

**Small files: Oman 1957-1961,
Ruanda-Urundi 1960-1961:
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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Ruanda - Urundi

7-10 Aug. 1960

Taghi Nasr (Chief, U. N. Economic Mission
to Ruanda-Urundi)

- 2 reports to D.H. on situation in R.-U.
- 1 letter to Resident-Gen. in Usumbura, 13 Sept.
- 1 cable to D.H., 14 Sept.

UNITED NATIONS



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Usumbura, 7 August 1960

not seen by *SS*
HP?

To: The Secretary-General

From: Taghi Nasr, Chief, United Nations
Economic Mission to Ruanda-Urundi

Subject: Second periodic report on the general
situation in Ruanda-Urundi

1. General conditions in Ruanda-Urundi since 1 July 1960

Although the population has been observing events in the Congo with keen interest, there has been no local reaction of an overt character. Special measures were taken by the Administration against eventual disorders : the Force Publique, consisting of 1,200 Congolese, was disarmed, the Belgian paratroop force was strengthened, refugees from the Congo estimated to total between 4,500 and 5,000 were repatriated, with the exception of 300 who still remain in Usumbura.

The Resident-General, who returned on 3 August from a short visit to Brussels, brushed aside all suggestions for accelerating the march to independence and restated in categorical terms the decision of the Administration to maintain the existing timetable for political developments that should result in final proposals to the General Assembly in 1961. This timetable was not specified in the statement made by the Resident-General over Radio Usumbura, but there is no risk in assuming that he is referring to the Interim Decree of 25 December 1959 as noted by the Trusteeship Council at its twenty-sixth session.

Communal elections were held in Ruanda between 26 June and 30 July. Final results for all the 229 communes are not yet available but it is clear that PARMEHUTU and its ally APROSOMA gained a substantial victory, winning approximately three-quarters of all seats; the UNAR boycott was mainly restricted to three territories, Nyanza, Kibungu and Astrida where a number of persons, including a brother and half-brother of the Mwami, were arrested and sentenced to prison terms for intimidation. Elsewhere, voting was high, averaging ninety per cent. It is estimated that about 1,800 seats were won by PARMEHUTU/APROSOMA and about 50-60 seats by UNAR candidates who did not observe the boycott. In Urundi, preparations are being made for communal elections scheduled to start on 15 September.



2. Economic relations with the Congo

The independence of the Congo has required reconsideration of monetary, commercial and fiscal arrangements and policies previously administered jointly for the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi and also of arrangements for certain common services.

At a Belgo-Congolese Working Party in May 1960 following the Brussels Round Table Conference on economic and financial questions, a number of recommendations were made concerning monetary, commercial and fiscal relations between the Congo Republic and Ruanda-Urundi after 30 June. By a law of 28 June 1960 the Belgian Government provided the legal basis in Ruanda-Urundi for continuing the existing arrangements in these fields, pending further decisions.

As regards the monetary system, the law of 28 June provided for continuation of the existing arrangements pending the adoption of arrangements conforming to the changed situation. At the Brussels Working Party the participants were unable to agree on a recommendation regarding an institution to replace the Banque Centrale du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi. Two alternatives were formulated in general terms:

- (a) Reconstitution of the Central Bank on a joint Congo-Ruanda-Urundi basis, or
- (b) Dissolution of the Central Bank and creation of separate monetary institutions for the two territories.

By a decree of 4 August, the Belgian Government has adopted the second alternative. (It is highly probable that the Congo Republic would, on its own part, have taken similar action toward the establishment of its own separate Central Bank sooner or later, since the continuation of a jointly owned Central Bank was acceptable to the Belgian representatives, acting on behalf of Ruanda-Urundi, only on the basis of an equal voice in the management of a joint institution.)

In announcing the establishment of the "Banque d'Emission du Rwanda et du Burundi" (Bulletin Officiel, 6 August, No. 14 bis), the Resident-General, in a speech broadcast on 3 August, stated that the Government had decided on a separate currency and bank of issue because of the "political, economic and social development of the Congo Republic since the proclamation of independence".



The organization and administration of the new Banque d'Emission will be similar to that of the previous Banque Centrale. However, provision is made for inclusion in its board of directors, consisting of six members, of two members to be selected from a list of nominees offered by the Government of Rwanda and two from a list offered by the Government of Burundi. The decree fixes the amount of government securities which the Banque may hold at 500 million francs (\$10 million), the same as that which applied to Ruanda-Urundi under the statute of the Banque Centrale du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi.

Two important steps will now have to be taken to give full effect to the decree:

- (1) A new currency must be issued to replace the outstanding notes of the old Banque Centrale. In this connexion the Resident-General, in the speech referred to above, gave notice that measures would be taken to eliminate the effect on the monetary circulation of Ruanda-Urundi, including both currency and bank deposits, of speculative capital which had flown into Ruanda-Urundi from the Congo; he added that such measures, the precise nature of which have not been published yet, would take account of transactions that had occurred even before 30 June. It may be anticipated also that some administrative difficulties will arise in convincing Africans in rural areas to exchange their currency readily, as they may well be suspicious of what may appear a mysterious operation. The date of the conversion operation has not been announced.
- (2) Negotiations will have to be conducted with the Congo to determine Ruanda-Urundi's share in the assets of the Banque Centrale which must now be liquidated. The Mission has not been informed as yet of what procedure is envisaged or of the claim which the Belgian Government intends to assert on behalf of Ruanda-Urundi.

As regards future commercial and fiscal relations between Ruanda-Urundi and the Congo, the situation is less clear. The above-mentioned law of 28 June 1960 provides for the continuation of the status quo and envisages the creation of certain mixed commissions, with equal representation of Ruanda-Urundi and the Congo, which would determine policies regarding the operation of the Customs Union and certain common fiscal arrangements, which were assumed to continue.



No action to set up these mixed commissions has been taken, owing to the situation in the Congo. In Ruanda-Urundi, numerous problems concerning import licensing and the allocation of certain revenues from taxes on business incomes have accumulated. On 3 August the Resident-General announced that the situation in the Congo had resulted in Ruanda-Urundi's being forced to adopt import restrictions contrary to its own interests. He announced that effective immediately, Ruanda-Urundi would proceed to administer the licensing of imports and exports, including trade with the Congo, independently of the Congo and with regard only to its own interests. This arrangement, he stated, will continue until the mixed commissions can be effectively operated or replaced by other arrangements. No details are yet available to the Mission concerning the execution of the new policy, but it is evident that it will add to the Government's administrative burden.

As regards the common services (postal, telegraph and telephone system, research institutions such as INEAC -agricultural research - some elements of the public works administration, and so on), their future was to be the subject of consultation between the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. No consultations have yet been held, but the events in the Congo have already affected certain institutions depending heavily on Belgian personnel and financial support. Arrangements had been made before 30 June which gave practically full autonomy to the Ruanda-Urundi section of INEAC, so that no serious dislocation has occurred as the result of the virtual dissolution of the Congo branch following the recent exodus of practically all the Belgian staff.

3. Decentralization and regional autonomy

Although the concept of a central State with autonomy for Ruanda and Urundi within that State has some political support, especially in Ruanda, the Administration seems to be convinced that the majority will not discuss the constitutional structure of a Ruanda-Urundi community before obtaining full regional autonomy. Therefore, and without giving up all hopes for some form of co-operation between the two regions, the Administration has begun decentralizing certain services in accordance with the Interim Decree of 25 December 1959. Ordinances issued by the Resident-General on 21 July provide for the establishment of "Commissariats" in the two regions corresponding more or less to departments of a Government. The "Commissaires" would be appointed



by the Resident-General from the African population after taking into account the views of the existing political parties. The authority of the "Commissaires" will be limited on one side by an overall control exercised by the central services and the Resident-General and, on the other, by the fact that to each "Commissaire" will be attached a Technical Secretary appointed by the Resident -General from among the personnel of the Trusteeship Administration. This arrangement is considered to be temporary until Governments of the two regions are established after the legislative elections to be held in January 1961.

In this connexion, mention should be made of another decree dated 11 July preparing the ground for passing the authority for transfer of title of public lands to the regional Governments.

4. Africanization

Plans are being prepared for promoting Africanization, but no dramatic changes are expected as special stress is put on qualifications. Since a number of Belgian employees of the Administration are planning to leave and many of the Congolese employed also are returning to their country, the problem is receiving additional attention. At present, 296 Africans are employed at category 4, which corresponds to the level of junior assistants, and four in the next higher level, category 3. Forty secondary school graduates were expected to enter the Service this month in category 4. Some fifty students are expected to finish secondary school this year. At the end of 1959, a total of 165 students were taking post-secondary education.

In this respect it may be of interest to note an estimate made by a research officer of IRSAC (l'Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale) on the number of candidates from Ruanda-Urundi that may start college education in the next five years. A total of 543, it is estimated, will enter colleges in the next five years. Out of that total, 180 are expected to complete their education by 1970. At that time, it is estimated that a total of two to three hundred university graduates will be available, including those who have graduated already or are expected to finish shortly.

Africanization is also proceeding in the police and armed forces. The metropolitan force will remain here, according to the Resident-General, to the end of the "présence belge". In the meantime, officers are being trained for the "garde territoriale"

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

- 6 -

and instructors are expected to arrive in the next few weeks from Belgium to reorganize the territorial police force.

At the same time, the Administration is taking measures for raising the morale of Belgian officials here and for encouraging them to stay on. Apparently, a number of Belgian officials who arrived here from the Congo have been also employed and added to the Service.

Edcock
Air Mail Bond

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FILE NO.:

11 August 1960

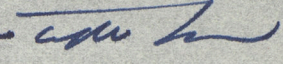
Original has been sent to the

Secretary-General in Léopoldville

David
David
16/8.

Usumbura, 10 August 1960.

To: The Secretary-General

From: Taghi Nasr, Chief, United Nations Economic Mission to Ruanda-Urundi 

Subject: Terms of reference of the Mission

On the basis of your instructions in our meeting in Léopoldville on 2 August, the Mission, since its return, has had two conferences with the Resident-General. The reaction of the Resident-General makes me believe that there is no need to renegotiate the terms of reference of the Mission with the Administering Authority. While the Resident-General has not agreed formally to the outline of the programme as referred to in part I of this memorandum, he indicated his personal support for such a programme and promised to recommend it to the Government in Brussels after having obtained the views of the Chiefs of Services here. Later on, however, it may be necessary to negotiate the programme itself with the Government of Belgium.

The Mission also has made it clear that it is not authorized at this stage to commit the United Nations to any one of the projects under consideration.

I - General outline of the programme

1. Classification of projects

Three groups of projects are being considered as follows:

A. Projects which would provide advice and support at a policy level. Experts under those projects would be attached directly to the Directors of certain important Services (Directors of Services represent the highest level of authority in the Administration immediately after the Resident-General, the Secretary-General and the Commissaire-Général). These experts will advise and assist the Directors on the overall technical

problems of their Services, on the preparation of requests for further external assistance if needed and on the training of the technical staff. These experts should be appointed for a period of no less than two years to cover the forthcoming period of transition to independence. Candidates for those posts should, in addition to their technical qualifications, have adequate high level experience at the national level. Such experts are being considered for the Services of Economic Planning; Agriculture; Economic Affairs (Industrial Development); Education; and Community Development. A request is also being considered for a group of three to five experts to advise as a team on various problems of public administration and fiscal affairs. The immediate responsibility of this group would be to organize and staff an institute of public administration.

The Resident-General wanted to be assured that the advice and assistance of experts in this category will in no way result in the sharing of his responsibilities for the administration of the Territory. I explained that this is also my understanding.

B. The second group of projects is to provide assistance in relation to programmes of training to meet the short-term requirements of Africanization as well as the long-term needs of the Territory. This part of the programme includes projects such as the establishment of a public administration institute referred to above, the training of agricultural personnel, the revision of the elementary, secondary and technical education programmes. The advisability of grouping the experts on education together under the adviser on education provided for in paragraph A above is being examined. In Ruanda-Urundi, all educational activities are centralized in the Service of Education.

C. The third group of projects includes experts in various specific technical fields for varying periods of time, such as development of fisheries, geo-chemical prospecting, electric transmission lines, co-operatives, etc.

2. Projects within the field of competence of the specialized agencies

As the Mission is not formally authorized to negotiate on behalf of the specialized agencies, it is limiting itself to recommending projects of an overall character which would form an integral part of the general projects in groups A and B above. It would be left to the agencies concerned to negotiate directly the projects for assistance in specific technical fields described in group C above.

3. Estimated cost of the programme

On the basis of an estimated cost per expert-year of \$15,000, the total cost of the programme-request under groups A and B is expected to amount to \$450,000 for a total period of two years for projects examined so far. If a total of \$750,000 could be made available as a general target for the next two years projects in group C could then be negotiated by the participating organizations.

II - Terms of reference of the Mission

"The Mission is requested to survey the economic and financial resources and needs of the Territory with a view to future United Nations assistance, and is directed, in the fulfilment of its task, to co-operate fully with the Administration of the Trust Territory.

"The Mission is authorized to undertake such related tasks and render related assistance as may be required of it by the Administration of the Territory."

As explained in my report of 16 July, the Mission did not try to make a general survey of economic and financial resources of the Territory because this is being done by a group of experts under a contract signed between the Administration and "l'Association européenne de sociétés d'étude économique" and financed by the European Economic Community. The report of this group is expected to be available by the end of this year. The Administration would like this Mission to keep in touch with the BEC group but only to the extent that it would not result in duplication and overlapping.

The Administration of the Territory has not asked, and is not expected to ask the Mission to undertake any tasks other than assisting in the preparation of the programmes of technical assistance.

III - Future of the Mission

It is the declared intention of the Administering Authority to convene, after the legislative elections of January 1961, a general conference which will examine the remaining constitutional steps leading to independence. The Trusteeship Council has expressed the hope that thereafter the question of the termination of the Trusteeship for Ruanda-Urundi may be placed, at the latest, on the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixteenth session. Consequently, if other factors do not intervene, it must for practical purposes be assumed that Ruanda-Urundi will attain its independence in early 1962. It seems therefore of utmost importance that the report of this Mission should be submitted as soon as possible for immediate consideration and action. To this effect, I would like to propose that:

(a) Your decision on the points referred to in the preceding paragraphs be cabled to me as soon as possible. If obtaining the concurrence of the specialized agencies is considered essential for projects falling within their fields of competence, I would like to propose a separate action on United Nations projects. It is more important to have the first group of experts here as soon as possible than to postpone action until agreement is reached on the whole programme. Experts on economic planning, industrial development, public administration and community development could form a solid nucleus for the beginning of the operation. The cost of United Nations projects for the next two years is estimated at \$240,000.

(b) Immediately upon the receipt of your instructions, the Mission will try to finalize the programme-request and complete its report. I hope to be able to do this in about ten days after your cabled instructions are received.

(c) After the report is submitted the specific function of this Mission would be completed and I see no need for its continuation in the present form. In fact, in my opinion, it would be embarrassing for the Mission to remain here afterwards on the present basis.

(d) The next step would be to appoint a Resident-Representative for this Territory. This Representative should, in addition to the normal functions of such officials, be able to act as co-ordinator between the experts in groups 1 and 2 and the Administration. In view of the special responsibilities of the United Nations in this Territory, he should also be able to assume such additional functions as the Secretary-General may see fit.

(e) In the meantime, Mr. Minchin and Miss de Billy would remain here to keep the United Nations office as set up by the Mission, to maintain the liaison between the field and the Headquarters and to assist in the clarification of questions that may be raised pursuant to the submission of the report of the Mission. To this effect, it would be more convenient if Mr. Minchin were given on a temporary basis the title of a TAB correspondent or liaison officer.

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 16 September 1960

FILE NO.: _____

FROM: M.F. Minchin, United Nations Economic
Mission to Ruanda-Urundi *L.F.L.*

SUBJECT: Departure of Chief of Mission

Following receipt of your cable No. 42 of 10 September
Mr. Nasr left the Mission to return to his post in Cairo on
13 September. Mr. Chudson returned to New York on the same
date.

.....

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter which
Mr. Nasr sent to the Resident-General before his departure.

Usumbura, le 13 septembre 1960.

Cher Monsieur Harroy,

Avant de quitter Usumbura, je tiens à vous exprimer une fois de plus mes plus vifs remerciements pour votre aimable accueil et votre coopération qui ont grandement facilité la tâche de cette Mission. M. Chudson partira aussi avec moi aujourd'hui et rentrera directement aux Nations Unies à New-York.

J'ai soumis le rapport final de la Mission au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et j'ai demandé qu'on vous envoie une copie de ce rapport lorsqu'il sera transmis au Gouvernement Belge.

Comme je vous l'ai mentionné au cours de nos entretiens précédents, M. Minchin, assisté par Melle de Billy, restera à Usumbura en charge du bureau établi par la Mission. J'espère qu'il recevra de l'Administration les mêmes attentions et la même coopération que la Mission a reçues jusqu'ici.

Veillez agréer, cher Monsieur Harroy, l'expression de mes meilleurs sentiments.

Taghi Nasr
Chef de la Mission économique
des Nations Unies au
Ruanda-Urundi

Monsieur le Résident-Général
USUMBURA

INFO COPY

SEP 14 1960

FILE NO.

ACTION

TO

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NEWYORK =

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WILL REMAIN AND MINCHIN ASSISTED BY DIBILLY WILL STAY ON =

TAGHI NASR CAIRO +

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1960 SEP 14 AM 9:20
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