

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(SIXTEENTH SESSION - RESUMED)

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Statement by Mr. Martial Asselin, M. P.,
Canadian Representative on the Fourth
Committee on Wednesday February 7, 1962

Report of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi

I now wish Madam Chairman, to turn to the substantive problems before us. We are faced with a very difficult situation to which no easy or automatic response can be given. What we must do is to find the best solution possible in present circumstances -- that which is most likely to minimize the chance of fresh disturbances and renewed political unrest in the territory.

We cannot reverse the course of recent events in Ruanda-Urundi but there are some things that the United Nations can and should do in the time that remains which could have very beneficial results. This action must, however, be taken in cooperation with the autonomous governments of Ruanda and Burundi, and in collaboration with Belgium as the Administering Authority. The tripartite partnership still holds good, and is particularly necessary in the final phase preceding independence.

As members of the Assembly we must also be conscious of our responsibility to reach a decision, and to reach it together. This is a question which cannot be left in suspense until the Seventeenth Session. And lastly, we should make provision so that whatever consultative and advisory machinery is set up by the United Nations will be available to the governments of Ruanda and Burundi after independence, if they so desire.

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The problems, then, as my Delegation sees it, are the following:

First, what action should the Assembly take on the report of the United Nations Commission?