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Ruanda - Urundi

3 Oct. 1961

U.N. Press release

- Referendum in Ruanda

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release TR/1746
3 October 1961

VOTERS IN UN-SUPERVISED ELECTION IN RUANDA
REJECT INSTITUTION OF MWAMI, CHOOSE LEGISLATORS

(The following is based on information received from the UN Information Center in Usumbura, Ruanda-Urundi.)

Voters in Ruanda have rejected the institution of the Mwami (King) in a referendum held on 25 September under United Nations supervision.

Ruanda is one of two kingdoms in the trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi administered by Belgium.

Two questions were put in the referendum:

1. Do you wish to retain the institution of the Mwami in Ruanda?
2. If so, do you wish Kigeli V to continue as Mwami of Ruanda?

The results of the referendum show that, for each question, 1,000,000 votes were cast against and 250,000 votes in favor.

Results of a general election held on the same day, also under United Nations supervision, show that the Movement for the Emancipation of the Hutu Party (PARMEHUTU) won 35 of the 44 seats of the legislature in Ruanda. The remaining seats went to the following parties: Ruanda National Union (UNAR), 7 seats; APROSOMA-GASINCWA, 1 seat; APROSOMA-RADER-RWANDA UNION, 1 seat.

Both the referendum and the elections were recommended by the UN General Assembly last April as steps toward the early independence of the trust territory.

The date for the balloting was set by Belgium, the administering authority of the territory, in consultation with the UN Commissioners who were appointed by the General Assembly to supervise the operation.

The three Commissioners -- Max H. Dorsinville (Haiti), Majid Rahnema (Iran) and Ernest Gassou (Togo) -- are now in Geneva, preparing their report to the current session of the Assembly.

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