

Ruanda-Urundi May Suffer 'Birth Pangs' Much As Congo Did

Editor's note: Today, two years to the day after the former Belgian Congo received its independence, two African trust territories, Ruanda-Urundi, are scheduled to become independent. In the following dispatch, UPI correspondent Laurence Meredith reports that the two territories, like the Congo, may find independence means a period of political and economic chaos and perhaps bloodshed.

When Germany conquered the territories at the beginning of the century they were ruled over by two monarchies claiming divine origin going back over three centuries.

Three Main Tribes

The population consists of three tribes—the Twa Pygmies, less than five feet high; the Watutsi, who are thought to have come originally from Ethiopia and are a giant people many over seven feet high; and the Bahutu, who are Bantus.

There are some 50,000 Pygmies and about 700,000 Watutsi. The Watutsi have been the ruling tribe, literally enslaving the others until as late as 1923. But both the Twa and the tall Watutsi are vastly outnumbered by the Bahutu, who number roughly 4.5 million and make up the majority of the population.

During the mandate the Belgians encouraged the Bahutu majority and poured in an average of \$42 million a year to balance an unbalanced budget.

Spontaneous Uprising

When in 1959 the Belgians indicated it was time the people of the two territories had self-government, the Watutsi thought this meant the return of the ancient days of their grandeur and unlimited power. The Bahutu took fright and there was a spontaneous and bloody uprising against the Watutsi, particularly in Ruanda.

The situation in Ruanda was made worse by the death of the king or mwami, Mutara III in July, 1959, after 28 years' reign. The new mwami was a young man, Kigeri V, in whom neither the people nor the administration had any confidence.

A few months later Kigeri was forced into exile. The Belgians formed a paramehutu council and government for Ruanda under Gregoire Kayabanda.

Administration Untrained

Kayabanda has been described as a Roman Catholic and an able man, but both he and his cabinet are dangerously untrained in administration.

In Burundi the situation was entirely different. The mwami, Mwambutsa IV, had great influence and was democratic in outlook. He had been king since 1915 when he was four years old. He is content to be a constitutional monarch instead of a feudal tyrant. He is often seen dancing and playing the drums in one of Usumburu's lakeshore night clubs.

In Burundi the Bahutu revolt was less vicious since there was not the hatred and feeling of insecurity that existed in Ruanda.

Differences Are Softened

Social and tribal differences have been softened Burundi by inter-marriage. The political parties are not drawn strictly on tribal lines.

In mid-1961 the Belgians formed a national government out of the 24 political parties in Burundi with strong Wahutu participation. This was followed by a national election which the Bahutu, by sheer mismanagement, lost to the Watutsi party led by

Prince Rwagasore, eldest son of the mwami.

Little more than three weeks after becoming premier, Prince Rwagasore was assassinated by an unknown gunman. The Watutsi blamed the Bahutu and relations between the two tribes worsened.

Unity Not Likely

Now, on the eve of independence, there seems less likelihood than ever of the two territories joining in the United Nations ideal of "a single united and composite state."

Ruanda has prepared to sever all links with Burundi. Arrangements have been made for all Ruanda exports to be routed through Uganda, replacing the traditional trade route through the Burundi commercial capital of Usumburu.

From turbulent Ruanda, the white exodus in recent weeks has been huge and, to some extent, frantic.

Commercial Capital

The majority of the 7,000 white residents of the two territories, mainly Belgians, live in the commercial capital of Usumburu on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Those who have not already booked their passages home are building barricades around their homes. Most will go if and when the Belgian troops leave.

The Belgian authorities, however, have said they are willing to stay on and finish the \$56 million 10-year investment plan which can produce no dividends for Belgium. The United Nations is now faced with the unpalatable fact that the only way order can be guaranteed in the two territories is by keeping the Belgian troops.

If the Belgian troops are withdrawn only a handful of half-trained African gendarmes will remain in both territories. It is not believed they could cope with the dispossessed Watutsi minorities who are nursing their vengeance and, their leaders have indicated, awaiting the hour of independence to pay off old scores in blood.

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By LAURENCE MEREDITH
United Press International

Today is the "deadline for freedom" for Ruanda-Urundi, a rich and beautiful land in central Africa on the slopes of the fabled mountains of the moon and inhabited by giants and pygmies.

Dr. Trost Returns From Kansas City Research Post

Ashland—Dr. Frederick J. Trost, associate professor of social science at Southern Oregon college, recently returned from Kansas City, Mo., where he served six months as a senior research associate for a special experimental project on the reduction of juvenile delinquency.

The project was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Kansas City Trust and Foundation.

Dr. Trost worked with Dr. Robert Havighurst, professor of education at the University of Chicago, who served as research consultant. Trost also instructed a course on individual techniques at the University of Kansas City.

Purpose of Experiment

Purpose of the eight-year experiment is to reduce the amount of juvenile delinquency in Kansas City by providing boys who are vulnerable to delinquency with a better opportunity for growth into adulthood through combining school with work experience.

The hypothesis is that boys vulnerable to delinquency will become less delinquent if they are given a systematic work experience commencing as early as age 13 or 14 and continued until they reach 17 or 18, Dr. Trost said.

A number of such boys were selected from the seventh grades of the four Kansas City junior high schools and were divided into an experimental and a control group. The experimental group was given a work-study program organized through the schools while the control group pursued regular classroom activities. The amount of delinquency and the quality of initial adult adjustment will be compared.

Observers are fearful of birth pangs not unlike those the former Belgian Congo has suffered since it obtained independence two years ago—also on July 1.

Unlike most of the emerging independent African states, the 4.8 million people of the twin trust territories are having freedom thrust upon them by the United Nations. On the decisions reached in the General Assembly will depend whether tribal hatreds and an untrained civil administration will produce another Congo.

Supported By Grants

At best, the independent governments of the two territories will have to be supported by large grants of money for some years to come.

Since the Germans first set up a colonial administration in 1907, the twin territories of Ruanda-Urundi have been administered as a single unit. And this policy was followed by the Belgians when they took over the country under a League of Nations mandate in 1919.

Today the two territories insist on going their separate ways into independence, despite their lack of financial viability and size (they total only 29,000 square miles).

Compelled To Recognize

This unpalatable fact the United Nations commission was compelled to recognize when it visited the territories last March. The commission in its report said they had "failed to overcome the psychosis of mutual distrust which has prevented the two sides from taking a clearer view of their long term interests."

So, they will become separately independent as Ruanda (in some spelling: Rwanda) and Burundi.

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