Credit

In 1948 the Colonial Credit Society received 61 applications for loans from settlers, totalling 20,050,000 francs. 22, for a total amount of 5,680,000 francs, were granted.

The indigenous inhabitants can obtain loans from the indigenous treasuries of the countries and chiefdoms, particularly for financing their industries.

### Public Finance

The national income of the Territory is estimated at 2,830,018,000 francs. Revenue for 1948 was estimated at 200,458,000 francs, as against 167,371,000 in 1947. The provisional figures for revenue in 1948 are 156,024,346 francs, the yield from indigenous taxes (poll, polygamy and cattle) representing 42% and from customs duties 30%.

Expenditure for 1948 was estimated at 230,464,000 francs for the ordinary budget and 28,365,000 francs for the extraordinary budget. Social services account for 23.44%, economic services for 30.75% and administrative services for 25.66%. In 1947, 19.15% was allocated to the social services, 5.99% being earmarked for education and 13.06% for public health.

The budgets of the indigenous treasuries of the countries and chiefdoms are not included in these data.

In 1948 the contribution of the Indigenous Welfare Fund amounted to 50 million francs, intended for the anti-famine campaign.

The public debt has been reduced to 20 million francs.

## IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

### Civil Registration Statistics

Under an ordinance of 5 March 1948, the declaration of births and deaths has been made compulsory. These provisions are being gradually applied.

Marriages between indigenous inhabitants may be registered by the indigenous courts, if the persons concerned so request.

### Social Security and Welfare

Since 1948 the Social Welfare Department has employed two social welfare assistants to work among the indigenous women in the extra-customary centre of Usumbura. A visiting nurse will take up duty in the near future.

At the beginning of 1949 the Administration is planning to provide a new group of social welfare assistants for Astrida.

Appropriations from public funds for social welfare rose from 916,000 francs in 1947 to 6,976,400 francs in 1948; the latter amount includes 5,000,000 francs allocated to the indigenous housing programme begun in 1948.

To these amounts from the Territory's budget should be added the 25,820,000 francs representing the first instalment of the appropriation from the Indigenous Welfare Fund, chiefly for the building of food storage sheds.

Lastly, the private credits available amount to 11,983,732 francs. This sum was available in 1948 but will not be used until 1949.

#### Standard of Living

The only systematic survey of the cost of living and wages carried out in the Territory is confined to the indigenous centre of Usumbura.

It shows that by reference to indices established on the basis of 1940 = 100, wages have risen slightly since 1947 (1948 index: 273 as compared with 270 in 1947); the cost of living is rising (228 as compared with 214) and the standard of living index is going down (120 as compared with 125).

No survey of this kind has been made in respect of the rural populations.

The administration is trying to combat the rise in the cost of living by controlling prices and establishing "fair-price shops" supplied through Government channels and hence selling at moderate prices.

#### Housing and Town Planning

At Usumbura, 77 new brick houses were built by the State and private companies for their indigenous employees. In the same area 370 houses of various materials were built by the indigenous inhabitants themselves. The garden city of Usumbura, an extension of the extra-customary centre, is under construction, and in 1948, 28 semi-detached houses (56 dwellings) were completed.

In the interior 704 houses were completed in 1948 under the cheap house building programme.

## Work and Labour

### General

The total number of workers in permanent employment rose from 51,948 in 1947 to 59,515 in 1948. During the year under review, 21,656 men were employed in industry, 7,289 in agriculture, 5,869 in commerce, 14,215 in the missions, 7,178 in the Administration, and 3,308 on various other jobs.

In 1948 there was no unemployment and there were no industrial disputes.

### Legislation

The legislation governing indigenous labour underwent little change during 1948. The basic legislation is still the decree of 16 March 1922 on the labour contract. Under the ordinance of 12 May 1948, a Belgian Congo ordinance prohibiting night work for indigenous children under 18 years of age was made applicable to Ruanda-Urundi.

The workers' compensation scale was raised by 50% in December 1948.

Under the decree on the labour contract, provision is made for penal sanctions in the case of infringements of the regulations. The local administration considers that in a country where the labour force as yet shows little sense of duty or scrupulousness in the observance of contracts and where the need to work has not yet become essential, the abolition of these penal provisions would immediately give rise to social unrest, from which indigenous society would be the first to suffer. The Government is nevertheless considering what improvements could be made in the law as the first step in a reform directed towards the abolition of the penal sanctions in question.

In 1948 330 convictions were recorded in the courts for the breaking of contract by quitting work, and 503 for other derelictions of duty; 286 less serious infringements of labour discipline were punished by non-judicial fines. 15 employers were also prosecuted and fined.

### Organization of Workers

The local committee of indigenous workers at Usumbura set up in December 1946 began to hold regular meetings in 1948. The factory councils in the industrial centres functioned fitfully. The indigenous workers still show little understanding of such institutions.

The Administration was planning to set up in January 1949 one provincial and several regional labour and social progress commissions, whose function would be to develop among the workers and their families a better understanding of their interests and social obligations and a higher sense of duty.

### Migrant Labour

Labour continues to migrate from the Territory in two directions; to the Belgian Congo, - chiefly workers engaged under long-term contracts (maximum three years); and to the neighbouring British territories (Tanganyika and Uganda); in the latter case, seasonal workers are chiefly involved.

In 1948 workers taking jobs in the Belgian Congo numbered 18,209 as against 15,280 in 1947.

The flow of seasonal workers taking jobs in the Territories of Tanganyika and Uganda involves about 100,000 workers. On 31 December 1948, 30,647 workers from Ruanda-Urundi were in the British Territories, as compared with 41,987 at the beginning of the year.

At the end of November 1948, a conference of Belgian officials and doctors and Tanganyika and Uganda labour commissioners met at Kisenyi under the chairmanship of the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, for the purpose of finding solutions for the serious problems arising out of this seasonal exodus.

Arrangements were made for periodic conversations between the representatives of the three Territories with a view to settling the questions of safe halts for the migrants and of medical attention during the journey.

### Wages

Wages show a steady upward trend. Since 1938 they have increased in the proportion of one to four. The average daily wage rate at Usumbura is 6 to 8 francs for an agricultural worker (4 to 7 in 1947), 7 to 9 francs for a labourer (6 to 8 in 1947). Skilled workers can earn much higher wages: for example, 30 to 75 francs for a driver (the same as in 1947) and 20 to 100 francs for a typist (the same as in 1947).

The Administration is convinced that what is needed is a lowering of the cost of living rather than a sharp increase in wages by legislative action.

### International Conventions

During 1948, Belgium acceded to the following Conventions on behalf of Ruanda-Urundi:

- 1) Recruiting of Indigenous Workers Convention, adopted at Geneva on 20 June 1936 by the International Labour Conference at its Twentieth Session;
- 2) Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention; adopted at Geneva on 27 June 1939 by the International Labour Conference at its Twenty-fifth Session.

### Compulsory labour

The Ordinance of 4 October 1943 provides for the unpaid execution of certain types of compulsory labour, e.g., afforestation, the planting and tending of food crops for nutritional purposes for the exclusive benefit of the population, and all work for the general purpose of averting famine.

The unpaid task of keeping roads free of vegetation, formerly imposed within a radius of 5 km. of the labourer's place of residence, has been abolished and replaced by a cash payment as from December 1948.



The 1943 Ordinance also provides for certain types of labour which, though compulsory, are paid for at the customary wage-rates obtaining locally, e.g. the construction of medical establishments, schools, law courts etc.

The question of recasting this legislation is now being studied.

#### Co-operative system

There has been no sign so far of any initiative on the part of the indigenous inhabitants in setting up genuine co-operatives. While the Government has not abandoned its plan to create such organizations, it would seem that the present stage of mental development does not favour its immediate realization.

#### Public Health

Total appropriations for the medical services under the ordinary budget of 1948 were 32,280,000 francs, as against 21,422,840 francs in 1947.

The contribution from the Native Treasuries amounted to 4,263,517 francs in 1948, as against 3,958,400 francs in 1947.

Thus the medical service had a total credit of 36,545,517 francs at its disposal during the year under review, compared with 25,381,240 francs in 1947.

Total expenditure by private mining, industrial and agricultural companies on the medical care of their indigenous staffs and neighbouring populations amounted in 1948 to 5,706,620 francs.

The Territory possesses 31 hospitals, 90 dispensaries, 2 detached maternity homes, 1 isolation centre for lepers, 2 isolation centres for persons suffering from sleeping sickness and 76 vaccination centres.

The establishments newly set up in 1948 comprise 1 (company) hospital, 18 dispensaries (2 mission, 1 private, 15 company), 1 maternity home (mission). Another 3 maternity homes are under construction.

The Ruanda-Urundi Administration's building programme for 1949 provides for 9 rural hospitals, 2 maternity homes, 2 sanatoria for tubercular cases and an agricultural village for lepers.

The number of medical officers in the service of the Administration rose from 20 in 1947 to 34 in 1948.

The number of doctors employed by private companies and subsidized missions rose from 15 to 18.

The Government has decided to increase its total medical staff from 47 (1948) to 93 in the very near future.

The total number of consultations in 1948 was 7,203,275 including 21,299 for Europeans, 8,423 for Asiatics, and 7,173,553 for indigenous inhabitants.

The following improvements in the field of public health are recorded for 1948:

- (a) The number of search teams for tracking down and treating victims of sleeping sickness has increased from 5 to 7.
- (b) By a special ordinance, the practice of giving 6-monthly preventive injections of pentamidine has been extended to cover the entire indigenous population, even where temporarily resident, of the Ruzizi-Tanganyika plain.
- (c) The number of child welfare clinics increased from 29 in 1947 to 49 in 1948. 25 pre-natal clinics were in operation in 1948. The total number of consultations at these clinics was 303,396.
- (d) Work on filling in the marshland bordering on Usumbura has continued.
- (e) The work of laying on drinking water in the European and Asiatic residential quarters, industrial and commercial districts and the two extra-customary indigenous districts of Usumbura was completed in 1948.

(f). Courses in child welfare and domestic hygiene were started in the two extra-customary centres of Usumbura.

The Central African Scientific Research Institute (IRSAO) set up a medical research laboratory at Astrida in 1948 to study problems relating to the food supplies and nutrition of the indigenous inhabitants with a view to improving their living conditions.

#### V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

##### General Organization

There has been no change since 1947 in the organization of the Territory's Education Department.

The Education Department has prepared a set of new regulations and curricula ("Organization of free, and subsidized education for indigenous inhabitants with the assistance of the Christian Missions") to replace the 1938 system. These new regulations, which apply as from January 1949, codify pre-elementary and post-elementary education, extend the scope of education for young girls and re-organize secondary and technical education to permit the introduction of a selective system for higher studies. French instruction is intensified and given in all schools, starting from the third year of elementary studies. Non-specialized, classical or modern secondary Schools are to provide instruction for students destined to attend the university centre which the Administration intends to set up in 1955. Apart from the Astrida school group (official schools), elementary teaching and teachers' training continues to be of the "free subsidized congregational" type. The new system specifically provides that religious lessons are optional.

The subsidies to missions have been increased to meet the expenditure involved in reorganizing the schools.

The missions have been given categorical administration instructions for standardizing the age of admission to pre-elementary and elementary schools,

and implementing the health programmes and the plans for running school gardens.

By an agreement concluded between the missions and the Government of Ruanda-Urundi, and operative as from 1 January 1948, the missions undertake to comply with the provisions of the new official regulations, accept the Government subsidies and agree to supervision by official inspectors.

The necessary arrangements have been made to enable the son of the Mwami of Ruanda-Urundi and the son of a chief of Urundi to study at the Colonial University at Antwerp in the near future.

#### Appropriations for Education

Government appropriations amounted to 25,020,000 francs in 1948, showing an increase of 11,977,000 francs over 1947.

Government appropriations budgeted for 1949 amount to 31,552,000 francs.

To this figure for 1949 must be added a credit of 16,950,000 francs contributed by the Indigenous Welfare Fund and to be used for building 3 teachers' training schools and 11 craft apprenticeship institutions and domestic science schools.

#### Number of schools and school attendance figures.

Only one official school exists - the Astrida school group.

The number of subsidized elementary mission schools totalled 1,589 in 1948, showing an increase of 312 over 1947.

Non-subsidized elementary mission schools increased from 3,181 in 1947 to 4,953 in 1948.

A teachers' training school, a student teachers' school, six domestic science sections and three technical training schools have been established.

The total number of pupils rose from 326,550 in 1947 to 420,000 in 1948. Secondary education in Astrida has been divided into two sections.

Pending the establishment in the very near future of non-specialized secondary schools in Ruanda-Urundi, twenty students have since 1948 been attending the classical secondary school of the Kivu (Belgian Congo), transport arrangements being made by the Administration of the Territory.

Out of an estimated total of 315,000 boys between 7 and 14 years of age, over 228,000 or 72%, attend elementary school or chapel school.

Out of an estimated total of 320,000 girls between 7 and 14 years of age, nearly 135,000, or 42% , attend such schools.

Out of an estimated total of 370,000 young people between 14 and 18 years of age, 18,000, or 4.4%, receive some form of education.

#### Adult Education

In addition to the arrangements for elementary education, elementary domestic science sections and further education facilities provided by various Missions, the new organization provides for the organization of adult classes in the large towns, the commercial centres, the Missions' central schools and the workers' villages i.e. wherever it is possible to get together pupils and teachers. In 1948, about 40,000 men and women were attending classes for adults and illiterates. The "Cercles d'évolués", supported by the Government, possess radio equipment and in some cases cinematographic installations (Astrida and Usumbura), and make an important contribution to mass education.

#### Libraries

The libraries at Astrida, Usumbura, Kigali and Kitega, established in 1947, have received fresh stocks of educational, literary or recreational books.

Reading being still too great a strain for the majority of the population, the libraries are not very well patronized.

PART II  
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

I. GENERAL

The Council considering that the Annual Report for the year 1948 shows a record of steady development, commends the Administering Authority and expresses the hope that continuing progress will be made in all fields of the administration of the Territory.

The Council noting that the Administering Authority has concurred with the views expressed by the Visiting Mission on certain matters and has adopted and put into effect some of the Mission's suggestions, commends the Administering Authority for this example of constructive co-operation.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

General

The Council commends the Administering Authority on the progress already achieved in the political field and expresses the hope that it will take into careful consideration all the recommendations of the Council and the suggestions of the Visiting Mission.

Council of Vice-Government General

The Council commends the Administering Authority for having appointed the two Bani as permanent members of the Council of Vice-Government General, and for having appointed African alternates; and is gratified to note that the Administering Authority views with favour an increase in the near future in the number of Africans on this Council; and expresses the hope that this Council, at present advisory, will be given some legislative powers.

Plans to reform the indigenous political structure

The Council noting that the Administering Authority is studying the possibility of establishing various African Councils which would to some extent exercise legislative powers, invites the Administering

Authority to give the Council as soon as may be practicable, full information regarding these plans, to the implementation of which the Council attaches great importance.

#### Electoral System

The Council, noting with regret that the election experiment in Usumbura in 1949 did not meet with the expected success; noting with satisfaction, however, that the Administering Authority contemplates taking further steps in the same direction; expresses the hope that adequate education will make such experiments more successful in the future and requests the Administering Authority to keep the Trusteeship Council informed regarding developments in this matter.

### III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### Famines

The Council, noting with concern that the danger of famine remains a major problem in the densely populated territory of Ruanda-Urundi; noting the praiseworthy efforts of the Administering Authority to meet this situation; draws the attention of the Administering Authority to the need for further means to deal with this problem, and recommends that the services of FAO and UNESCO should continue to be used in this work.

#### Non-indigenous settlement

The Council, regarding as a matter of prime importance that uninhabited and uncultivated lands be reserved, as a rule, for the indigenous population, urges the Administering Authority to maintain its restrictions on the settlement of agricultural lands by non-indigenous persons.

### IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

#### Overpopulation

The Council, considering that overpopulation in Ruanda-Urundi may in the course of time constitute a problem which cannot be solved by internal measures, recommends that the Administering Authority continue to study the possibilities of migration of a part of the population of Ruanda-Urundi to less populated neighbouring territories.

### Immigration

The Council, noting that the immigration law of Ruanda-Urundi prohibits the admission as immigrants of persons who are unable to read and write a European language, recommends that the administering authority study the possibility of replacing this provision by a measure free from any discriminatory character.

### Discrimination

The Council, recalling paragraphs 4 and 5 of Resolution 323 (IV) of the General Assembly and Resolution 49, (IV) of the Trusteeship Council on social discrimination, recommends that the administering authority should continue to review all legislation involving social discrimination particularly the laws on residence, alcoholic beverages, fire-arms and the penitentiary system.

In reviewing the legislation on alcoholic beverages, the Administering Authority should bear in mind the necessity of preserving the physical and moral health of the indigenous inhabitants.

### Labour

The Council commends the Administering Authority for its efforts to enable recruited workers to be accompanied by their families.

### Wages

The Council; noting that the existing scale of wages in the Territory is low in comparison to prices, considering that as a general rule higher real wages are one of the strongest incentives for more efficient labour, concurring with the observations made on wages by the Visiting Mission, recommends that the Administering Authority consider this problem with a view to raising the real wages in the Territory.

### Penal Sanctions for Breach of Labour Contract

The Council recommends that penal sanctions for breach of labour contract be abolished as soon as may be practicable.



### Compulsory Tributes

The Council commends the Administering Authority for its decision to suppress all obligatory payments in kind or labour.

### Public Health

The Council commends the Administering authority on the good results achieved in the field of medical services during the year 1948; commends the Administering Authority for the steps it has taken to train African medical personnel for higher posts; and recommends that such services be improved and expanded.

### Disciplinary Punishment

The Council, recalling paragraph 2 of Resolution 323 (IV) of the General Assembly on abolition of whipping in Ruanda-Urundi, recommends that the Administering Authority consider the abolition of whipping and the substitution of other forms of penalties more in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In respect of solitary confinement, the Council also recommends that it be applied only to serious and exceptional cases, and that its duration be limited as much as possible.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### General

The Council, noting the increase in the budget for education and in the number of school children, primary schools, teacher-training schools and trade-schools, expresses its satisfaction at the progress made by the Administering Authority in the educational field, particularly during the year 1948, and expresses the hope that improvement in this field will continue to be pursued with vigour.

### Government Secular Schools

The Council, noting that all primary schools in the Territory are in fact run by religious missions, concurring with the views set forth in the report of the Visiting Mission, recommends that the Administering

Authority consider establishing official secular schools, without prejudice to the help given to religious institutions engaged in educational activities.

Scholarships for secondary and higher education

The Council considers it desirable that the Administering Authority study measures for establishing a system of scholarships for indigenous inhabitants so as to enable them to complete secondary studies and to receive higher education.

Standardization in the Spelling of the Vernacular

The Council, considering that it would be beneficial for the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory to have a uniform system in the notation and spelling of the vernacular, invites the Administering Authority to consult with the Administering Authority of Tanganyika in order to study such standardization with respect to Kiswahili, and recommends that UNESCO be called upon to assist in such a study, insofar as this may be useful.

PART III

OBSERVATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL  
REPRESENTING THEIR INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ONLY

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I. GENERAL

Miscellaneous

The Representative of China congratulated the Administering Authority for Ruanda-Urundi for the comprehensive and informative report it had submitted to the Council for the year 1948.

The representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated the Belgian Administration on its constructive work in 1948 and expressed his confidence that the few remaining gaps would be filled without difficulty.

The representative of Belgium thanked the Trusteeship Council for the generally conscientious and impartial manner in which it had studied the Administering Authority's report. He assured the Council that any observations that it might make would receive the latter's most serious consideration.

Ten-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development

The representative of the United States of America noted that a ten-year plan for the economic and social development of Ruanda-Urundi was to be worked out. He looked forward with interest to the publication of the systematic and detailed plan.

The representative of China was gratified to note that the Administering Authority had decided to prepare a separate ten year plan for the economic and social development of the Territory. He hoped that the relevant recommendations and observations of the Council and its Visiting Mission would be taken into careful consideration by the Administering authority, either in connection with this ten year plan or independently of it. In particular, he referred to the recommendations and observations relating to

the discouragement of European colonization, the improvement of the wage level, the prevention of famine and the introduction of a co-operative system in agriculture, trade and industry.

## II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

### General observations

The representative of Iraq noted that the Africans were still very much attached to traditional institutions. He believed that these institutions should be gradually modified towards modern government. Such an evolution could be brought about by education and persuasion, but antiquated methods should not be allowed to hamper the march of progress, and traditional institutions should in no way arrest the development of the Territory, or its advancement toward self-government or independence. He noted that the Administering Authority was pursuing a policy of steady evolution towards modern political institutions which should be followed steadily and vigorously. He felt sure that the Council would want to recommend this policy.

The representative of the Philippines noted that as a whole the political progress of the Trust Territories had lagged behind that attained in the economic and social fields. He expressed the wish that, while praising the Administering Authorities, the members of the Trusteeship Council would not forget the paramount objectives of the Trusteeship System of preparing the people for self-government or independence.

The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed the opinion that it was time to abandon tribal feudalism and to start making use of the ballot box and teaching the indigenous inhabitants how to exercise the right of vote. The pace of political development was too slow and at the present rate it would take generations, if not centuries, before Ruanda-Urundi became capable of self-government. Great results could be achieved in a generation, given the necessary faith and provided that the preparation of the people for self-government was kept in mind as the basic aim of the Trusteeship System.

The representative of Belgium maintained that the training of indigenous medical assistants and agriculturalists, the provision of facilities for a large number of children to attend school, and the improvement of health and nutrition standards were just as important as political progress in leading the indigenous inhabitants along the road to self-government. He did not however deny that the pace of political development might be accelerated.

The special representative pointed out that with the exception of the still numerically small elite, the mass of the population of Ruanda-Urundi lived for the present and was not interested in politics. So far as they were concerned, the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council, the Belgian Government, even the Government of Ruanda-Urundi were merely remote abstractions. To awaken a political conscience and transform the indigenous inhabitants' purely familial conception of life into a more social, more universal understanding of human relationship was a task for the future. Furthermore, it must be remembered that the indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi were divided into three very distinct groups, the Batutsia, the Bahutus and the Batwas. It was the duty of the Belgian administration to protect the Bahutus and the Batwas against themselves and to dissipate their political and social apathy.

The representative of Iraq expressed the opinion that the Council should look to the Administering Authority to broaden African representation on governmental organs. As many Africans as possible should be seated on legislative, executive and local Councils.

#### Relations between chiefs and people

The representative of Iraq stated that political communion between a government and its public was of the utmost help, and that communion could not be achieved without an affinity of thought between the two. It would be a tragedy if an awakened and enlightened public were to be presided over by ignorant and reactionary chiefs, who would thwart progress and development at every turn.

The representative of Belgium stated that in Ruanda, the Mwami, forty-nine chiefs out of fifty-two, and five hundred and fifty-eight sub-chiefs out of six hundred and thirty-three were literate. In Urundi, the Mwami and thirty-two chiefs out of thirty-six were literate, as were three hundred and forty-four out of five hundred and sixteen of the sub-chiefs. It followed that the standard of education of the chiefs and sub-chiefs was certainly higher than the average for the population.

#### Council of Vice-Government General

The representative of the Philippines was surprised by the statement of the special representative to the effect that a measure granting legislative power to the Council of Vice Government General would constitute a negation of the Trusteeship System. In support this view, the special representative stated that according to the terms of the Trusteeship agreement the legislative power was vested in Belgium as the administering Authority and this power could not be transferred to a local Council. The Philippines delegation on the contrary, felt that the progressive transfer of legislative powers to a local body would constitute an implementation of the Charter's obligation in respect of progressive development towards self-government or independence. It would seem that giving some legislative powers to a central mixed body, at present advisory, would not only be in order but highly desirable and quite in keeping with the practice in other African Trust Territories.

#### Plans to reform the indigenous political structure

The representative of Iraq stated that the administering Authority was to be congratulated for its intention to bring about constitutional reforms. He believed that the Council would want concrete information on these plans at the earliest opportunity, which should not only ensure the consolidation of a solid system of government but also accelerate, within measures of practicability, the political advancement of the Territory.

The representative of the United States of America noted with considerable gratification the very important reform in local government being worked out by the Administering Authority. He expressed the hope that at the examination of the next annual report full details of the plan would be presented to the Council.

The representative of the Philippines expressed regret that, although the Annual Report stated that modifications might take place in 1949 in the indigenous political structure, no further information could be obtained from the special representative.

The representative of Belgium stated that it was quite impossible for the special representative, who was a subordinate of the Minister for the Colonies, to furnish details of schemes which were actually under consideration by the Administration. The necessary information would be provided in the Report for the following year.

#### Electoral system

The representative of Iraq observed that some sort of an electoral system must be introduced in the Territory. The people should be trained in order to obtain the benefits of modern political institutions, particularly in respect of parliamentary methods.

#### Bami's visit to Europe

The representative of the Philippines commended the Administering Authority for having enabled the Mwami of Ruanda and four of his notables to pay a visit to Belgium in 1949, and for planning to do the same for the Mwami of Urundi.

#### Invitation of the Bami to the Trusteeship Council

The representative of the Philippines wondered whether the Administering Authority would have any objection if the two important African rulers of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, or one of them, were invited to attend a future session of the Trusteeship Council and were asked, if desirable, to express their views to the Council on matters relating to

the Trust Territory. It might be desirable for the Trusteeship Council to make an appropriate suggestion or recommendation along these lines.

#### Administrative Union with the Belgian Congo

The representative of China was gratified to find that although an administrative union existed between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, the separate identity of the former as a Trust Territory was maintained. He hoped that the Administering Authority would take into careful consideration the suggestion of the Visiting Mission that "the administering authority should envisage a modification of the system of administrative union on the basis of partnership rather than subordination."

The representative of the Philippines noted the statement of the special representative to the effect that there was no link of subordination between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo. He was not, however, entirely satisfied with the explanation as to the situation really obtaining in this administrative union, and recalled that the Visiting Mission suggested some modifications in the present status of this union. He associated himself with the relevant observations of the Visiting Mission, but thought that it might be wise to make further observations on this question when the general problem of administrative unions came before the Council.

The representative of France said that it was clear that Ruanda-Urundi had an individuality and a character of its own which assured its future independence from both a moral and political point of view, but it was no less true that the Territory could not in any way hope for economic independence. It was economically dependent on collaboration with the Belgian Congo, without which it would relapse into economic distress. The Administering Authority's present policy was therefore the best.

### III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### Agriculture

The representative of China was pleased to note the efforts made by the Administering Authority in the spheres of agriculture and reforestation



The representative of the United States of America stated that the efforts of the Administering Authority to increase coffee cultivation should be noted with approval. He noted with some concern the concentration on this one export crop and expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to diversify the Territory's economy to the fullest extent practicable, in order to reduce the Territory's dependence upon a single cash crop.

The representative of the United Kingdom was impressed by the successful achievement on the part of the Administering Authority in teaching and encouraging the indigenous farmers to cultivate their land effectively by scientific contouring of the steep slopes.

#### Non-indigenous settlement

The representative of the Philippines considered that even uninhabited areas should be reserved for the African population and no European settlers should be given lands in these areas. He suggested that the Trusteeship Council should endorse the Visiting Mission's recommendation that the Trusteeship Council should maintain constant vigilance in this matter and support the Administration against the ever-present possibility of pressure exercised by a European colonization centre in full progress of expansion, in view of the immediate proximity of the Belgian Congo.

#### Budget

The representative of China was pleased to note the determination of the Administering Authority to meet the deficit in the budget by loans from Belgium rather than by curtailing the expenditure on steps to accelerate the economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants.

The representative of the United States of America observed that in consequence of efforts on behalf of the indigenous inhabitants there had resulted a deficit in the budget and that the Administering Authority had decided to cover the deficit by means of a loan. Noting that this deficit was likely to increase as a result of a comprehensive Ten-Year Plan for

economic and social development, he observed that this presented a serious problem and expressed the hope that these expenditures would have the effect of stimulating effectively new economic activity in the Territory, so that eventually Ruanda-Urundi would be able to stand on its own feet.

The representative of Belgium said that the financial effects of the Ten-Year Plan were being carefully watched. Considerable financial assistance on the part of the metropolitan country was provided for, as a free gift and without the payment of interest.

#### Imprisonment for non-payment of taxes

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against the penalty of imprisonment for non-payment of taxes because there were other methods of enforcing the collection of taxes, such as the seizure of salaries. Imprisonment was a hard sanction which, in any case, did not secure the payment of the tax.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that in the great majority of cases, civil proceedings would be completely futile and even when successful, would involve the taxpayer in legal costs quite disproportionate to the amount of tax to be recovered. He pointed out that wage-earners were only a very small proportion of the taxpayers, and in their case, seizure of wages could be practised. He stated that statistics proved that there had been no abuse of this form of punishment; in 1948 sentences of imprisonment had been pronounced against 633 taxpayers out of 745,750, about 0.08 per cent.

#### IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

##### Immigration

The representative of China noted the provision of the immigration decree which included among the undesirables not admissible to the Territory as immigrants, persons who were unable to read and write a European language. Language, like race, was one of the criteria for determining the existence of discrimination and the restriction was clearly a discrimination against persons familiar with languages other than European. He requested the Council to recommend that the administering authority abolish this law.

### Discrimination

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against the practice of racial discrimination. He pointed out that there were in Ruanda-Urundi many cases of different regulations for indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants. The explanations given did not justify this practice.

The representative of China observed that it was incumbent upon the Council to take appropriate action as regards racial discrimination in terms of Resolution 49 (IV) of the Trusteeship Council, with particular reference to Ruanda-Urundi and Resolution 323 (IV) of the General Assembly, paragraphs 4 and 5 of which recommend the abolition of discriminatory laws and practices in all the Trust Territories and the examination by the Council of all laws, statutes and ordinances, as well as their application in the Trust Territories and the formulation by the Council of positive recommendations to the Administering Authorities concerned with a view to the abolition of all discriminatory provisions and practices. He believed that regulations on traffic in alcoholic beverages and arms should not be based on racial discrimination. He observed that considerations of public health and hygiene underlying regulations on housing and prison life should not be utilized as a cloak for the actual practice of racial discrimination. He was of the opinion that definite steps could be taken to improve the situation in consequence of the increasing contact and association between the European and non-European population.

### Freedom of the Press

The representative of Iraq stated that the Administering Authority should, whenever possible, encourage freedom of the Press which should be looked upon from the point of view of the people of the Territory and their welfare.

The representative of the Philippines pointed out the danger to freedom which exists in the legislation relative to the requirements for previous authorization by the Government for the publication of a newspaper or a periodical.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that, as regards prior authorization for the publication of a newspaper or periodical, since the war a law had been in force in Ruanda-Urundi and in Belgium prohibiting any person convicted of collaboration with the enemy from taking any part in the publication of a newspaper. Furthermore, certain international conventions to which Belgium was a party, prohibited the introduction and distribution of obscene literature and the government had to be in a position to confiscate such literature.

### Wages

The representative of the Dominican Republic observed that wages were too low to provide the indispensable necessities of life and that there was no minimum wage law in the Territory.

The representative of the Philippines considered that the replies given by the special representative on the matter of wages were not satisfactory. He thought that higher wages and technical education were two of the strongest incentives to remedy low-grade labour, and that it would be healthy to see posts and activities disappear which could only exist in a set-up based on a very low wage system.

He recalled that an investigation mission of the Belgian Senate to the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi in 1947 had found the wages and their relation to the standard of living to be extremely low. He fully supported the observations and suggestions made by the Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council on the matter of wages and suggested that the Trusteeship Council recommend that the administering authority consider the matter with a view to changing or improving the wage level.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that the observations in the Report published by the 1947 Belgian Senate Commission showed the interest taken by the Belgian Parliament in the treatment of the indigenous inhabitants.

The special representative stated that the Mwami of Ruanda, on his return from Belgium, declared that he had been particularly impressed by the contrast between the productive effort of Belgian workmen and the low output of indigenous workers in Ruanda-Urundi.

#### Penal Sanctions for Breach of Labour Contracts

The representative of the Dominican Republic declared that he remained unconvinced by the reasons advanced by the special representative in favour of retaining penal sanctions for breach of labour contract, namely that penal sanctions were the only ones that indigenous inhabitants could understand. He considered that the practice of punishing breaches of civil obligations by terms of imprisonment was a system which placed the worker in a position bordering on slavery.

The representative of the Philippines could not approve the continuation of penal sanctions for breaches of labour legislation, and did not believe, as was stated in the Annual Report, that their removal would result in social troubles. He suggested that the Trusteeship Council recommend that these sanctions be abolished at the earliest possible date.

The representative of Belgium re-affirmed the impossibility of applying civil sanctions to the indigenous worker in Ruanda-Urundi, who regarded his wages merely as a kind of extra income. He was not in the position of the European worker who was compelled to work by the iron law which obliged him to work or starve.

#### Housing

The representative of the United States of America noted with gratification the programme for building houses for Africans throughout Ruanda-Urundi in 1948.

#### Public Health

The representative of the United States of America noted with satisfaction that the medical corps in Ruanda-Urundi increased nearly 50 per cent in 1948 and that medical expenditure rose from 24 million francs in 1947 to about 42 million francs in 1948.

### Prison System

The representative of the Dominican Republic protested against racial discrimination in prisons. He noted that the disciplinary punishment of whipping was applied to indigenous inhabitants only. He was unconvinced by the reasons given by the special representative, and asked that the punishment, which, in his opinion, was a form of penal sadism, should be abolished. He made a similar remark with regard to the disciplinary punishment of chaining, likewise applied to indigenous prisoners only.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### General

The representative of China commended the Administering Authority on the progress which has been achieved in the field of education and on the impressive programme which has been adopted by the Administering Authority for the increase of subsidized schools.

The representative of Iraq noted that the Administering Authority had made great progress in education, for which it deserved commendation. He recommended that, within the means of practicability, the Administering Authority should consider always the increase of educational facilities.

The representative of the Dominican Republic noted the highly praiseworthy achievement of the Administering Authority in the field of education, and the no less meritorious work of the religious missions. He pointed out, however, certain weak points; primary education came to a stop at a relatively low level; secondary education was confined to a small minority; there were no official, secular schools, and higher education was non-existent.

### Government Secular Schools

The representative of Iraq noted that with one exception all schools in the Territory were run by missionaries. While cognizant of the great work done by the missions in the Territory, he recommended that the Administering Authority consider the possibility of establishing at least one secular school.

The representative of China noted that education, especially primary education, was a de facto monopoly of the missions. He wondered whether in view of the absence of a single secular school in the Territory, religion classes were not in fact compulsory for African children who wished to receive instruction. He recalled that petitioners had requested government secular schools. He stated that the views expressed on this subject by the Visiting Mission should be included in the observations of the Trusteeship Council and that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority consider establishing a few official secular schools, without prejudice to the help given to religious institutions engaged in educational activities.

The representative of Belgium made the point that if the 146 Christian missionaries at present devoting their lives to teaching in Ruanda-Urundi were replaced by officers of the administration the salaries of the latter alone would total twenty million francs, that was to say, three-quarters of the education budget for 1948.

The special representative stated that, at a school for European and Mulatto children run by a Catholic mission at Usumbura, 15 pupils out of 100 were excused religious instruction.

#### Use of the Vernacular.

The representative of Iraq stated that the Administering Authority should be commended for teaching the national language. His delegation would recommend that this effort be intensified as much as practicable.

The representative of the Dominican Republic considered that the practice of teaching vernacular languages was a very good one.

The representative of Belgium pointed out that teaching of the vernacular began in the very first year at school. The innovation lay in the fact that, whereas formerly, once French became the teaching language, the teaching of the vernacular was discontinued, at the present time, in intermediate schools, the vernacular continued to be systematically taught, although French was the actual teaching language.

### Library Facilities

The representative of Iraq noted with approval and appreciation the efforts of the Administering Authority in respect to the establishment of four libraries and recommended that more libraries be opened wherever possible. He suggested that the Administering Authority could include in the next Annual Report some statistics as to the attendance rate at these libraries and that some measures could be devised to stimulate their use.

### Dissemination of Information on the United Nations

The representative of China stated that according to the reply of the special representative, dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System was obviously inadequate in the Territory.

The special representative stated that in the new compendium on legislation relating to Ruanda-Urundi, which had been published recently and was being purchased by many indigenous inhabitants of the Territory, Articles 75-91 of the United Nations Charter and the text of the Trusteeship Agreement for Ruanda-Urundi were reproduced.