

In Ruanda we have to face the problem squarely. The pre-conditions were not entirely satisfactory in the opinion of the three Commissioners but they are agreed that the organization of the actual voting operation was conducted in such a way as to enable the mass of voters, representing 95 percent of the electorate, to vote according to their lights. The Commission is thus in a position to affirm that the popular consultations in Ruanda were not falsified and that the people as a whole were given the opportunity to register their views as they wished with adequate material and legal safeguards.

My Delegation believes that the shortcomings were not of such a degree and nature as to invalidate the results of the elections in Ruanda and we think the Assembly should accept these elections, as Ambassador Dorsinville has recommended, in the higher interest of the peoples of Ruanda-Urundi. We would be dealing a crushing blow to the Government of Ruanda, which secured a decisive majority of 77.7 percent of the votes, if we refused to validate the election in Ruanda. We would almost certainly be inviting chaos and confusion. We would also be showing a poor understanding of realities, since Mr. Rahnema, the United Nations Commissioner who was most directly involved with the supervision of the Ruanda elections, has warned us that, given the existing circumstances, "it would be both absurd and dangerous to repeat the operation in the hope of a more successful outcome under better conditions".

The Assembly should accept the results of the elections in Burundi and Ruanda and turn its eyes to the future.

### III

The next problem which confronts us is what the United Nations can do in the period preceding independence. In