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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Summary of the observations made by individual members
of the Council during the general discussion and
of the comments of the special representative
of the Administering Authority

I. GENERAL

Land and People

1. The representative of New Zealand expressed the hope that the area of "unsettled districts" would be considerably reduced in the next few years.

General Considerations

2. The representative of New Zealand commended the Administering Authority on the slow but sure progress made in the Territory during the period under review. He considered that the policies pursued by the Administering Authority were basically sound and were resulting in progress in many fields.

3. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that an analysis of the information submitted by the Administering Authority led to the inevitable conclusion that the Administering Authority had failed to comply with the objectives of the Charter as regards the principles and purposes of the International Trusteeship System.

4. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration was pursuing an effective and deliberate policy for the balanced improvement of the lot of the inhabitants, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the Territory.

Frontier Questions

5. The representative of Thailand considered that the question of unification of the two Cameroons, as requested by the Cameroons National Federation and the Cameroons Federal Union, deserved careful and serious study.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Policy and general

6. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the political situation in the Cameroons was characterized by an utter lack of rights of the indigenous inhabitants. There were no organs of local self-government based on democratic principles in which indigenous inhabitants were entitled to participate.

Administrative integration of the Territory with Nigeria

7. The representative of Thailand expressed concern at the administrative integration of the Territory with Nigeria and the problems which it would raise when the time came to re-organize the Cameroons as a single entity. He hoped that the Administration would take into account the desire expressed in petitions from the Cameroons National Federation, the Cameroons Federal Union and others, not for complete separation from Nigeria, but for the creation of a distinct administrative region for the Cameroons which, according to the report of the Visiting Mission represented a genuine trend of feeling.

8. The representative of New Zealand while appreciating the advantages accruing to the Territory through its integration with Nigeria, called attention to certain problems such as that of providing exact figures and clear details on many matters, which made it difficult to discover, for example, the exact extent to which the administration of common services was applicable to the Territory.

9. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the division of the Cameroons into various regions and their integration with Nigeria had rendered impossible the advancement of the Trust Territory towards self-government or independence and its independent political, economic, social or educational development as a separate unit.

He stated that this policy violated the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement and the General Assembly Resolution of 18 November 1948. The Trusteeship Agreement did not justify the dismemberment of the Territory and its unification with a neighboring colonial territory. The Cameroons had no legislative, administrative, judicial or budgetary autonomy. The Council should recommend that the Administering Authority establish in the Trust Territory legislative and administrative organs that would not be subordinate to any organs set up on the basis of the union of the Territory with Nigeria. To that end the Administering Authority should carry out legislative and other measures in order to ensure the participation of the indigenous population in legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Trust Territory.

10. The special representative of the Administering Authority recalled, with regard to the suggestion that the administrative integration of the Territory with the Protectorate of Nigeria was incompatible with the provisions of the Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement, that the Council at its sixth session had urged the Administration to consider the adequate representation of the Trust Territory people in the various organs of the new Nigerian constitution. For geographical and social reasons it was recognised through the period of the Mandate that it was only by integration

with Nigeria that the mandatory Power could effectively discharge its obligations to the people of the Cameroons. When the Trusteeship Agreement was under consideration it was made clear by United Kingdom representatives that the obligations of Trusteeship could in practice be discharged in no other manner than by the continuance of this policy of integration. This view was accepted by the General Assembly; Article 5 (a) of the agreement called upon the Administering Authority to administer the Territory "in accordance with the Authority's own laws as an integral part of its Territory".

He noted that it had been asked whether the identity of the Trust Territory could not be further promoted by administering it as a whole as a separate region of Nigeria. This suggestion had been seriously considered by the Administration. If such a step were practicable, to take it would deprive the people of the Territory of the opportunities for political education and advancement now offered to them through their participation in the work of the large and progressive Nigerian regions to which they at present belonged. The step did not appear to be practicable, however. The geographical and social configuration of the northern half of the Territory made it impracticable to transfer administrative headquarters from the traditional centres of the three northern Provinces concerned to places within the Trust Territory.

Constitutional reform

11. The representative of Thailand noted that the recent constitutional reform had endeavoured to extend the degree of participation of the inhabitants of the Cameroons in the governmental organs of Nigeria. He

considered that the election system adopted, although indirect, would afford to the inhabitants some experience in the legislative process, and the opportunity of voicing their opinion and defending their interests through their representatives. He noted with satisfaction that the Southern Cameroons was to send thirteen elected members to the Eastern House of Assembly, at least one of whom would occupy a seat in the Regional Executive Council. Noting that arrangements would be made for participation by the northern part of the Territory in the election of the Provincial Electoral Colleges which would elect members to the Northern House of Assembly, he expressed concern that, as a result of administrative integration, the population in the north might not have adequate representation in the House of Assembly. He suggested that the Administering Authority should readjust the composition of the Central Council of Ministers so as to include representatives from the northern part of the Territory.

12. The representative of Chini, while noting with interest the increased participation of the Territory in the central and regional organs of the new political structure of Nigeria, considered that the total effect of such reform might be to accentuate the integration of the Territory with Nigeria. He considered that the electoral system, as envisaged under the new Constitution, was imperfect, one of the defects being that the Cameroons representatives in the Eastern House of Assembly were not elected by the inhabitants themselves, and that similar shortcomings would appear later, when it would be the responsibility of the Administering Authority to examine and rectify them.

13. The representative of New Zealand supported the suggestion of the representative of Belgium, and suggested that the Administering Authority might consider measures designed to ensure that Cameroonians themselves would actually take seats in Nigerian Central House of Representatives.

14. The special representative of the Administering Authority referred to the question of the representation of inhabitants of the Trust Territory in the various organs of the new Constitution of Nigeria and the Cameroons. This representation would be adequate, with a satisfactory numerical representation of the Trust Territory people. They had received a guarantee, unique in the Constitution, of representation in the Council's Ministers in the eastern region and the centre. The Central Legislature was to be composed of representatives elected to it by the Regional Legislatures. Of the representatives from the Eastern Regional Legislature, four at least must be Trust Territory representatives. It had been suggested that it would also be advisable that these four must be elected by their Cameroons colleagues alone and not by a vote of the Regional Legislature as a whole. The guarantee was that the Trust Territory representatives sent to the Central Legislature must be four at least. If successful men came forward in the Cameroons, the number of Cameroons representatives chosen by the Eastern Regional Legislature to go to the Central Legislature could be higher than this figure. He was confident that the Cameroons representatives sent to the Central Legislature would in fact be those selected by their own Cameroons colleagues. At the same time the existing arrangement offered to the Cameroons people the opportunity of securing an even higher representation at the Centre than the one guaranteed to them as an irreducible minimum. Finally, every Cameroons representative at any level in the Constitution would be one chosen by his own people in a free election.

Local administration

15. The representative of New Zealand, noting with interest the efforts of the Administering Authority to encourage the growth of local government, appreciated the difficulties encountered, and expressed assurance that the Administering Authority was fully aware that there could be no better training to develop a sense of responsibility in managing local affairs than by allowing the indigenous inhabitants themselves to assume the responsibilities and to discharge the functions of local government.

16. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that in order to govern the indigenous population and, particularly, to levy taxes, British officials had resorted to the assistance of tribal chiefs whom the administration called "Native Authorities". In view of the fact that the tribal system now prevailing in the Trust Territory and encouraged by the Administering Authority was incompatible with the progressive development of the inhabitants towards self-government or independence, the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority adopt measures which would ensure a transition from the tribal system to the system of self-government based on democratic principles.

17. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the establishment of local Government Councils under the new Legislation applicable to the Eastern Region of Nigeria and Southern Cameroons envisaged the establishment of a three-tier system of Councils: County Councils, Urban and Rural District Councils, and Local Councils, in that order of importance. In the composition of these Councils, sufficiently flexible to reflect varying local conditions, elected representatives

would predominate. The functions of the Councils, which would include the power to impose rates and handle their own budgets, would resemble the functions of the local Government organs of the United Kingdom. The legislation passed had not established these Councils throughout the area. It was enabling legislation which made it possible to establish such Councils as the areas concerned became ready for this development. The question of timing was of great delicacy, in order to avoid radical interference with the traditional systems of the people. He felt, however, that it would be practicable to introduce this system into the Territory at a date earlier than had been previously thought likely.

Civil service

18. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that all key posts in the administration were held by United Kingdom officials and that the Administering Authority did not allow indigenous inhabitants to participate in the actual governing of the Territory. It was represented to the Commission of Inquiry appointed in 1948 that in view of the importance of building up an improved system of Native Administration and local government, Africans should not be encouraged to enter the Administrative Service. This was a pretext designed to cover up the unwillingness of the Administering Authority to permit indigenous inhabitants to occupy responsible posts in the administration.

19. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that, with regard to the view suggested to the Nigerianisation Commission that the increasing African intake for the Senior Service should be steered into other Departments and local Government rather than into the Administrative

Service, this argument had not been accepted by the Commission or by the Government, which had pressed on with the recruitment of Africans to the Administrative Service. Considerable numbers were included each year; and one African administrative officer had already served in the Trust Territory. As a result of energetic measures taken by the Administration, fifteen per cent of the existing Senior Service posts were already held by Africans in Nigeria and the Cameroons as a whole.

Differences between the North and South

20. The representative of New Zealand expressed concern at the uneven political development and drew attention to the fact that all of the southern provinces were wholly within the Trust Territory while none of the northern provinces were. He suggested that the Administering Authority might consider a possible readjustment of administrative units in the northern provinces to create, if feasible, either by amalgamation or otherwise, administrative divisions lying wholly within the Territory. He further suggested that the Administering Authority give earnest consideration to the rapid promotion of political, social and economic development in the northern provinces, in order to reduce the gap now existing between the two parts of the Territory.

21. The special representative of the Administering Authority considered that the most significant problem, in nearly all fields of administration, as it had emerged from the Council's discussion, was the difference in the relative degrees of progress achieved as between the North, which had very much less advanced medical and educational facilities, and the South. However, he believed that evidence had been presented to the Council of the beginning of a very considerable change in this situation in the

northern provinces. The recent stabilization of the financial position of the Territory made it possible for the Administration to embark upon the comprehensive scheme of road construction which was the only means by which a radical change in the rate of progress in the north could be brought about.

III ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Policy and general

22. The representative of the United States noted with interest the establishment of the three new Nigerian Marketing Boards for ground-nuts, oil-palm produce and cotton, and urged the Administering Authority to take steps to familiarize Africans from the Trust Territory with the complex operations of these Boards so that they might gain the experience necessary to qualify them for greater participation in the direction of operations of major economic consequence to the Territory. The Administering Authority might consider the possibility of giving to people of the Territory some type of observer status on such Boards, so that they would become more familiar with the problems involved.

23. The representative of New Zealand noted that the prosperity of the Territory depended almost wholly on the quality and volume of its agricultural production. He suggested that the Council recommend that the Administering Authority devote special attention to measures designed to increase and improve the yield of the main crops in the Territory. A fundamental aspect of this problem was improvement in the agricultural methods of the indigenous inhabitants, which was perhaps basically a problem of incentives.

He commended the policies of the Administering Authority, as far as they went, with regard to the improvement of peasant agriculture and animal husbandry. The Council might wish to urge the Administering Authority, when possible, to expand its activities and establish further experimental farms and training centres, particularly in the northern

part of the Territory. He noted with interest the scheme undertaken in the Dikwa Emirate to demonstrate the use of fertilizers.

24. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Administering Authority had not taken measures to advance the economy of the Territory for the benefit of its indigenous inhabitants. Instead, it had transformed it into a source of raw materials for the metropolitan country. The best lands had been alienated from the people in order to establish a plantation economy with production designed exclusively for export. The export of these primary products was in the hands of monopolistic Nigerian organizations. The Nigeria Cocoa Board purchased and exported all cocoa produced in Nigeria and the Cameroons; the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons were not represented on that Board. Three new bodies were established in 1949 with the same kind of organization to deal with groundnuts, palm oil and cotton. The integration of the Territory with Nigeria also underlined the fact that the Cameroons was dependent upon Nigeria in the economic field as well as in the political field.

25. The special representative of the Administering Authority pointed out that none of the commodities handled by the Nigerian produce marketing board was of major importance in the Trust Territory, and at the same time the membership of the boards had to be kept severely limited in the interests of efficiency. It was not, therefore, surprising if the Trust Territory failed to secure representation, which tended only to go to the able representatives of very much larger commercial interests. Nevertheless the Cameroons people had exactly equal opportunities with

their neighbours in Nigeria. The suggestion that some similar organizations, possibly of a subordinate nature, might be introduced for the Trust Territory alone did not seem practicable, for the whole point of the boards was that they should handle the entire crop of a large area. The Trust Territory could only lose heavily by any such change.

He stated that the development of new crops in the Trust Territory was a matter to which the Administration was very much alive. The Cameroons Development Corporation was doing a lot to expand its production of rubber, and the Administration was giving active consideration to the expansion of production of coffee and cocoa. He recalled that important steps had been taken to disseminate knowledge about improved agricultural methods among the people of the North, in particular the provision of artificial fertilizers which, he believed, would have a profound effect upon agriculture in that area.

Communications

26. The representative of Thailand noted the importance of improved communications in the Territory. He was particularly impressed by the programme of road construction designed to provide an all-weather road connecting the north and south and having all-weather connections with Nigeria and the Cameroons under French Administration. However he noted that less than 20 miles of road were constructed in 1950, and urged the Administering Authority not to undertake the construction of road links with Nigeria to the prejudice of road building within the Territory. He commended the decision to allocate the total sum paid into the Cameroons Development Fund for road construction, and expressed the hope that this sum would be earmarked solely for construction within the Territory.

27. The representative of New Zealand expressed agreement with the policy of the Administering Authority to press ahead in building roads and improving communications, and noted with satisfaction that the whole of the sum paid into the Cameroons Development Fund had been allocated for road construction. He expressed the hope that no undue delay would attend the construction of the road link from north to south, and suggested that railroad extension might result in further improvement of communications in the Territory.

28. The special representative of the Administering Authority referred to the comment that the pace of new road construction within the Territory appeared to slack off during 1950 as compared with 1949. This was due to greater concentration during 1950 on consolidation, bridge building and the construction of vital road links with the outside world beyond the boundaries of the Territory. Comprehensive plans for road construction in the Territory had already been described; definite steps had already been taken to set this programme in motion.

Land; Bakweri Problem; Cameroons Development Corporation

29. The representative of China considered that the Council should be duly concerned over the as yet unsolved Bakweri land problem. Noting the changing attitude of the literate leaders and the persistent efforts of the Administering Authority to convince them of the soundness of the resettlement scheme, he expressed the hope that a solution would soon be in sight. He noted the efforts of the Administering Authority to improve farming methods as one step in the right direction toward removing the difficulties arising out of the Bakweri problem, and expressed the hope that

activities such as those at the Bambui demonstration farm and the Jakiri live stock investigation centre would be extended.

30. The representative of Belgium considered that the Cameroons Development Corporation was to a considerable degree responsible for the general equilibrium of the Territory, and that it had been unquestionably beneficial with regard to the Bakweri land problem. He expressed assurance that the Bakweri leaders would realize this fact and realize also that the benefits accruing to the Territory from the Corporation must be enjoyed by all the people, not only the Bakweri. The Council might express the hope that the change in the attitude of the Bakweri leaders would become more marked, and that in the coming year closer cooperation would develop between them and the Administration.

31. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation, covering an area of approximately 460 square miles, consisted of land alienated from the indigenous population dating from the time of the German colonial period. The Bakweri people and a number of smaller tribes had seen outsiders alienate from them their most fertile lands. As a result, these tribes were doomed to extinction. One of the forms of alienation of land from the indigenous peoples was by the declaration of so-called forest reserves. The Council should recommend that the Administering Authority return to the indigenous population the lands alienated from them by various means and that any further alienation of land belonging to the indigenous population should be prohibited.

32. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the policy of the present administration had been to restore to the people of the Territory lands previously alienated from them, and to ensure to the inhabitants exclusively the enjoyment of all benefits derived from past operations, whether in the shape of trading profits or of tax accruing to the Administration, of which no part was appropriated by the Nigerian Government or the United Kingdom.

As for the assertion that the reservation of the people's forests was alienation of land in another guise, the reservation of a forest merely preserved its wealth for the use of its natural owners in generations to come. Reservation implied no change in the existing ownership.

He stated that it was proposed to continue community leadership training scheme and also with efforts for the more important resettlement scheme which would among other things, solve the problem of existing immigration. The situation, however, now depended on success in prevailing upon sectional interests to cease pursuing selfish aims to the detriment of the Territory as a whole and to cooperate whole heartedly in the large and generous plans already recommended to them by the Council.

Operations of the Corporation

33. The representative of the United States considered that the allocation by the Corporation of £77,000 from its 1948 and 1949 profits for expenditure on projects of benefit to the people of the Cameroons appeared to be a happy omen for the future. He noted that only the 1948 profits had been specifically allocated as yet, largely because of the decision to elaborate projects only in full consultation with local development committees, but expressed approval of this policy because the educational and psychological

values of such participation by the inhabitants might be fully as important as the projects themselves. He welcomed the special representative's statement that there now appeared to be wide-spread understanding that the Corporation belonged to the Cameroons. The educational value of the local development committees would be reflected in the political as well as in the economic sphere. The Council might wish to consider urging the Administering Authority to extend the use of such committees outside the area of the Corporation.

34. The representative of New Zealand commended the Administering Authority for its energy and foresight in successfully establishing the Cameroons Development Corporation, through the activities of which a continuing contribution was being made to the all-round development of the Territory. He noted with particular satisfaction the attention given by the Corporation to health and education services, as well as the material advantages accruing to the Territory from its varied agricultural undertakings and from the experience and knowledge derived by the population from the Corporation's activities.

Forest reserves

35. The representative of New Zealand considered that forest products might be developed as a new source of revenue for the Territory. He suggested that the Council urge the Administering Authority without undue delay to encourage the efficient exploitation of the forest reserves of the Territory, while at the same time safeguarding the interests of the indigenous inhabitants and paying due regard to the necessity for reforestation and soil conservation which inevitably followed lumbering.

36. The special representative of the Administering Authority emphasized that the Administration was anxious, in the future interests of the people, to press on with the reservation of forests as fast as political considerations would allow to the target which its experts had set.

Public Finance

37. The representative of Thailand noted with particular satisfaction the surplus of revenue over expenditure for the first time in the Territory and that this sum was being placed in a Cameroons Development Fund. He expressed confidence that the Administering Authority would do everything possible to maintain the improved financial position.

38. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Territory had no separate budget and that revenues collected in the Cameroons were included in the general budget of Nigeria without any distinction being drawn, while expenditures to be made in the Territory were not based upon its needs but upon needs calculated for the various regions of Nigeria with which the Territory was administratively united.

39. The special representative of the Administering Authority noted that doubt had been expressed as to whether, in the absence of a separate budget for the Trust Territory, the statistical information available - in particular, the information regarding the financial situation in the Territory - was adequate for the purposes of the Council. He suggested that the Annual Reports which contained voluminous separate details regarding all fields of administration in the Territory, showed that the situation in this regard was entirely satisfactory. Although the financial tables did not present a statutory budget in the correct sense

of the word, they gave a reliable accountant's statement of the revenue actually derived from the Territory and the expenditure actually incurred on its account. Although to a small extent the revenue figures, and to a greater extent the expenditure figures, contained elements which could only be arrived at by proportionate estimation, in the main, the figures were actual and compiled by extraction from the annual accounts of the two regions and the Central Government concerned. A complete and reliable picture of the over-all financial position of the Territory was thus given. He noted that, despite the heavy and unrecovered subsidisation of the Territory necessary in past years, the Administration secured this surplus to the debt and future service of the Trust Territory exclusively, by paying it into a special Cameroons Development Fund.

Taxation

40. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority take measures designed to replace the head tax by a progressive income tax system, or a simple income tax system which would take into account the financial position of the indigenous inhabitants and their capacity to pay.

41. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration itself shared the desire for the development of properly graded assessments of income for tax purposes, and hoped to progress as fast as possible towards that objective. The direct taxation ordinance under which the great bulk of the taxes was collected did, in fact, provide for the making of such graded individual assessments by the people's

tax authorities themselves. In many parts of the Territory, particularly in the northern half, such assessments were made. But over large parts of the Territory, mainly in the southern half, the taxation authorities had not yet shown themselves able to put across the idea of the differential rate of tax. A great difficulty arose from the fact that nearly all the tax-payers there were not people earning salaries or wages, but people who were subsistence farmers and whose wealth really depended mainly upon the foodstuffs which they and their families grew for their own consumption, presumably with, in very many cases, a margin to be used in exchange for other desirable goods.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Policy and General

42. The representative of New Zealand commended the Administering Authority on the establishment of the training centre for community development at Man o'War Bay, and suggested that other such schemes be undertaken, particularly in the more undeveloped areas of the Territory.

Medical and Health services

43. The representative of Thailand emphasized the necessity of better medical and health services. He considered that medical facilities should be in proportion to the needs of the local population, and that for humanitarian reasons it was impossible to leave the extensive area of the northern Cameroons without hospitals. While noting the increases in medical staff and hospital beds, he nevertheless considered that 15 doctors for a population of more than one million was not sufficient, and strongly urged the Administering Authority to spare no efforts so that medical facilities might be evenly distributed throughout the Territory.

44. The representative of New Zealand noting with satisfaction the emphasis now being given to medical research and the construction of hospitals, considered that more attention should be given to the public health of the Territory; in particular, medical staff and training facilities should be expanded, and greater efforts could perhaps be made in the field of preventive medicine.

45. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that health services were entirely unsatisfactory and that the Administering Authority had failed to take the necessary measures to ensure adequate health services for the indigenous population. The Territory did not

have its own medical services. There were only eleven hospitals in the entire territory; there were none in the northern section. The absence of adequate health facilities for the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population and their wretched conditions of subsistence were conducive to a high rate of morbidity. The expenditure for judiciary, police and prisons constituted 21.6% of the Territory's budget whereas expenditure on health services constituted only 10%. The Council should recommend that the Administering Authority increase budgetary appropriations for the health services of the indigenous peoples.

46. The special representative of the Administering Authority drew attention to the very considerable expansion in medical and health services and in the budgetary provision for them which might be taken as evidence of the determination of the Administration to continue with the expansion of these services until they reached the desired standard in all parts of the Territory.

He stated that there was evidence of much more concentrated work by medical field units in the northern parts of the Territory, and of an expansion in the network of dispensaries serving the large Government and mission hospitals which were just beyond the actual boundaries of the Territory. These hospitals had actually done a great deal for the Cameroons people who, in several instances, had numbered more than half of the patients in those hospitals. He called attention to the fact that the northern area would have its first modern, well-equipped and well maintained Government hospital upon completion of the Mubi hospital.

He stated that, at the present stage of development of the Territory, it was a fact that a fairly high percentage of expenditure, not only of the native authorities but also to some extent of the central government

itself, was devoted to administrative and police purposes when compared with the percentages devoted to economic development and social services. He pointed out, however, that it was the central government which undertook the more expensive burdens of economic, social and educational development. Out of the small native administration budgets 55 per cent of the expenditure was going to administrative and police matters and only 45 per cent to economic development and social services; but on the other hand, out of the government expenditure, which was at least five times as large, only 35 per cent was devoted to administrative purposes and 65 per cent was going to economic and social services with their already rapidly expanding degree of development.

Standards of living; labour; wages

47. The representative of Thailand considered that the present wage rates were low, particularly in the northern area, and that the request of the Cameroons National Federation for a basic minimum rate of four shillings per day was not unreasonable. A general revision of wage rates should be undertaken in order to raise the standard of living. He also called the attention of the Administering Authority to the problems of housing and the sanitary conditions in which labourers lived.

48. The representative of New Zealand noted that the Administration had undertaken the monumental task of raising the living standards of the people with sincerity and energy, but considered that much remained to be done.

49. The representative of the United States of America, noting that in spite of increased wages granted by the Cameroons Development Corporation, wages

and standards of living still appeared relatively low, expressed the hope that it would be possible for all segments of the labour population to benefit by improved conditions as well as for wages generally to be progressively raised, if possible more rapidly than the cost of living. Considering that the Administering Authority would undoubtedly wish to take every possible step to ensure that other employers kept pace with the Corporation, he suggested that one means of achieving this would be to expand the services of the Labour Department so that they might effectively reach every section of the expanding labour-employing and wage-earning elements of the population.

50. The representative of China, recalling the Council's recommendation that cost of living studies be made, noted that thus far no complete studies had been made and considered that they were of such an important nature that an effort should be made by the Administering Authority to pursue them.

51. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that there were 17,500 permanent workers employed in the Cameroons Development Corporation who received wretched wages and who went on strike in 1949 in protest against their poor conditions of employment and the harsh exploitation to which they were subjected. They had demanded an increase in their wages to 2s. 6d. per day but this demand was not granted by the Administration.

52. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the view that the labour force of the Territory, mainly consisting of employees of the Cameroons Development Corporation, carried on a continued, bitter struggle against grievous conditions, would surprise those workers whose conditions had improved greatly in the last two years. Their wages had increased by about 75%, there had been steady and rapid improvement

in housing, health services, education and recreational facilities, and through their elected representatives they were in regular consultation with the management. It was therefore not surprising that the year 1950 had been remarkably free from any industrial dispute of consequence.

Corporal punishment; deportation

53. The representative of the United States of America urged that an imaginative and vigorous approach to the problem of corporal punishment be taken, and that effective alternative penalties be developed immediately to bring about the complete abolition of corporal punishment.

54. The representative of Argentina expressed confidence that satisfactory information would be given by the Administering Authority in the Fourth Committee of the next General Assembly regarding the abolition of corporal punishment.

55. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Council should confirm and reiterate its previous recommendations and urgently recommend that the Administering Authority abolish immediately the practise of corporal punishment, as well as all ordinance and other provisions that permitted the imposition of such punishment in the Territory, special

56. The representative of the Administering Authority explained that it was the declared aim of the Administering Authority to work steadfastly towards the complete abolition of corporal punishment in the Territory, that the position had been re-examined in 1950 and that it would be continuously re-examined in order to make as rapid progress as local circumstances permitted.

Human Rights

57. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Administering Authority had carried out an anti-democratic policy in the Cameroons, marked by racial discrimination and flagrant violation of the rights and interests of the indigenous population. The Council should recommend that the Administering Authority cease this anti-democratic policy.

58. The special representative of the Administering Authority assured the Council that the people of the Territory had all the civic liberties enjoyed by the free world. There were no troops of secret police in the Territory and only three British police officers and 497 indigenous police, none of whom carried arms on normal duty. The inhabitants enjoyed freedom from arbitrary arrest and the writ of Habeas Corpus was applied, as in England. He recalled that the Visiting Mission had been impressed by the freedom of speech and expression enjoyed by the people, and stated that at the present moment they were going to the polls to vote for parties and candidates of their own choice.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Policy and general

59. The representative of Thailand considered that the Administration should establish more government schools in the Territory.
60. The representative of Belgium considered that the degree of educational advancement in the north was manifestly insufficient, as was the school attendance of only one per cent of school-age children. He noted with particular regret that the few existing schools would permit double the present school attendance, if it were possible to persuade the indigenous inhabitants to send their children to school. Therefore, he questioned the wisdom of the policy by which primary education was the responsibility of the Native Authorities, who had not shown a satisfactory enough interest in education to warrant such a trust.
61. The representative of New Zealand considered that the Administration had begun with sincerity and energy the monumental task of raising the educational standards of a people having no common language and of whom little more than 10 per cent were literate, but that much remained to be done. He stressed the need for further efforts to train teachers and provide schools for the northern areas, where only 1.3 per cent of the school-age children attended school. He noted that voluntary agencies appeared to be doing excellent work.
62. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics cited the 1949 report of the Administering Authority where it was stated that the percentage of illiteracy in the Victoria Division was 75 per cent and increased to almost 100 per cent in the remoter areas of the north and that for the Territory as a whole illiteracy might be as high as 95 per cent. The Administering Authority's record of 30 years of administration in the Cameroons

showed that it had maintained the indigenous population in a state of ignorance.

He stated that the Administering Authority had failed to take the necessary measures to ensure adequate educational service for the indigenous population. In 1950, 11.7 per cent of the children of school age were receiving instruction; in the Benue Province, instruction was received by only 1.3 per cent of children of school age. During the two years under review the number of secondary schools remained unchanged at two. He noted that the character of instruction in the schools was entirely unsatisfactory.

63. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration, like the Council, was constantly aware of the fact that it still had a very great distance to go in the educational advancement of the Territory. Although considerable progress had been made, the Administration's efforts during the next few years must be directed toward bringing the school population up to a very much higher figure than at present. He hoped that the information given had provided sufficient evidence that the Administration was making, and would continue to make, determined efforts to extend educational facilities on all levels. In its efforts to improve the situation, the Administration was certainly supported by that part of the population which impressed the Visiting Mission of 1949 with its anxiety for rapid educational expansion, but he thought it necessary to record the warning that a great deal of apathy remained to be overcome, as evidenced by the fact that the available schools were not yet filled.

He stated that the Administration was satisfied with the policy of promoting primary education very largely through the mission societies, which were already well established and expert in this field.

Primary education

64. The representative of Thailand noted that the small number of primary schools and pupils in the northern part of the Territory was certainly inadequate for its area and population, and considered that much remained to be done in the provision of educational facilities.

While noting the viewpoint of the Administering Authority that the indigenous inhabitants were reluctant to have their children educated, he called attention to the opinion of the Visiting Mission that there was widespread demand for education. He considered that primary education should be free and compulsory for every child, and that it was the duty of the Administering Authority not only to persuade the parents to accept education for their children, but also to compel them to do so, if necessary.

65. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that, in view of the difficulty of raising the school enrolment, he did not consider it realistic or financially possible at the present stage to contemplate the imposition of compulsory primary education anywhere in the Territory.

Secondary and higher education

66. The representative of China noted the great need of the Territory for technicians, and the conspicuous absence of indigenous persons from the Senior Service, and considered that there was still room for a steady increase in personnel endowed with a good secondary and higher education. Noting with satisfaction the number of scholarships awarded by the Administration and by the Cameroons Development Corporation, he considered that the Administering Authority and the Corporation should redouble their efforts to widen the opportunity for qualified young men and women to receive higher education in order to expedite the supply of much needed personnel.

67. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that institutions of higher education were marked by their absence in the Cameroons.

68. The special representative of the Administering Authority maintained that it was demonstrated by the reports that the Administration was making determined efforts to extend facilities in the field of secondary and higher education.

School fees

69. The representative of Thailand considered that primary education should be free for every child in the Territory.

70. The representative of New Zealand expressed concern that fees were charged for elementary education in the southern provinces, and suggested that this fact might be connected, in addition to other causes, with the fact that, according to the Administering Authority, primary school enrolment could be doubled if the existing schools were fully attended.

71. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the small fees paid in the schools in the southern part of the Territory, which were the only local contribution made as distinct from the direct taxes paid, did not act as a bar to increased enrolment. In fact, it was in the areas where such fees were charged that enrolment was highest, and in the areas where no fees were charged that enrolment was regrettably at its very lowest. Furthermore, the imposition a few years ago of small fees in Native Administration primary schools, in order to bring them into uniformity with the neighboring mission schools, did not have any effect upon attendance at these schools.

Expenditure

72. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority increase budgetary appropriation for educational services in order to establish an adequate system of primary, secondary and higher education in the Cameroons.

73. The special representative of the Administering Authority suggested that the 70 per cent increase in budgetary allocations for educational services was fair evidence of the energy with which the Administration continued to tackle the problem of educational services, and proposed to handle it in the future. He recalled that the operations of the voluntary agencies which provided primary education were now almost entirely paid for by Government and Native Administration grants.

If universal primary education was to be provided, the cost would be not less than ten or fifteen times the present public expenditure alone, disregarding expenditure incurred by the voluntary agencies, and it was necessary to remember that such a sum would be much more than the present total public expenditure for all purposes. He considered it obvious, therefore, that the desired advance would be unobtainable without a considerable increase in the local contribution, to be forthcoming from the people who would benefit by it.