



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Review of the procedure regarding petitions (<i>continued</i>) . . .	151
Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration for 1955 (<i>continued</i>)	
Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the special representative (<i>continued</i>)	152

President: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Review of the procedures regarding petitions (*continued*)

[Agenda item 15]

1. Mr. TODMAN (United States of America) said that the measures proposed by the Belgian representative at the previous meeting were entirely in accordance with the purposes of the United States delegation.
2. He hoped that any improvements in the Council's procedure for handling petitions would assist in dealing with the thousand or so petitions now pending, but the main purpose of the establishment of the four-member committee would be to make a preliminary study of the procedures now being followed with a view to suggesting possible improvements for the future. The Council would then examine the committee's suggestions and decide which of them it wished to adopt.
3. It had been stated in the Council that the present difficulties were caused by the large number of petitions received from the Cameroons under French administration. That was not a completely accurate description of the situation: the problem had become more urgent because of the large number of petitions received from that Territory, but it had been developing for a number of years, so that in any event the Council would have been called upon to find a more effective way of dealing with petitions.
4. The representative of India had said at the previous meeting that the rules of procedure would not necessarily be changed merely because they were going to be studied. That was quite true but he pointed out that the United States delegation had not used the words "review of the rules of procedure" but "review of the procedures". Some practices connected with petitions had grown up that were not included in the rules of procedure and it might well be that some of them could be improved.

5. He agreed with the representative of Guatemala that it would be desirable for delegations to make suggestions which the committee could take into account, but he did not think such proposals need be made immediately. The main point was that the committee should have the benefit of as many suggestions as possible, and he saw no reason why members of the Council should not submit suggestions to it in writing.
6. He therefore formally proposed that the Trusteeship Council should decide to establish a committee of four members, to be nominated by the President, to study the Council's procedures regarding petitions with a view to suggesting possible improvements and report thereon to the Council at its twentieth session.
7. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories), replying to a question the representative of Guatemala had asked at the previous meeting, informed the Council that there were 50 petitions pending since 1954, 2 concerning the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 47 from the Cameroons under French administration and 1 from Somaliland under Italian administration.
8. There were 669 petitions pending since 1955, 5 from the Cameroons under British administration, 6 concerning the Cameroons under British and the Cameroons under French administration, 638 from the Cameroons under French administration, 5 from Togoland under French administration, 11 from Somaliland under Italian administration and 4 from Tanganyika.
9. There were 317 petitions pending since 1956, 5 from the Cameroons under British administration, 1 concerning the Cameroons under British and the Cameroons under French administration, 264 from the Cameroons under French administration, 8 from Togoland under French administration, 26 from Somaliland under Italian administration, 7 from Tanganyika, 2 from New Guinea and 4 from the former Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration, disposed of by special action taken by the Council at its 753rd meeting.
10. A further 21 petitions received since the beginning of the current year were pending, 1 concerning the Cameroons under British and the Cameroons under French administration, 19 concerning the Cameroons under French administration and 1 from Somaliland under Italian administration.
11. With regard to observations by the Administering Authorities, 188 were awaited on petitions from the Cameroons under French administration and 3 on petitions from Togoland under French administration.
12. U PAW HTIN (Burma) said his delegation welcomed the idea of reviewing the existing procedures for the examination of petitions and therefore agreed to the setting up of a committee of four. It would prefer that the members should not be members of the Standing Committee on Petitions, since that Committee had a very heavy agenda.
13. The review committee should in no way prejudice the decisions to be taken by the Council; its mandate

would be to review or study existing procedures, to appraise the difficulties caused by the number of petitions and to make a report incorporating its recommendations.

14. He agreed with the Syrian representative that a report by the Secretariat would have been useful but he would not press for such a study, since the Under-Secretary had provided the information requested at the previous meeting by the representatives of Guatemala and India.

15. From the Under-Secretary's statement at the previous meeting it appeared that the average number of petitions examined at each meeting since the seventeenth session had dropped from six to two. The review committee should look into that aspect of the matter and ascertain the disparity between the number of petitions examined at the fifteenth session and those to be examined at the twentieth session, and the reasons for that disparity.

16. The review committee should also consider the arrears of petitions, the number on which no additional information had been received, petitions on which no observations of the Administering Authorities had been received and those on which the time-limit had elapsed, and should ascertain the reasons.

17. The Burmese delegation endorsed the suggestion made by the Syrian representative at the 770th meeting that membership of the Standing Committee on Petitions should be for six months, on a rotation basis. Moreover, the Standing Committee should meet some considerable time before, and twice a day during, the corresponding Council session. It might even be feasible to set up two committees on petitions, each with a membership of four, to meet concurrently.

18. He suggested that the Council should appoint the members of the Standing Committee on Petitions well in advance and should draw up a membership chart on a rotation basis, so that Governments would be in a position to make arrangements in advance.

19. The Secretariat, with the co-operation of the Administering Authorities, might devise some arrangement to avoid suspending meetings of the Standing Committee because the special representative was otherwise engaged.

20. The need for a review of the existing procedures had been precipitated by the large flow of petitions from one Territory. As the Indian representative had pointed out, a situation had arisen, for which the rules of procedure did not provide. The Council and the review committee should take into consideration the possibility of a similar situation arising in the future and set up machinery to deal with it.

21. He reserved his delegation's right to make any suggestion or comments it might have in mind when the review committee presented its report and recommendations to the Council.

22. The PRESIDENT put the United States proposal to the vote.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration for 1955 (T/1287, T/1298, T/1302 and Corr. 1, T/1304) (continued)

[Agenda item 3 (b)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Field, special representative of the Administering Authority for the

Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, took a place at the Council table.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (continued)

Political advancement (concluded)

23. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the physical separation between the Northern and Southern Cameroons had adversely affected the successful discharge of the Administering Authority's obligations under the Trusteeship System.

24. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) thought not. Any community was naturally influenced by its geographical surroundings, but the differences between the north and south of the Territory were chiefly differences of origin and social outlook.

25. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether it would be administratively feasible to unify the two parts.

26. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that any attempt to administer the two parts as one unit would meet with difficulties of communications, as well as difficulties deriving from different outlooks and approaches by the people, differences of economic development and other factors which would raise problems that had so far been avoided.

27. In reply to another question by Mr. JAIPAL (India), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) confirmed that public opinion in the north was opposed to unification and that the limited support for unification in the south was inspired largely by political elements outside the Territory which favoured the unification of the two Trust Territories.

28. Mr. JAIPAL (India) put it to the United Kingdom representative that the existing unity within the framework of the Nigerian Federation was more in accordance with the wishes of the different communities in the Territory and with the interests of the people than any scheme of enforced administrative unity between the two parts.

29. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) agreed with the Indian representative. There was unity deriving from the fact that both parts of the Trust Territory were associated with the Federation of Nigeria. It was the view of the Administering Authority that in the present state of public opinion, particularly in the north, continuation of the present arrangements was in accordance with the wishes of the people and therefore with the principal objective of the Trusteeship System. If there were to be a marked change of opinion in the northern part of the Trust Territory, the Administering Authority would of course take it into account, but there was no evidence of any such change for the time being.

30. Mr. JAIPAL (India) observed that at the previous meeting the view had been expressed that the two parts of the Territory were developing in different directions. The Indian delegation felt, on the contrary, that both parts were following the path towards unqualified independence. His delegation was concerned rather with the development of peoples towards independence in accordance with Article 76 b of the Charter than with the development of the Trust Territory as a whole into a separate, sovereign, independent State. It should, of course, be possible for the majority of Trust Territories eventually to become independent, but that was not necessarily the position of all Trust Territories.

31. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) agreed with the Indian representative's remarks. The Territory

was developing in the manner he had described. He emphasized that the United Kingdom had no wish to impose any form of future complete independence, and any evidence of a change of views among the peoples of the northern part of the Territory would immediately be taken into account.

32. Mr. JAIPAL (India) observed that his delegation's concern in every case would be the genuineness of the independence to be attained by the peoples of the Trust Territories.

33. With regard to the banning of certain publications as subversive literature, he asked whether the United Kingdom representative would agree that article 5 of the Trusteeship Agreement gave the Administering Authority full powers of legislation and that it need not therefore automatically apply its own laws to the Trust Territory, and whether the Criminal Code (Prohibited Importations) Order in Council, 1955, had been such special legislation.

34. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) explained that it had been made clear at the time of the conclusion of the Trusteeship Agreement that the references to the Administering Authority's own laws would be interpreted as meaning the laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

35. At the same time he pointed out that one of the essential parts of normal progress towards independence or self-government in any Trust Territory was progress in the evolution of local legislative machinery. At present, in the Southern Cameroons, federal laws were passed by the federal parliament and laws on regional matters by the regional legislature of the Southern Cameroons as it had existed since 1954. The law to which the Indian representative had referred was a federal law.

36. In reply to a further question by Mr. JAIPAL (India), Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) said that the relevant law had been enacted with the consent of the Council of Ministers and on their advice in the Federation.

Economic advancement

37. Mr. ORR (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that in accordance with the recommendations in the report of the Mission sent to Nigeria by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development¹ a department of agriculture and a veterinary department had now been established for the Southern Cameroons. The 1956-1960 development programme gave high priority to road development. It also placed considerable emphasis on agricultural development with regard both to export crops and food crops for domestic consumption. The Production Development Board, also recently established, appeared to be principally concerned with the promotion of export crops. The Cameroons Development Corporation intended to increase rubber and oil palm plantations, with a view to ending the present reliance on the banana crop. Attention was also being given to cotton, coffee and cocoa.

38. It was interesting to note the increase in the part played by co-operatives and the support given by the Government to the co-operative movement. In the Northern Cameroons, where the co-operative movement had made less progress, the Government was en-

¹ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *The Economic Development of Nigeria* (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1955).

couraging its development. Agricultural production in that area varied widely in composition and intensity. In most of the Northern Region improvement of cultivation, animal feeding practices and soil conservation appeared to be among the most pressing problems. The Administration's efforts to promote the adoption of crop rotation and mixed farming systems were consequently of great importance.

39. In the Territory as a whole the conservation problem might tend to become more acute as the extension of the road system encouraged increased agricultural production. Hence it was important that conservation measures should keep pace with development programmes.

40. The powered fishing trials would be awaited with interest. If they were favourable it would be assumed that plans would also be made for processing and distribution to the interior of quantities over and above those required for local consumption. It would be interesting to know whether consideration had been given to experiments with fish farming.

41. The forest reservation programme for the Southern Cameroons was now complete and a new statement of forest policy would shortly be published. The practice of shifting cultivation had undoubtedly made it difficult to establish and maintain a sufficiently large forest reserve and to obtain the adoption of preventive measures for forests outside the reserves. In the Northern Cameroons no progress had apparently been made in establishing effective forest reserves until 1955. Consideration might well be given to expanding the work begun in that year, not only in establishing forest reserves but in promoting forest policy generally.

42. Malnutrition was given as one of the principal causes of mortality in the Territory. Diets seemed to be adequate as far as calories and proteins were concerned but deficient in vitamins A and C owing to the absence of green vegetables and fruit in the diet. While measures were being taken to overcome the dietary deficiency, a more intensive educational programme would seem to be desirable.

43. Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) asked how much of the revenue of the Southern Cameroons was derived direct from the Territory and whether it was possible to anticipate that the taxes paid by the indigenous population could be increased so as to overcome the deficit in the Territory's budget.

44. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that although exact figures were not available an estimate of the total ordinary revenue of the Southern Cameroons, which included all the revenue derived direct from the Territory, appeared in table 27 B of the annual report.²

45. A proportion of the taxes paid to the Native Authorities by the indigenous population went to the Southern Cameroons Government. The Government might decide to increase that proportion; if it did, the Native Authorities might, if they wished, increase the general tax.

46. Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) asked whether the Dikwa Division project and the Lake Chad pilot irrigation

² Report by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration for the Year 1955, Colonial No. 325 (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1956). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council, by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1287.

scheme were being financed by the Northern Region Development Corporation and what progress was being made on those two projects.

47. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that neither of the projects was financed by the Corporation. The Dikwa water project was progressing very favourably but certain technical and engineering difficulties had arisen in connexion with the other.

48. Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) asked whether the cost of maintenance was a factor limiting the construction of new roads in the Territory.

49. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that maintenance was certainly a factor which had to be taken into account. Roads were, however, so vital to the development of the Territory that the question of maintenance costs had not been allowed to interfere with plans for their construction. Once the basic network of roads had been established the cost of maintenance would have to be taken into account in planning further construction.

50. Replying to a further question from Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that an investigation into the possibilities of growing tea in the Southern Cameroons had been carried out and certain areas of the Territory had been found suitable. One tea plantation had already been established in the Bamenda area.

51. Replying to a question from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that negotiations between the Southern Cameroons Production Development Board and the former Eastern Regional Production Development Board had now been completed. As a result of those negotiations the Southern Cameroons Board had taken over the Santa coffee estate and had received approximately £250,000 as its share of the Eastern Regional Board's liquid assets. It had also taken over a number of the former Board's outstanding liabilities, which represented loans and advances made to persons in the Southern Cameroons. In addition to administering those assets, the main activity of the new Board had been to make grants available for the development of co-operative societies. It had also financed certain inquiries, such as that into the possibility of tea cultivation and another now being made in connexion with cocoa production.

52. Replying to further questions from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that a detailed investigation into the financial affairs of the Cameroons Development Corporation had been made. The Federal Government was now examining the report on that investigation and considering proposals for the future capital structure of the Corporation and ways and means of providing it with capital.

53. The situation with regard to the disagreement between the Bakweri Land Committee and the Administering Authority had undergone some change within the past year although the problem was no closer to solution along the lines originally contemplated. There was now some doubt whether the Committee could speak on behalf of the whole Bakweri people. With the spread of the co-operative movement, the feeling was growing among the Bakweri people that the land problem should be solved along co-operative lines. The Southern Cameroons Government would have to re-examine the problem in the light of that fact.

54. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked what results had been achieved in the Gwoza pilot project and

whether the Administering Authority was planning further projects on the same lines.

55. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the project was making steady progress. An increasing number of the Gwoza hill people had come down to the plains and settled in the new area, with the result that there were now proposals afoot to increase the land available to them for settlement.

56. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether there had been any change in the methods of road-building employed in the Territory and what progress had been made in the construction of the Uba-Bama road.

57. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that there had been a substantial increase in the amount of mechanical road-building equipment available in the Territory. A certain amount of that equipment was being used on the Mubi-Uba-Bama road with the result that the work had been considerably accelerated. The need for mechanical equipment was recognized and every effort had been made to provide the Southern Cameroons with more of it.

58. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) asked whether the introduction of coffee cultivation in the Southern Cameroons had given satisfactory results and whether any attempt had been made to introduce other crops in the north.

59. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the cultivation of coffee was proceeding successfully in the Bamenda area and more and more land was being devoted to it. Coffee cultivation had also been introduced into the Northern Cameroons recently and there too the acreage devoted to it was expanding rapidly. The cultivation of cotton in the Dikwa area had also shown an encouraging increase in recent times.

60. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) said that in areas far from the centres of consumption the marketing of meat posed a problem; the transport of meat from the producer to the consumer was a complex operation. He asked whether the Administration had taken any steps to encourage meat-marketing co-operatives.

61. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the Co-operative Department had been so busy with the rapid expansion of co-operatives for cocoa, coffee, bananas and other crops that it had not yet had time to turn its attention to a number of other fields, such as meat-marketing, to which co-operative principles could usefully be applied.

62. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) noted that cocoa from the Cameroons fetched a lower price than other cocoa largely because of the primitive method by which it was dried. He understood that the Marketing Board had allocated £5,000 for the construction of drying plants and he would welcome further information on that point.

63. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that owing to the excessively wet climate and the lack of sun in the Southern Cameroons it was not easy for the cocoa to dry. As a result the peasant farmers tried to dry it by artificial means, over open fires, which resulted in the cocoa being tainted with smoke. The trouble existed only amongst about 25 per cent of the farmers; the other 75 per cent produced first-class cocoa, but it required only a little smoke to taint it all and as long as there was a taint of smoke, Cameroons cocoa would not command the highest price in the market. An extensive campaign was therefore being

conducted, with the participation of the co-operative societies, the Agricultural Department, the Produce Inspection Department, the commercial firms and the Production Development Board, to supply proper ovens and to teach the people how to use them. The Administration was doing all in its power to overcome the difficulties and ensure that Cameroonian cocoa was of the quality which it knew could be produced under proper conditions.

64. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) noted that at the end of the financial year there had been a deficit of approximately £900,000 and that the Governor-General had taken vigorous action to cut back expenditure. He would like to know the fundamental reasons for the budget deficit.

65. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the figure of £900,000 represented not so much a deficit as the amount by which the Territory had been under-written from the original working grant of £300,000 and under the revenue guarantee of the Federal Government. The principal reason for the Territory's difficult financial position was the fall in the world price of cocoa and other produce, with a corresponding reduction in the payment of company taxes and export duty on such produce. The amount of revenue from those sources had therefore been substantially less than had been hoped. A number of measures had been taken to keep the budget balanced but the picture was not as gloomy as it might seem. For example, all the public works being undertaken by the Federal Government were proceeding, as were a number of other capital works projects financed out of the monies the Territory received under the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes. It was only in certain fields financed out of the recurrent revenues of the Territory that some scaling down had been necessary.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

66. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) asked for additional information on the operation of the Land and Native Rights Ordinance and in particular how the law was administered in order to establish a proper balance between the private interests that were coming to the Territory to establish plantations and the land needs of the indigenous inhabitants.

67. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the purpose of the Land and Native Rights Ordinance was to protect the indigenous occupiers of the land. The conception of individual ownership of land was hardly developed, the general idea being that a tract of land was vested in the community and that the individual had only the right to the use and occupation of a certain area. Under the Ordinance all land was vested in the Governor-General, in the Southern Cameroons, and in the Governor of the Northern Region, in the Northern Cameroons, as trustees for the inhabitants. There were special safeguards providing that land occupied by indigenous communities should be deemed to have been lawfully occupied by them and that any rights existing under indigenous law and custom should be deemed to be rights granted under the Ordinance and, as such, legally recognized. The right of occupancy could be granted to a person who was not a member of an indigenous community only by the Governor-General, who took into account any indigenous rights over the land. If the land was in effective occupation by an indigenous community, the right of occupancy would not

of course be granted if it meant disturbing an appreciable number of people.

68. In the Southern Cameroons approximately 50 per cent of the land was not effectively occupied. The Government of the Southern Cameroons had adopted a policy of inviting development by enterprises from overseas because there was no immediate prospect of the land in that area being developed by the local communities. As the land was not occupied, the rights of indigenous individuals were not materially affected although a community might regard the land as theirs even though they were not in a position to occupy it. The terms and conditions under which a right of occupancy was granted to an overseas concern always provided for the payment of rent to the Government; provision was usually made to ensure that the area was systematically developed. A proportion of the rent might in suitable cases be handed over to the Native Authority of the area for expenditure on general development, the other portion accruing to the general revenue of the Southern Cameroons for the benefit of the Territory as a whole. It was hoped that the example of the new plantations might stimulate and improve local production by peasant methods. Generally speaking, however, the Administration envisaged that peasant development would be along co-operative lines which would give the community the economic strength to develop its own area.

69. In reply to a further question by Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that when the Ordinance had originally been enacted a limit of 1,200 acres had been imposed on land grants. It had subsequently been found in the Southern Cameroons that that did not always provide an economic unit for a plantation enterprise. Accordingly in 1956 the Southern Cameroons legislature had amended the law in order to permit grants of up to 5,000 acres.

70. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala), referring to page 5 of the annual report of the Cameroons Development Corporation, which was attached to the Administering Authority's annual report, asked what deductions were made from the annual profits of the Cameroons Development Corporation before the remainder of the profits was paid to the credit of the general revenue of the Southern Cameroons.

71. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the Corporation deducted what it considered necessary for further development, for placing in reserve or for other financial transactions involved in carrying out its obligations under the law.

72. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) asked for some explanation of the item entitled "Concession rent", payable to the Governor-General of Nigeria, in the Corporation's profit and loss account for 1955.

73. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that the lands on which the Corporation operated were former German plantations acquired by the Nigerian Government, which had established the Corporation to work the plantations for the benefit of the Cameroons. The Government had leased the land to the Corporation under the Land and Native Rights Ordinance. The Corporation paid rent for those leases to the Southern Cameroons Government.

74. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) said that he attached considerable importance to the provision that the Corporation must train a certain number of indigenous inhabitants for senior posts on its staff. He would like to know what steps had been taken to that end and what results had been achieved.

75. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the Corporation, in common with the Southern Cameroons Government and all agencies in the Territory, was concerned that there should be progressive Cameroonization of its services. That was achieved by recruiting qualified Cameroonians direct, by sending suitable persons on courses that would qualify them for appointments of responsibility, by training them within the Corporation. He thought that some twenty Cameroonians already held positions of responsibility in the Corporation and others were undergoing training.

76. In addition, the Corporation made funds available to the Southern Cameroons Scholarships Board for the award of scholarships to persons not in the employment of the Corporation. The Corporation did not stipulate that the scholarship-holders should ultimately accept employment with it but it hoped that a number of them would be available to it.

77. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) recalled that the Council had consistently expressed the hope that the large companies in the Territory would exercise a beneficial influence by training senior staff and granting scholarships. The reports received were most encouraging.

78. He noted from the Corporation's annual report that one palm plantation had been closed down because, with increases in labour rates, it could not pay its way. It would be interesting to know whether other plantations were encountering the same difficulty.

79. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that it could not be said that the demands for increased wages had made it impossible for plantations to be carried on. The plantation in question was in a very remote area and it was largely the question of communications and the cost of bringing out the produce, on top of an increased labour rate, that had made it uneconomic to work.

80. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) observed that the International Labour Office had studied the question of incentive bonuses for plantation workers. He wondered whether such bonuses could be introduced in the Cameroons.

81. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the Cameroons Development Corporation already had a scheme of paying incentive bonuses but he was unable to give exact details of it.

82. Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) hoped that future annual reports would include information on that subject.

83. He would like to know the reason for the considerable fluctuations in the production of dried bananas.

84. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that the Corporation did not dry bananas if it could dispose of them as fresh fruit, for which it received a better price. Only surplus fruit was dried; that accounted for the fluctuation.

85. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) noted that, although there was provision for the Federal Government to underwrite the revenues of the Southern Cameroons to the amount of £580,000, the grant from the Nigerian Government and other sources in 1955 had been only £450,000. He would like to know the reason for that apparent discrepancy.

86. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that £580,000 was the amount to which the Federal Government was prepared to underwrite the finances of the

Southern Cameroons Government. It was not an automatic payment, however, and the actual sum transferred depended on the needs of the Southern Cameroons Government at the time. In other words, £580,000 could have been obtained but it had not been necessary to take up that full amount.

87. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) noted that the main products of the Territory were marketed abroad through the Nigerian Central Marketing Board. The fixing of prices and price support, however, was apparently a matter for the local marketing boards. He asked whether he would be right in understanding that there was no central stabilization fund. He would also like to know whether the regional marketing boards or the Central Marketing Board had in fact paid producers a price above that obtainable on the world market.

88. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that one of the results of the recent constitutional arrangements was that each of the regions had its own marketing organization with its own marketing board funds. Each region therefore carried on its own stabilization activities and there was no central stabilization fund. The regional boards guaranteed a minimum price to the producer based on their forecast of what the world market price might be. In the past they had in fact bought produce at a price above that for which they sold it on the world market.

89. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) asked whether the fact that the regional marketing boards were free to follow different policies did not entail the danger that some of the produce of areas where prices were low might be channelled to other areas and sold at higher prices.

90. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that while such a danger might theoretically exist, the boards co-ordinated their activities to a certain extent, realizing that if any of them fixed prices which were out of line with those in neighbouring areas the effect would be to encourage the diversion of funds into the areas of other boards.

91. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) asked how it happened that the figure given in the annual report (p. 266) for the total value of exports during 1954 was so much greater than the corresponding figure for imports.

92. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that while the figure for exports did indeed represent the total for the year, the other figure did not necessarily represent the total value of goods imported, since some imports might enter through Nigeria and would thus not be included in the figure for goods entering through the ports of the Territory.

93. Mr. JAIPAL (India), observing that the difference represented a favourable balance of trade for the Territory, wondered if there were invisible imports which might alter the true significance of the figure. He suggested that the special representative might examine the matter in detail and give a fuller reply later.

94. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) was pleased to note that it was the Administering Authority's policy to do its utmost to improve the road network. He asked why it was that, according to table 54A in the annual report, the total road mileage in the Territory had been less in 1955 than in the preceding year.

95. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he would try to obtain that information.

96. Mr. KIANG (China) asked what were the schemes which, according to the special representative's opening statement (769th meeting), had had to be deferred because of the difficult financial position of the Southern Cameroons Government. The special representative had said that those schemes had been set aside in order that the Government might concentrate its efforts on pushing forward that basic development on which the future of the Territory depended. He would like to know whether by "basic development" the special representative had meant the development of a system of communications.

97. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the schemes had included, among other items, the building and equipping of new hospitals, dispensaries and maternity homes, improved ambulance services, subsidiary road projects and the provision of water supplies.

98. Communications were certainly a major item in the Administering Authority's planning, but in using the term "basic development" he had also had in mind certain educational, agricultural and medical developments which were of immediate concern.

99. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) pointed out that because of the difficult financial position of the Southern Cameroons Government the Colonial Development and Welfare grants from the United Kingdom were being devoted, contrary to the usual practice, not only to capital expenditure but also to recurrent expenditure so that essential projects should not be held up for lack of funds. He asked the special representative to give some instances in which that policy had been followed.

100. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that one instance was the Government Trade Centre at Ombe, which was an important institution in that it trained the technicians and artisans which the Territory lacked. Colonial Development and Welfare funds had been used to build the centre and were at present bearing the recurrent cost of its maintenance. Other instances were hospitals built and maintained by funds from that source.

101. Mr. KIANG (China) asked if the special representative could give information regarding the steps taken by the Administering Authority to promote the balanced development of the different divisions of the Southern Cameroons, as recommended by the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955 (T/1226, para. 144).

102. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that a beginning had been made in the Bamenda area,

where there was the Santa coffee estate and a tea estate and a peasant coffee industry being developed. In the Kumba and Mamfe areas co-operative plantation enterprise was increasing and a cocoa plantation had been established. While such projects were not yet evenly distributed, the Administering Authority was striving to promote the balanced development of the Territory as a whole.

103. Mr. KIANG (China) noted that there were three new private companies in the Territory, dealing in cocoa, timber and tea. He asked whether they had brought in skilled technicians as well as private capital and, if so, to what extent the services of such personnel would be available for training the local population.

104. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) stated that the tea and cocoa projects had not yet reached a stage where the services of technicians were required but that both companies had indicated that it would be their policy to provide training and employment for Cameroonians when the estates had developed to the point where technical staff would be brought in. The timber concession, which had only just begun to operate, was to include a sawmill and it was hoped that it too would afford openings and opportunities for Cameroonians.

105. Mr. KIANG (China) asked whether, in recommending the establishment of a national economic council, the special economic Mission of the International Bank had made any reference to the purposes and functions of such a council.

106. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the Mission had thought it would be useful for Nigeria to have a forum in which representatives of the Federal and Regional Governments might meet to discuss their common economic problems and such development policies as might have consequences extending beyond the boundaries of any one region. The principal function of the National Economic Council was therefore consultative and advisory.

107. Mr. KIANG (China) asked whether that body could be used as a means of co-ordinating and supervising all efforts and activities designed to promote the Territory's economic advancement and whether the Federal Government intended to develop it as an executive instrument.

108. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that while the Council would undoubtedly be able to discharge those functions, the Federal Government could hardly undertake to develop it, since it was not an organ of that Government but rather a body representing all the Governments of the Federation. He thought it could be correctly stated that the representatives came together in the Council to co-ordinate their activities for the common good and that when they had decided upon a policy each Government could be relied upon to carry it out.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.