



Ninth session

Agenda item 4 (d)

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF CAMEROONS  
UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Amendments suggested by the Secretariat to the outline of conditions  
set forth in document T/L.181

Note: In view of the resolutions adopted by the Council at its 374th meeting on 17 July 1951 on the petitions concerning the Cameroons under British administration, the Secretariat has prepared the following summary which the Council may wish to add to the chapter on conditions in the Cameroons under British administration.

1. On page 3, at the end of the section Frontier questions, add the following:

At its ninth session the Council considered petitions from Mr. Joseph Ngu<sup>1/</sup> and the French Cameroons Welfare Union.<sup>2/</sup> The latter referred to a previous petition<sup>3/</sup> addressed to the Visiting Mission by the Union and stated that immigrants from the Cameroons under French Administration were inadequately represented in the Native Authority Councils and Native Courts of Victoria Division, were excluded from political participation under the New Nigeria Constitution, were discriminated against in appointments to the public service and that their children were discriminated against in the granting of scholarships. As tax-payers, they claimed the right to vote, and requested that the French Cameroons Welfare Union be constituted as a primary electoral unit, with allocated seats in the Divisional Electoral Meeting proportionate to their numbers. They protested against the frontier between the two Cameroons and requested the Council to conduct a referendum at any early date to ascertain the wishes of the indigenous population regarding abolition of frontier

1/ T/PET.4/70.

2/ T/PET.4/71 and Add.1/

3/ T/PET.4/19-5/8 and Resolution 172 (VI).

control and unification of the Cameroons. Mr. Ngu claimed that the French Cameroons immigrants had strongly protested against their exclusion from voting, and he requested that the Government revise the electoral procedure.

The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that these immigrants shared similar civic rights with the indigenous population. British citizenship was a necessary qualification for voting under the new Nigerian constitution, and the Administration planned to publicize among the immigrants the naturalization procedure which required five years' residence before application. The creation of a special electoral unit for them was considered impractical, as the immigrants were scattered.

The Council adopted a resolution<sup>1/</sup> on these petitions requesting the Administering Authority to furnish, in its next annual report, additional information on the status of immigrants from the Cameroons under French Administration and urging the Administering Authority to make every effort to ensure that the petitioners understand the procedures for acquiring naturalization and the right to vote. The Council further decided to re-examine these petitions at the session at which the requested information was available.

2. On page 21, following the paragraph ending "enlightened generation", insert the following:

At its ninth session the Council considered a new petition<sup>2/</sup> from the Bakweri Land Committee containing resolutions for consideration by the Council, in which the petitioners resolved not to co-operate with the Administering Authority in its resettlement programme until it made an unequivocal and categorical statement to the effect that the Bakweri people were the sole owners of the lands now operated by the Corporation. They contended that the Bakweri lands could not be justly owned by the whole Territory while the rest of the land was not being operated in the interest of every inhabitant. They requested that the rents on the lands be paid to them and not to the Governor, and that all missionary societies and trading firms be informed that the Bakweri people, through the Governor of Nigeria, might demand the lands held by such bodies, on the payment of adequate compensation.

<sup>1/</sup> Resolution \_\_\_\_.

<sup>2/</sup> T/RET.4/69 and T/RET.4/69/Add.1.

The Administering Authority observed that the Land Committee continued to maintain its original position which would operate to the detriment of the long-term development of the Trust Territory, but that the viewpoint of younger and more intelligent elements among the Bakweri gave the Administration hope that the Bakweri attitude might change in the future.

The Council adopted a resolution on this petition reiterating its previous resolution 174 (VI) on the question, and drawing the attention of the petitioners to the recommendations on Land, the Bakweri Problem and the Cameroons Development Corporation adopted by the Council in connexion with its examination of the 1949 and 1950 annual reports. (See below.)

3. On page 29, at the end of the section Policy and general, add the following:

At its ninth session the Council considered a petition<sup>1/</sup> from the Ex-Servicemen's Union, Victoria, containing comments on the observations<sup>2/</sup> of the Administering Authority on their previous petition.<sup>3/</sup> The petitioners requested, inter alia, that the government should establish hostels, clubs and reading rooms for them; that the loans requested by and on behalf of ex-servicemen should be given sympathetic consideration, and that the Cameroons Development Corporation and the Civil Preventive Services should be advised by the Administering Authority to "temper with justice their present policy of discrimination against the ex-servicemen in respect to employment."

The Administering Authority observed<sup>4/</sup> that clubs were not formed because ex-servicemen were scattered, and that the Cameroons Development Corporation was providing increasing welfare facilities; that loan applications from ex-servicemen capable of engaging in business or agriculture would receive most sympathetic consideration and three grants-in-aid had in fact been given; and that it was impossible to give job priority to ex-servicemen lacking in essential qualification when other suitable candidates were available, and dismissals might have occurred.

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1/ T/PET.4/68.

2/ T/489.

3/ T/PET.4/18.

4/ T/928 and T/AC.41/SR.13.

The Council adopted a resolution<sup>1/</sup> on this petition drawing the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority, and reiterating its resolution<sup>2/</sup> on the previous petition in which it expressed the hope that the Administering Authority's efforts to help home-coming servicemen would be continued and, if necessary, increased so that any legitimate grievance on their part might eventually be met.

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1/ Resolution \_\_\_\_ (IX).

2/ Resolution 133 (VI).