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President: Mr. Emilio ARENALES CATALAN
(Guatemala).

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 of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration (*continued*):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1956 (T/1351, T/1354, T/1363, T/L.813);**
- (ii) **Petitions raising general questions (T/L.813, annex; T/PET.5/L.449-451)**

[Agenda items 4 (d) and 5]

GENERAL DEBATE

1. Mr. KIANG (China) said that his delegation awaited with great interest the report of the forthcoming visiting mission to the Trust Territory and for the present would merely comment on various developments in the Territory during the period under review.

2. The Administering Authority deserved the Council's commendation for the continuing progress that had been made. The introduction of the Statute had been a turning point in the development of French policy and a significant step in the political evolution of the Territory, bringing the Trust Territory to the threshold of independence. He thought it would be generally agreed that the speed of political advancement in the Cameroons could not be increased. The reforms brought about by the new Statute had undoubtedly imposed upon the Cameroonians a serious responsibility. With certain powers of self-government in their hands they were expected to show that the trust in them had not been misplaced. It was therefore satisfactory to note that the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government had made a good beginning, though it was regrettable that that beginning had been marred by the ministerial crisis and that the Government in

which Mr. Mbida had been Prime Minister had fallen so soon after its programme had won the approval of the Legislative Assembly by a substantial majority. The statements of the French representative on that subject at the 864th and 866th meetings had, however, been reassuring.

3. With regard to the development of political institutions in the Territory, he emphasized that the foundation of good territorial administration lay in a healthy growth of local political institutions. His delegation had noted with interest the establishment of an association of mayors and municipal councillors of the Cameroons but regretted that no new *communes de plein exercice* had come into being recently. He hoped that steps would be taken to ensure the speedy democratization of the traditional institutions, including the training of large numbers of Cameroonians in communal responsibility.

4. To keep pace with the rapid political evolution of the Territory, the Africanization of the public services would claim high priority. He was glad to note that a separate Cameroonian civil service had been inaugurated. As the Cameroonians would be faced with a critical shortage of technical and administrative personnel when the Territory became independent, he thought that a training programme with an approximate timetable should be introduced as early as possible. He felt sure that the Administering Authority would lend its knowledge and experience in the planning stage and give assistance in the successful implementation of the training programme. One practical measure that had been mentioned by the special representative would be to make available to the Cameroonian Government in the transitional period a number of highly qualified officials of metropolitan origin to train Cameroonians for the technical and administrative services.

5. He deplored the disturbances that had taken place in the Territory. The General Assembly, by its resolution 1211 (XII), had called for the renunciation of the use of violence by all political parties. The Council should make it absolutely clear that no acts of violence would be condoned. His delegation hoped that the amnesty would have the effect of turning the present political climate in the Territory into one of mutual trust and confidence. Its application afforded the Cameroonian Government an opportunity to impress all sections of the population with the necessity for observing normal democratic practices in the true interests of the Territory as a whole.

6. He hoped that the Cameroonian Government would take further steps to win the support of discontented elements among the people, many of whom had adhered to the proscribed parties either by compulsion or out of patriotism, and who should be persuaded to return to their normal democratic political life. It would be unrealistic not to recognize the difficulties facing the Cameroonian Government and the suspicion and mistrust prevailing in the Territory, but it should not be impossible to find ways of composing the differences which had so dangerously divided the Cameroons. It

would be wise for the Government leaders to demonstrate their statesmanship by appealing to all political leaders in the Territory to sink their differences and work in unison for the country's future. It was high time for the leaders in the Government to show courage and vision by taking whatever measures were necessary to advance the political unity so vital to the independence of the Cameroons.

7. He would urge the Cameroonians to realize that the future of the country did not lie in the hands of the élite; it would be decided, as in many other parts of Africa, by the growing educated and patriotic middle class.

8. In the economic field, the period under review had been marked by two important developments: the resumption of activity as a result of the increase in the world market price of agricultural produce, and in particular of cocoa, and the reorganization of agricultural services with a view to placing them under the effective control of the Ministry of Agriculture. His delegation had been glad to hear the special representative say that as a result of the rise in the price of cocoa the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund had received some 700 million francs. That figure was particularly significant in the light of the fact that the 1958 budget had been balanced at only about 10,000 million francs. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the resumption of the activities urgently needed to expedite the Territory's economic progress in order to match the recent rapid progress in the political field. He hoped that the Administering Authority and the Cameroonian Government would continue their vigorous measures to achieve a balanced and diversified economy. His delegation looked forward to receiving from the Administering Authority and from the 1958 visiting mission full information with regard to the reorganization work undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and the various activities falling within the competence of that Ministry.

9. His delegation had been glad to note the monetary reform of 10 August 1957, the new development of credit co-operatives and the establishment of agricultural credit to replace all the existing forms of credit agencies. He felt sure the Council would wish to note with interest the establishment of between 150 and 250 credit co-operatives and to express satisfaction with the new method by which loans in the form of materials and equipment were granted to groups organized as co-operatives.

10. Industrial activity in general was increasing and he hoped that in future reports more information would be given concerning the impact of the Société d'aluminium du Cameroun (ALUCAM) and the Edéa hydroelectric station on the economic and industrial development of the Territory and the resultant benefit to the indigenous population and to the Territory's revenue.

11. His delegation would await with interest the study being carried out on the reorganization of agricultural education and looked forward to receiving information in connexion with the establishment of a high school of agriculture and the opening of agricultural centres.

12. The year 1957 had been a peaceful one as far as labour relations were concerned. It was encouraging to note that during the period under review negotiations for the conclusion of collective agreements between employers' and workers' unions had been successful. The Council would undoubtedly wish to congratulate the parties concerned.

13. His delegation had noticed the continuing decrease in the number of African doctors in the Territory, presumably as the result of the closing of the African School of Medicine at Dakar. The authorities were, however, aware of the problem and eighty-eight Cameroonian scholarship-holders were at present being trained in France, while four African doctors and one pharmacist were studying in France at the Territory's expense. He hoped that the Cameroonian Government would continue to make vigorous efforts to increase the number of qualified medical personnel.

14. The Administering Authority and the local authorities were to be congratulated on the improvement of housing, which was so essential to the social betterment of the indigenous population in rural areas.

15. It was satisfactory to note that education was free in all official educational establishments. Greater efforts should be made in the north to improve and expand school facilities and to convince the people that it was in their own interest to send their children to school. Less than 10 per cent of the school-age population in the north was attending school and the Council would naturally expect greater educational progress to be made in that area.

16. He had been glad to note that some thirty scholarship-holders had completed their studies in France and found employment in the Territory in 1957. The Council would undoubtedly wish to note with interest that one of the first acts of the Ministry of Education had been to extend and systematize a literacy campaign for adults which had been started at the end of 1956. He would look forward to receiving information relating to the success of the Ministry's efforts.

17. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) observed that a very advanced stage of political development had now been reached in the Cameroons under French administration. It was of interest to observe the operation of the very wide powers possessed by the Government and legislature of the Trust Territory and the evolution of firmly based political parties—in other words the growth of a democracy on modern lines.

18. There had been talk of differences of view, political arguments and discussions. In a democracy those were inevitable. Discussion of public affairs and even controversy was healthy, but violence and unconstitutional methods would not promote the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement or the welfare of the people and should be condemned.

19. The Council would surely wish to commend the Administering Authority for the bold lead it had given to the people of the Cameroons in the recent past. The establishment of a separate Cameroonian civil service was a particularly valuable development, as was also the most welcome increase of Cameroonians in the civil service, which was the culmination of years of intensive effort on the part of the Administering Authority to promote the educational advancement of the Cameroonian people.

20. Turning to the economy of the Territory, he observed that the Finance Minister's statement to the effect that the Cameroons should seek to become financially independent was a healthy sign. Agricultural production in the past year had shown a satisfactory increase and the outlook for the expansion of coffee production, in particular, was promising. His delegation had been specially interested to hear of the success of the newly introduced system for providing agricultural credits on a co-operative basis, an important matter

which had given rise to considerable difficulties in many African territories. The development of the aluminium industry and of the hydroelectric plant at Edéa represented major achievements in the industrial field.

21. The most recent statistics on education showed that in the past year the Administering Authority had achieved notable results, which were the outcome of the sustained effort devoted over the preceding decade to the educational advancement of the Territory's inhabitants.

22. In conclusion he expressed the view that the Council should congratulate the Administering Authority on the progress made in the political, economic and educational fields during the year under review.

23. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) said that under the new Statute the Cameroonian people were rapidly nearing the end of trusteeship and increasingly assuming the attributes of statehood. The advanced status now enjoyed by the Territory had not been gained without political adjustments, but those adjustments had been made peacefully within the established parliamentary system of the Cameroons. The normal way in which a new Prime Minister had been voted into power indicated that the membership of the legislature had a talent for orderly political activity under the democratic process. As in the other legislative assemblies of French African territories, Cameroonian legislators were elected by a broadly based electorate and it was encouraging to note that women were taking an increasing interest in the political life of the country. The establishment of a separate Cameroonian civil service was a most important accomplishment. In addition, the judicial system had been progressively developed. The basic instruments for self-government having been established, it was now for the people themselves to assume responsibility for their efficient management. Indeed, the institutions of self-government were showing a commendable vitality.

24. It was also clear that an intensive effort was being made to support the political institutions of the country by sound economic and agricultural programmes. Agricultural education was being emphasized, a stabilization fund was under consideration, hydroelectric power was being increased and agricultural credit was being made available on a wider basis.

25. In connexion with the recent enactment of a law that would extend amnesty to those involved in the disturbances of 1955 and 1956, it was to be hoped that, with self-government or independence drawing near, the elements of the population which had resorted to violence would in future rely on peaceful persuasion. While many of those persons had no doubt been prompted by nationalist aspirations, the ringleaders had certainly been trained agitators bound to an ideology whose aim it was to break down law and order through the use of violence. It would indeed be a pity if such a movement, involving civil strife, were carried over into the self-governing life of the Cameroons.

26. The *loi-cadre* of 23 June 1956 and the Statute arising out of it had perhaps not received the international attention they deserved. The rate at which political power was being transferred to African leaders placed upon the latter a great responsibility and both African cabinet ministers and their French associates would have to exercise consummate caution and skill if the new political institutions were to be developed along stable and orderly lines.

27. The United States delegation wished the new Trust State continued success in its political progress

and believed that its example would serve to encourage other peoples who were beginning to assume the responsibilities of self-government.

28. Mr. MITRA (India) said that his delegation, while noting with interest the operation of the new Statute, remained firmly convinced that it was impossible for a Trust Territory to progress towards independence unless many of the powers still retained by the organs of the French Republic were transferred to the Government of the Territory. Although his delegation was happy to see that the Cameroonian Government was being given an increasing measure of responsibility for the administration of the Territory, it could not feel confident that the Government was so independent that little or no responsibility attached to the Administering Authority for the matters enumerated in article 11 of the Statute.¹ Moreover, the Cameroonian Government had not enough financial power to be considered entirely responsible for internal administration, for whoever controlled a country's finances very often controlled its government, and a great deal of economic control was exercised by the Administering Authority by virtue of its exclusive control over foreign exchange, mineral rights, credits, customs duties and foreign trade.

29. The High Commissioner of the French Republic not only had definite powers at his disposal under article 44 of the Statute but also presided over all meetings of the Council of Ministers and thus exercised a great deal of influence, if not control, over the Government of the Territory. That had been demonstrated by the recent events in the Territory leading to the resignation of the Mbida Government, for although under the Statute a prime minister could be removed from office only by the passage of a motion of censure by a two-thirds majority in the Legislative Assembly Mr. Mbida had considered it necessary to resign because of the High Commissioner's refusal to accept his nominations for certain ministries. Those events made it clear that the Administering Authority sometimes took decisions which might not be entirely in agreement with the letter of the Statute.

30. His delegation had also noted that article 15 of the Statute placed an important limitation on the rights of the Cameroonian Government in that it provided that all legislation and regulations made by the Cameroonian authorities must be consistent with the preamble to the Constitution of the French Republic. Whether, as a result of that provision, title VIII of the Constitution of the French Republic, which dealt with the French Union, was automatically applicable to the Territory was a moot point; the intention appeared to be that legislation pertaining to the Union should also be applicable to the Cameroons. His country was proud to belong to an association of independent and sovereign States, the Commonwealth of Nations, but there was no legislation regarding that Commonwealth and no independent member of it abdicated any legislative functions to any other member. His delegation considered that a partnership of equals, decided upon independently and individually by each equal, was a much more lasting and enduring partnership than any which, to however small a degree, was imposed by external means. It therefore felt that the question of membership in the French Union should be left for future decision by a fully competent and fully sovereign Cameroonian Government instead of being decided by a Statute laid down from outside.

¹ The text of the Statute is reproduced in document T/1314.

31. It was encouraging to see that normal democratic processes now seemed to be operating in the Cameroonian legislature. The change of government that had taken place recently was not in itself a bad thing since it showed the vitality of the Assembly. Moreover, it was a hopeful sign that the new Government had been formed by the co-operation of representatives of both the northern and southern parts of the Territory. His delegation still considered, however, that since a certain measure of political equilibrium had now been reached it was all the more necessary to establish conditions which would be conducive to the peaceful and democratic growth of the country towards the ideal of independence or full self-government laid down in the Charter. It was glad that an amnesty law had at last been promulgated in the Territory, regretting only that two and a half years had been allowed to elapse between the events themselves and the amnesty, since earlier action in the matter would probably have resulted in a more favourable political situation. Under article 14 of the Statute, the system of public liberties was within the exclusive competence of the central organs of the French Republic and the matter might therefore have been dealt with a little more expeditiously by those organs rather than by the Cameroonian Government. His delegation was strongly opposed to the use of violence for the achievement of political ends and considered that all political parties in the Territory should realize that rapid evolution towards independence depended entirely on their own ability to work in peaceful conditions. At the same time, it considered that some steps of a political nature should also be taken by the Administering Authority — which was exclusively responsible for the maintenance of law and order and the system of public liberties — to dispel the atmosphere of tension and violence that had reigned in the Territory for a long time. It was unfortunate that for the first time in the history of either the Mandated or the Trust Territories troops had had to be brought in from the administering country in order to suppress political movements and violence. It might be desirable for the Administering Authority to institute a judicial inquiry to determine what measures were necessary to improve the situation. It would also be highly desirable for the next visiting mission to examine the situation and to recommend such steps as would remove not only the unrest but the causes of the unrest.

32. His delegation considered that the Cameroonization of the civil service was proceeding too slowly. Excluding senior technical posts, Cameroonians occupied only eighty of the 1,200 senior administrative posts in the country and even if the increase continued, as France hoped, by geometrical progression it would still be many years before the services were half Cameroonized. His delegation was fully aware of the Administering Authority's concern with the matter, but wondered whether it would not be possible to draw up some sort of a time-table of the rate at which indigenous inhabitants would be able to take over responsibility from French officials, in accordance with the recommendation in General Assembly resolution 1207 (XII) concerning the establishment of target dates.

33. The Administering Authority should be congratulated on the effort it had made to improve the economic conditions of the Cameroonian people; the ten-year plan in particular seemed to be a bold and far-sighted measure to increase economic production and raise levels of living. His delegation regretted that more adequate statistics showing the increase in production

in various fields on a percentage basis were not available, but it was obvious that advances had been made. His delegation considered that there, too, it would be desirable to give more powers to the Cameroonian Government so as to enable that Government to interest itself in economic matters. The Cameroonian Government could not really be called independent unless it could control the flow of foreign exchange from the Territory and had the right to tax exports and imports. It would likewise be desirable for the indigenous population to have some measure of control over their country's not inconsiderable mineral resources. In that connexion, his delegation would be grateful if the Administering Authority would indicate in its future reports the extent of the economic benefits the people of the Territory derived from the aluminium industry. His delegation had been happy to observe the successful working of the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund, which it hoped would enable the African producer to enjoy a better standard of living, and to note the expansion of the Cameroons credit organization and its work in the field of housing.

34. In the social field, his delegation would suggest that the Administering Authority should take whatever measures were feasible to discourage excessive consumption of alcohol by the inhabitants, including the imposition of high taxes on imports, high excise taxes on local production and popular education on the subject. It would also be grateful if more information about the actual situation in that respect were provided in future annual reports. The drastic reduction in medical personnel was also a cause for concern. His delegation hoped that there was some error in the statistics supplied by the Administering Authority and that the decrease had not been as sharp as it appeared. The Administering Authority should also make an effort to send qualified Cameroonians abroad for medical education in much larger numbers. In a country where there were so few doctors it would be desirable to increase the rate at which they were being trained, for the provision of twenty-seven new doctors a year would not make up the shortage which already existed.

35. Although the total figure for school attendance in the Territory was commendable, the decrease in the number of teachers being trained was unfortunate and his delegation would recommend that the Administering Authority should take special measures, such as increasing financial incentives for teachers, to remedy the situation. The shortage of teachers was a universal phenomenon but it was doubly dangerous in a Territory like the Cameroons, which was in a very early stage of educational development. Steps should also be taken to remedy the great shortage of school inspectors. Lastly, it would be highly desirable for the Administering Authority to begin to plan for the establishment of a university in the Territory. His delegation considered that primary education in the Territory was already sufficiently advanced to permit consideration of such a step and that even from the financial point of view it might be more economical to create facilities for higher education in the Territory than to send hundreds of students to France every year. Unless plans were made immediately it would be difficult to find a sufficient number of educated Cameroonians to take over the administration of the country in the not too distant future. The shortage of doctors, teachers and school inspectors, too, would be greatly reduced if facilities for their training existed in the Territory itself.

36. His delegation appreciated the many steps which had been taken by the Administering Authority to enable the Territory to enjoy the benefits of independence very soon. If on certain matters it disagreed with the interpretations given by the Administering Authority, it was only because of its natural concern for the inhabitants of the Territory and because of its responsibilities as a member of the Trusteeship Council.

37. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed that the year 1957 had seen the entry into force of the new Statute, the institution of a Legislative Assembly elected by universal suffrage and the establishment of a Cameroonian Government. The new institutions had already shown remarkable vitality and a sense of moderation and responsibility that augured well for the future.

38. It was encouraging to see that the northern part of the Territory was emerging from its isolation and not only associating but also co-operating with the rest of the Territory. Evidence of that trend was to be found in the Legislative Assembly's decision to do nothing at present towards the establishment of a separate northern province. That decision was also indicative of a general relaxation of tension in the political atmosphere. The special provisions allowing for regional autonomy had been prompted by mistrust in extremist political activities in other regions and the fact that those provisions were to be held in abeyance for several years showed that the population as a whole had gained confidence in its new institutions and intended to ensure their efficient operation.

39. Municipal organization was also developing along satisfactory lines. In rural areas, the councils of notables, representing the old system, were collaborating smoothly with the new administrative organs.

40. Unfortunately, however, the generally encouraging picture was marred by the continuing acts of terrorism in certain areas and among a small section of the population. The hope expressed by the Trusteeship Council at its nineteenth session that the introduction of an amnesty law would help to establish a climate of complete trust in the Territory (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 123) had been disappointed. It was as yet too early to assess the effects of the amnesty law recently promulgated, with commendable courage, by the Administering Authority, but it was to be hoped that it would reassure the sections of the population that had been inveigled into participating in the disturbances of 1955 and 1956 and would serve to convince others that the French Government was willing to do all in its power to bring Cameroonians together behind their elected representatives. In view of the continuing acts of terrorism, however, he felt that the Council should fulfil its responsibilities by denouncing political violence and inviting respect for democratic practices.

41. He had not taken part in the debate on economic and social conditions in the Territory, for such matters were now entirely within the competence of the Cameroonian Government and any criticisms or suggestions might have constituted as interference in the affairs of the new State. A brief review of the period under consideration would not however be amiss.

42. In the economic sphere, subsidies and credits for the Territory's development had been continued. On completion of the ten-year plan, which had concentrated upon the establishment or modernization of the infrastructure, particularly in the matter of communications and power, a new plan had been launched to develop production by means of various economic and social

achievements. The results over the past year confirmed that the programmes were under way and that the indigenous inhabitants were taking an increasing interest in them. In agriculture, the rapid success of short-term credit co-operatives, to facilitate the purchase of equipment and other primary necessities, and the institution of cocoa producers' co-operatives showed that the people were receptive to new ideas.

43. The Administering Authority was also to be congratulated on its efforts to facilitate the immigration of the Bamiléké to less congested areas. Such efforts provided tangible evidence of a consistent policy to raise the level of living of the indigenous inhabitants and to ensure their increasing participation in economic life.

44. Finally, recent information showed that steady progress had been made in the fields of education and health.

45. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that tension had been the characteristic feature of conditions in the Trust Territory and it had not abated in the past year. The basic cause of that tension and of the general situation of crisis was the policy which had led to the dissolution of the nationalist parties. The Administering Authority maintained that the outlawed organizations had engaged in violence but it had offered no proof of that assertion. An indication of the true nature of a political organization was usually to be found in its programme: the programme of the dissolved nationalist parties called for the unification and independence of the Cameroons, as also for social justice, and in fact the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC) and other dissolved parties were supported in those aims by the overwhelming majority of the population. The acts of violence committed in the Territory were the work of the Administering Authority in its efforts to suppress the national liberation movement by force of arms. It was interesting to note, however, that the demand for unification and independence was also being put forward by the new Cameroonian Government. One of its spokesmen, Mr. Soppo Priso, had stated during a Press conference in Paris that the Territory should seek to attain independence before 1960, for otherwise it would be less attractive to the Cameroons under British administration than would a free Nigeria. It was not yet clear how the Administering Authority would react to the new situation, but unless it decided to persecute the Government for seeking unification, as was unlikely, it was difficult to see how it could continue to persecute the UPC for seeking the same objective. The fact that both the new Government and the dissolved parties favoured unification and independence was surely proof that those goals were shared by the people as a whole.

46. An analysis of the long-awaited amnesty law had dampened any hopes that the Administering Authority was at last awakening to the urgency of reconciling its policies with the requirements of the historical development of peoples. Although the complete text of that law was not available to the Council it was apparent from the information given by the special representative that the amnesty was not a general one. In fact, to judge from the conclusions of the French Press it would appear that the amnesty was even more restricted than the preliminary text adopted by the National Assembly on a first reading. To make matters worse, the implementation of the amnesty depended on the will of a special committee which was free to

make it contingent upon any requirements it saw fit or even to refuse to grant it at all. That circumstances was particularly significant in view of the fact that many events had occurred in the past two years as a result of which a large number of people had been imprisoned or exiled. It was therefore natural to ask what effect the amnesty would have on the patriots and trade-union leaders who had been arrested *en masse* following the arrival in the Cameroons of troops from West Africa and whether freedom of the Press would now be restored. The outlook with regard to those questions did not appear very promising. The General Assembly and world public opinion demanded the general amnesty as the only means for the restoration of a normal situation and the furtherance of democratic progress and political activities in the Territory. It was clear that in the preparation of the amnesty law the wish of the General Assembly and world public opinion had been neglected. It was difficult to see how the amnesty could bring about a relaxation of tension if its adoption and implementation were accompanied by ever increasing military repression.

47. The Administering Authority had likewise failed to carry out the General Assembly's recommendation concerning the establishment of a target date for the attainment of independence by the Territory. It could be seen from the analysis of the events in the Territory that the demand for independence was becoming more irresistible. He wondered whether the Administering Authority would once again be late in establishing time-limits and granting independence since in the past it had carried out some measures with great tardiness and therefore without proper effect. Yet it was obvious that if it continued to disregard the ever more insistent demand for independence the situation would become even more dangerous.

48. With regard to economic advancement, the importance of the new industrial complex at Edéa as a means of diversifying the economy of the Territory served to underline the fact that the character of the economy had always been predominantly colonialist and to confirm that his own and other delegations had been correct in their analysis of the Territory's economic problems. The general economic picture in the Territory had not yet changed and the danger was that the diversification which had finally been introduced would not be allowed to progress beyond the embryo stages. There had as yet been no real effort to establish the processing and other vitally important industries which the Territory, with its extensive power resources, could turn to good advantage. The conclusions and recommendations expressed by his delegation during the nineteenth session (769th meeting) concerning other aspects of the economy, including indigenous agriculture, were still valid and it was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would take them into account in planning the future development of the Territory.

49. In the field of social development, public health and education some changes had occurred. The establishment of a minimum wage, however inadequate, had removed to some extent illegalities which had existed before. The improvement in primary education in the Southern Cameroons and some other data testified to the fact that efforts had been made in the Territory but the systematic restriction of trade-union freedoms, the persecution of trade-union leaders and restrictions on the freedom of the Press continued to give cause for concern. It was also to be regretted that only 10

per cent of the children in the North Cameroons attended school and that a very small number of girls were receiving secondary education. In pointing out those deficiencies his delegation did not wish to minimize the importance of the fact that the Cameroons had one of the highest literacy rates in the West African territories, but felt that that very circumstance, coupled with the existence of a considerable number of educated and politically mature leaders, bore witness to the readiness of the Territory for self-government and independence.

50. The representatives of the five different political organizations who had appeared as petitioners before the twelfth session of the General Assembly² had expressed the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the population. They had held differing views but they had been unanimous in their demands for a general political amnesty, the restoration of democratic freedoms, the right of self-determination and the independence and unification of the two parts of the country. That voice of the majority of the people had not been heeded.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

51. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that at the present session the Trusteeship Council, with the assistance of the representative of France and the special representative, had had an opportunity to gain an understanding of the way in which the provisions of the new Statute had been put into operation. The confidence with which the Cameroonians had assumed their responsibilities had been most promising; even the change in the Cabinet seemed to have been accomplished with a minimum of disturbance to the functioning of government.

52. While the Council's responsibility for supervising every aspect of the administration of the Trust Territory remained formally undiminished, it might be wise in practice to recognize the reality of the new situation by some change in emphasis in the exercise of that supervision when Territories reached the advanced stage of development now achieved by the Cameroons.

53. While clearly pursuing an independent approach to its responsibilities the new Cameroonian Government would none the less need encouragement and assistance in its task. Thanks to the efforts of the Administering Authority to ensure that economic and social development kept pace with political progress, the new Government had inherited no real problems; the machinery of administration was in good order and the economy was recovering from the early decline. It was most important, however, that the Cameroonians should be encouraged to pursue studies that would enable them eventually to replace metropolitan staff. In that respect the Cameroonian law of 20 December 1957, creating a separate Cameroonian civil service, had provided the necessary framework. While the figures of school attendance in the Southern Cameroons were encouraging, it should be recognized that opportunities of other types of employment would deprive the Government of an increasing percentage of qualified personnel and outside assistance in that respect might be welcomed.

54. Specialized education was also a key factor in economic progress, and the adoption in the Cameroons of the technique of pilot projects in agriculture and in vocational training of other kinds had been commend-

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Fourth Committee, 714th to 720th, 727th and 728th meetings.*

able. By agricultural extension work the yield of crops could be increased, and money spent on that purpose would be well repaid in terms of economic betterment. The Administering Authority was to be commended for the extensive financial assistance it had given the Territory in the form of support funds for agricultural products.

55. The development of municipal and local government had proceeded at a truly remarkable rate and it was to be hoped that the Cameroonian Government would continue to strengthen local government organization.

56. It was also to be hoped that the policy of conserving the Territory's resources, particularly forest resources, would be maintained and extended.

57. In the fields of education and health a steady rate of expansion was to be observed and the Cameroonian ministers would no doubt maintain those services as diligently as had the Administering Authority.

58. With regard to the difference in development between the northern and southern parts of the Cameroons, it was important that the Cameroonian Government should not complacently accept the present situation. Since the North Cameroons was strongly represented in the legislature, it would no doubt benefit from the opportunities provided in the new political and constitutional arrangements. The northern representatives had shown good statesmanship in accepting a delay in the implementation of the provisions of the Statute concerning the establishment of a separate northern province.

59. With regard to the general functioning of the Statute, which was passing through a period of consolidation, it appeared to have satisfied the immediate political aspirations of the inhabitants, since no proposals for amendment had been made thus far. Further initiative in assisting the Cameroons towards the objectives of the Charter and the Trusteeship System might confidently be expected from the Administering Authority at the appropriate time. In view of France's contribution to the success of the present constitutional arrangement, it was regrettable that the Cameroonian representatives should have been hampered by outbursts of violence on the part of dissident groups in certain areas. The amnesty legislation would no doubt enable many persons associated with the former UPC to return to political life. While appreciating the sentiment of those who had opposed such an amnesty his delegation held, with the Administering Authority, that such a measure of clemency should be allowed to contribute to the reduction of tension between Africans.

60. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that it would be difficult to exaggerate the magnitude of the task still confronting the people of the Cameroons under French administration or the obstacles to the accomplishment of that task arising out of historical facts for which responsibility could by no stretch of the imagination be attributed to any European or Asian Power. Unlike the peoples of some other formerly dependent States, the people of the Territory had not had long centuries of relatively ordered progress leading them to become conscious of their identity as a political organism and to develop on their own initiative the distinctive institutions and economic resources appropriate to a modern State.

61. Today, however, the people of the Cameroons were sharing in the renaissance taking place throughout

Africa. It had been their good fortune to benefit by an association with France, which was recognized as one of the great well-springs of political consciousness, world culture and economic progress. That was not to say that French policy in the Cameroons had invariably been far-sighted or correct. Nevertheless, it was proper to assert that on the whole the association of the Territory with France had been the indispensable condition for the great political, social, economic and cultural progress it had made. Not to recognize that overriding fact was to reject the evidence of history and to ignore the juridical basis of the Council's examination of conditions in the Territory—the placing of the Territory under the trusteeship of France by the General Assembly.

62. In order to reach a just verdict regarding the fulfilment by the Administering Authority of its trust, it was necessary to take particular note of certain significant facts: namely, that practically all eligible voters were entered in the electoral registers of the Territory; that at the last elections no less than 55 per cent of the registered electors had voted; that the Cameroons Legislative Assembly had been elected on the basis of universal suffrage; that as a result there now existed a Cameroonian Government responsible to the Cameroonian legislature; that the competence of the Legislative Assembly was extraordinarily wide; that the fields of competence still reserved to the central organs of the French Republic were not of themselves incompatible, at the present stage of the Territory's history, with the obligations remaining to be discharged by France as the Administering Authority; and that in a relatively small area of the Territory certain terrorist groups which were not without Communist inspiration engaged from time to time in actions designed to intimidate the Cameroonian people and Government, the Administering Authority and the United Nations. In that context, his delegation considered that it would be a service to the democratic tradition to record its admiration for the bearing of the Cameroonian people and Government in the face of that occasional violence, to deplore the persistence of terrorist activities or the threat of such activities, and to express the hope that neither the Council nor the General Assembly would at any time in the future inadvertently condone terrorism by failing to refer to the real nature of the illegal opposition or by granting a hearing to any petitioner or organization outlawed for engaging in activities subversive of the authority of the States administering Trust Territories and hence of the United Nations.

63. It was clear from all the evidence presented to the Council that a general pattern of increasing progress was to be seen in the Territory and that that progress entitled the Council once again to record its confidence in, and to commend, the Administering Authority. There was, of course, still further progress to be made before the Territory attained the objectives of the Trusteeship System, but the determination of the ways by which those objectives could be attained might safely be left to the good sense of the Administering Authority, the people of the Territory and their elected representatives, who would, he was confident, take fully into account the obligations still resting upon the Administering Authority and the United Nations under the Trusteeship Agreement.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.