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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 April 1957, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

1. Tribute to Mr. Kamal Eddin Salah
2. Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration for 1955 [3b] (continued)
3. Examination of petitions: 183rd and 194th reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions [14]
4. Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration for 1955 [3e]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.777 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KAMAL EDDIN SALAH

The PRESIDENT: It is with deep and profound sorrow that I have to inform the members of this Council of a tragic event by which they will be as shocked as I was.

A few hours earlier today, the representative of Egypt on the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, His Excellency Minister Kamal Eddin Salah, was stabbed to death in Mogadiscio. The details of this event have not yet reached me and for the time being I can but give you the news bluntly, without any explanation for this seemingly unexplainable tragedy.

His Excellency Minister Salah is well known to the members of this Council, for he has been closely associated with its work for the last three years. As the representative of his country on the Advisory Council he has, by his devotion to work and to the welfare and interests of the Somali people, won the recognition and respect of his colleagues on the Advisory Council as well as of the members of this Council. His tragic passing is an irreparable loss to his country and to the United Nations.

On behalf of this Council and in my own name, I would like to extend to the Egyptian Government and to Mr. Salah's family the expression of our deep sorrow and our sincere condolences.

I think it would be appropriate for the Council to observe a minute of silence.
The representatives stood in silence.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): The Council has just heard from the President of the death today in Mogadiscio of Mr. Salah, Egyptian representative on the Advisory Council for Somaliland, of which he was President. According to reports just received from Mogadiscio, death occurred as a result of an attack by a Somali.

The Administration will investigate thoroughly the causes of the murder and will inflict upon the culprit the severe punishment which his crime calls for. With deep grief I wish to express to the Trusteeship Council, through you, Mr. President, and to Mr. Salah's family, on behalf of the Italian Government and the Trusteeship Administration for Somaliland, and personally on behalf of the Administrator, my profound condolences for the loss of such a capable and esteemed official who for years had carried out so nobly the high duties which

(Mr. Grillo, Italy)

had been entrusted to him by the United Nations and who, in his co-operation with the Italian Administering Authority in Mogadiscio had given ample proof of his dedication to the betterment of the conditions of the Somali population.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): Like yourself, Mr. President, we in the United States delegation are shocked and saddened to hear of the violent death of Mr. Salah.

Mr. Salah was a personal friend of mine. I first knew him when it was my privilege to visit Somaliland with the Visiting Mission in 1954. At that time he was in the beginning of his service with the United Nations Advisory Council. He showed a truly eager desire to learn as much as possible about the many problems which faced the Somali people and to learn them on the spot. In the course of time it became apparent to me that there were perhaps few living men who had a greater basic knowledge of the economic situation in that country. He was a good man and he was an earnest man, but best of all, he was a friendly man.

Speaking for myself personally and for my delegation officially, we deeply regret the manner and the untimeliness of his end.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): We have learned with deep sorrow of the untimely and tragic death of the representative of Egypt on the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland under Italian administration, Mr. Salah. The Soviet delegation knew Mr. Salah because we had worked with him in the Trusteeship Council, and we shall preserve pleasant memories of him. On the occasion of this tragic and untimely death of Mr. Salah, may I express our deep and sincere compassion to the Government of Egypt, the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations, and the family of the deceased.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): The death of Mr. Salah in the course of his duties as a member of the Advisory Council has affected my delegation with a deep sense of shock. It is only a few short months since we saw him here doing his work in the Council, Mr. President, and we all endorse the praise you have lavished upon him for his excellent work here. Now he has met his death while serving the United Nations and the Somali people. May I express on behalf of the New Zealand delegation our abhorrence at the act of violence which has abruptly terminated his career, and express our sympathy to the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian delegation on the loss of an able citizen and an able public servant, and also to his family on the loss of a husband and a father.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): It is with profound emotion that the delegation of Haiti has learned of the tragic passing of Mr. Salah, the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland. We maintained the most cordial relations with him. Whenever he spoke as representative of Egypt in the Advisory Council, we listened with special attention to everything he had to say. We know how devoted he was to his task, and it gives us much suffering to learn that he has left us. Permit my delegation to add its voice to those of other delegations and your own, Mr. President, in expressing our sympathy with the Government of Egypt and the family of Mr. Salah.

U PE KIN (Burma): Mr. President, as you have said, the tragic news of the assassination of Mr. Salah came to my delegation with profound shock and sorrow. As you have pointed out, Mr. Salah has rendered salient services to the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, and his capabilities and zeal for service are well known. On behalf of my delegation, I should like to join you, Sir, and other members of this Council in expressing our sorrow and offering condolences to the Government of Egypt and to the family of Mr. Salah.

Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom): My delegation has learned of the assassination of the Egyptian member of the Advisory Council with a profound sense of shock. Mr. Salah was a personal friend of my predecessor, Sir Alan Burns, and I am sure Sir Alan would wish to be associated with the deep condolences which my delegation would wish to offer through you, Mr. President, to the Government of Egypt, the Egyptian delegation and Mr. Salah's family.

Mr. KIANG (China): My delegation wishes to associate itself with other delegations in expressing its deepest regret at the tragic death of Mr. Salah. With the passing of Mr. Salah, the Advisory Council is now deprived of the wisdom of a most valuable man.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): My delegation learned with consternation and the deepest regret of the tragic assassination of the Egyptian representative on the Advisory Council, which occurred while he was doing his duty in the Territory of Italian Somaliland. My delegation was particularly concerned over this sudden death because of the personal qualities of the deceased and because of the services he had rendered to the population and of the close relationships which link my country with Egypt. The condolences of my delegation go to the Egyptian Government, to the permanent Egyptian Mission and to the family of the deceased.

Mr. APAGON (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to say how deeply we regret the passing of Mr. Salah, representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council for Somaliland. We join in the statements of condolence that have been made in this Council.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): My delegation does, and I know that my Government will, receive with very great distress the news of the death of Mr. Salah. I should wish to associate my delegation with the thoughts of sympathy and deep regret which have been expressed by you yourself, Mr. President, and by other representatives in this connexion and to offer to the Egyptian Government and to the family of Mr. Salah the sincere sympathy of my delegation.

Mr. SARKAR (India): The Indian delegation would wish to extend its sympathy to Mr. Salah's family, to his Government and to the Trusteeship Council, which have all suffered a grievous loss at his tragic assassination.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the condolences which have been extended by members of this Council on the occasion of the tragic loss of Mr. Salah, the Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): The members of the Department of Trusteeship and, more directly, the staff serving the Advisory Council for Somaliland in Mogadiscio, have all been greatly grieved by the tragic assassination of a good friend and fellow worker, His Excellency Minister Salah, representative of Egypt. He was one of the most active members of the Advisory Council. He appeared regularly before the Trusteeship Council and gave of his rich experience and advice to all the debates on the problems of Somaliland.

His tragic disappearance is for us in the Secretariat very much of a personal loss. I wish to present on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the staff serving the Advisory Council for Somaliland our deepest condolences and sympathy to the Egyptian Government, to the permanent delegation of Egypt to the United Nations and to the bereaved family of Minister Salah.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Omar Loutfi, representative of Egypt, took a seat at the Council table.

Mr. LOUIFI (Egypt) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the delegation of Egypt and the Government of Egypt I should like to address to the Council our deeply moved appreciation of the share which it has assumed in the cruel loss which has struck us. We received with pain the news of the death of Minister Salah, Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland.

Minister Salah was a distinguished servant of his Government and of the United Nations. He served for more than three years in the Advisory Council. It was while he was performing his duty that he was criminally assassinated. In these painful circumstances, mere words cannot translate faithfully our deep feelings.

I should like on behalf of my delegation to express our gratitude to the President of the Trusteeship Council and to its members, to the Secretary-General and to the members of the Secretariat for the sympathy and friendship which they have given us on the occasion of this cruel loss. Minister Salah fell while fulfilling his duty. May he find peace.

Mr. Loutfi withdrew.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION FOR 1955 (T/1287, 1298, 1302 and Corr.1, 1304; T/L.737) [Agenda item 3 b] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Field, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate

U PE KIN (Burma): We have been discussing the affairs of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration for the past few days and have now reached a stage when it becomes possible for us to weigh the progress made by the Territory during the period under review. Consistent with the policy which my delegation has prescribed for itself, namely that it would not address itself to details nor enter into an argumentative debate at this stage, I shall confine myself mainly to observations of a general character.

This we do in the belief that the Administering Authority has already taken note of the Council's interest where progress has been demonstrated and of our anxiety where lack of such progress in the Territory became clear. This has been reflected in the questions addressed to the special representative. My delegation is confident that in the light of those questions the Administering Authority will redouble its efforts wherever this appears necessary.

Under the direction of this Council, the United Kingdom is performing a historic function in this Territory. It is laying down the basic foundations on which can be built the future political, social and economic structure of that Territory. There can be no difference of opinion between this Council and the people of the Cameroons, on the one hand, and the United Kingdom, that is the Administering Authority, on the other, with regard to the self-governing and independent ideals and objectives of the Territory. We may, and I think we do, have some differences, and these are apparently not crucial, about the methods of achieving such objectives or the speed in attaining them.

I concede that in discussing this Territory at this time, the Council need not enter into a general debate about -- if I may express it in the normal language of the West -- the virtues, I know there are none, or the evils, and they are legion, of colonialism or imperialism. However, I am today reminded of a statement of official policy of the Administering Authority on the subject. With the President's permission, I should like to review it here.

As far back as 1948, Mr. Creech Jones, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, wrote in his official report the following:

"The central purpose of British colonial policy is simple. It is to guide the colonial territories to responsible self-government within the Commonwealth in conditions that ensure to the people concerned both a fair standard of living and freedom from oppression from any quarter."

As the result of that policy, many countries, including my own, achieved freedom and independence. Despite the change of government in the United Kingdom since then, happily certain broad lines of liberal colonial policy have been accepted and are being continued as an expression of bipartisan international policy. Whether or not this policy was necessitated by historical currents is not important. What is important is to see whether this policy has been adhered to faithfully and implemented wherever possible.

It must be said to the credit of the United Kingdom, the Administering Authority in this instance, that it has not only acted accordingly but that the process of developing its colonies into self-governing territories is continuing.

(U Pe Kin, Burma)

A few years ago, it was India, Burma, Pakistan and Ceylon. A few weeks ago, it was Ghana. In a few months, it is going to be Singapore and Malaya, and we may expect that in the near future it is going to be Nigeria, Uganda, Tanganyika, and so on.

Because my delegation accepts the premises and the direction of United Kingdom policy on this issue, we are not now inclined to raise questions about it. We therefore gladly accept the acknowledgment of the political progress of the Territory noted by this Council at its seventeenth session.

It is good to record the fact that a sound basic political structure is being built in the Territory for its eventual democratic self-government. In the circumstances, peculiar to the Territory, my delegation is prepared to accept this basic structure as the one suitable to it. The political institutions such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, which are being constructed and which are gradually taking shape toward a final form, have already received some measure of autonomy, and their powers are being gradually augmented. In this connexion, my delegation will follow with the keenest interest the course of the forthcoming London constitutional conference at which indigenous representatives of the Territory will also be present. If similar conferences of the recent past are any indication of the shape of things to come, then we may anticipate with some measure of confidence a happy outcome to this new conference. We wish it all success.

Having disposed for the time being of the general issue, may I be permitted to revert to certain questions to which I alluded in my opening remarks.

It seems to my delegation that one of the greatest handicaps from which the Territory is at present suffering is the lack of communications, particularly of roads. The effects of such handicaps on the economic and social structure of any Territory or country are obvious, and I shall not take up the time of the Council by elaborating them here. In a Trust Territory such as this, it is of special significance and urgency. Roads and other communications are a prerequisite for all other aspects of development. This lack has been acknowledged by the Administering Authority. However, since my delegation always seeks out,

(U Pe Kin, Burma)

where possible, constructive elements for notice so as to encourage them, I am happy to record that there is a growing recognition of this fact not only by the Administering Authority but also by the Nigerian Federal and Territorial authorities. It is good to learn that even local voluntary organizations have now caught up with the importance of this matter and are helping to improve the situation.

In this connexion, it is heartening to know that the five-year development programme makes provision for an annual expenditure of £20,000 for local research on Nigerian road problems. Experiments, I understand, are to be conducted in conjunction with the road research laboratory located in Middlesex, in England. My delegation hopes that the Trust Territory will also benefit by this programme. Progress is being made, but only to a very limited extent, and it is hoped that the question will be tackled on a large scale by the Administering Authority as a matter of high priority.

Small as the matter may seem, I wish nevertheless to mention a question which has large implications for the future economic development of the Territory. I refer to the question of savings institutions existing in the Territory. While we would not at this time exaggerate the importance of existing institutions to the economy of the Territory, the desirability of creating and encouraging such facilities to mobilize small savings and to channel them into productive enterprises, especially in an under-developed country, cannot be denied. We find that, except for the post office savings bank facilities provided at a few centres, there exists only one bank in the whole Territory. Furthermore, the rates of interest paid are anything but attractive. The rate is some 2-1/2 per cent per annum on accounts up to £2,000, and thereafter the rates decrease correlatively to the amounts deposited, leaving only 1/2 per cent per annum on an account exceeding £30,000. Considering that the effect of savings institutions on the level of saving depends partly on their number and accessibility and partly on the rate of interest they pay, my delegation would recommend to the Administering Authority to review the situation. People with low incomes might save more if the savings institutions were more widespread and rates of interest more alluring.

(U Pe Kin, Burma)

Generally speaking, the rate at which progress was made in the field of agriculture in 1954 seems to have been sustained through 1955. Efforts to diversify cash crops, to increase agricultural production, to improve pasturage and cattle breeding, and to exploit and preserve forest reserves on a scientific basis -- all seem to be yielding increasingly satisfactory results.

My delegation is happy to note in the 1955 annual report that the cocoa crop for the 1955-56 season has shown signs of being a record one for the Territory.

Side by side with the progress in agriculture, the co-operative movement is reportedly gaining ground in the Territory. In 1955, the number of societies rose from sixty to seventy-three, with eight more to be registered.

(U Pe Kin, Burma)

Unfortunately, the popularity of the movement seems to be confined to the Southern Cameroons. So far, only two such societies exist in the North. It is hoped that the Administering Authority will redouble its efforts in the North and that it might even consider the introduction of a bill on the subject similar to the one recently passed in the South.

We note with regret the existence of mutual distrust between the people of the South and the people of the North. The Administering Authority has experienced this difficulty before in many places throughout the world. Basically, we are dealing here with a problem of religious and, possibly, ethnic variation which, in times past, has been accentuated. UNESCO calls this a problem in tensions. I call it essentially a problem in inter-cultural relations which can be resolved by vigorous inter-cultural education. A multi-racial, multi-religious, even multi-lingual society need no more exist in conflict than a homogeneous society, if positive steps are taken to democratize human relations. Switzerland is a prime example, among others. What my delegation said as regards the French Cameroons applies equally here. We hope that a determined effort will be made to bring the peoples of the South and the North closer together.

From the Administering Authority's report, we note with some disappointment that in the Northern Cameroons -- an area of 17,500 square miles, with a population of 720,000 -- there exists only one hospital, with fifty-six beds. Surely, this is less than adequate. More concern might be shown in this respect by augmenting the monetary grants and providing large-scale technical assistance.

Those who have spoken before me have dealt with the question of educational facilities in the Territory. I shall therefore be brief on this point. We find from the 1955 report that there are no higher educational establishments in the Territory, with the result that those wishing to pursue their secondary education studies must go either to Abadan in Nigeria or overseas. From the information that we have, we see that there are only ten Trust Territory scholarship holders in the United Kingdom and four in Abadan, compared with 5,000 in the United Kingdom and between 400 and 500 in the United States from Nigeria. The matter needs the Administering Authority's attention, and we hope that that attention will be forthcoming.

(U Pe Kin, Burma)

While on the subject of educational advancement, allow me to refer to the education of women in the Trust Territory. My delegation is not unmindful of the difficulties in the way of the authorities concerned in persuading parents to send their girls to school. Customs and habits die hard. We are therefore all the more appreciative of the fact that there has been an increase in the number of girls attending primary schools in 1955, and, more significantly, of the fact that in 1956 the first secondary school for girls was opened in the Territory. Nevertheless, as UNESCO has pointed out, more facilities for schooling in general and schooling for girls in particular should be accepted and clearly expressed as the official policy of the Administration.

My delegation trusts that the Administering Authority's record, as noted in these Council meetings, will continue to exhibit progress and that the questions which we have raised will receive effective attention. We wish to record our appreciation of the courtesy of the special representative and the United Kingdom representative, who have patiently and thoughtfully listened to our comments. In equal measure, we have patiently and hopefully taken account of progress, and wish -- as they do -- for more.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): In the formulation of an over-all judgement of the work done by Administering Authorities in Trust Territories, it is always wise and useful to recall certain basic considerations which, in our opinion, are of particular significance. It is especially necessary to recall that political progress is no less important than economic and social progress; that the political future of these Territories is of no less immediate importance than the political, economic and social progress already achieved; that, if the United Nations Charter has consecrated the primary importance of the will of the inhabitants of these Territories in achieving the objectives envisaged by the Charter, it is no less necessary and indispensable that that will should be expressed through representative organs, freely and democratically elected; that there can be only one possible notion of the self-government or independence provided for in the Charter -- namely, that, practically speaking, this self-government and independence should be reflected in the sovereignty of the peoples of the Trust Territories and in their freedom to manage their own affairs and decide their own fate.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

Inspired by those basic considerations, we shall now examine the political, economic and social situation of the Cameroons under British administration. We shall be brief. We shall attempt to stress the road which remains to be covered rather than the road which has already been covered. In doing so, however, we have no intention whatever of denying to the Administering Authority the congratulations which the Council must in all justice address to that Authority on the progress so far achieved in various fields.

We have noted with interest and satisfaction the recent political developments in the Territory. In particular, we have noted the praiseworthy efforts made by the Administering Authority to amend the rules for elections to the Territorial Assembly in the Northern and Southern parts of the Territory, and to organize elections in the Southern Cameroons in accordance with these amended rules. We have also taken note of the policy of the Government of the Southern Cameroons which is aimed at the democratization of the Native Authorities, particularly by means of elections to the councils of these Authorities on the basis of specific electoral rules rather than on the basis of custom.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

We hope that these efforts will be pursued in the future at a more rapid pace so that the Territory will have representative bodies of its own. In this connexion it will be necessary for the electoral system to be improved progressively in order that it may become as universal as possible.

My delegation attaches particular importance to the possible results of the London Conference to be held in May 1957, especially as we note that the Administering Authority has drawn a number of conclusions from the results of similar conferences in the past. We note also that the conference, in all probability, will be called upon to shed some light upon the political future of the Territory and the relations between the Trust Territory and the neighbouring region of Nigeria. The fact that the London Conference will also be consultative in character should not be detract in any way from the two other considerations which I have mentioned. We have been assured by the Administering Authority that the various currents of opinion in the Trust Territory will be taken into consideration at the conference. We wish to stress in this connexion that it would be particularly advisable for the Northern part of the Territory to be represented at the conference, and to be represented adequately. It will also be desirable that the necessary time should be given for reflection on the decisions of the conference, so that the Territory, after due consideration of the results of the conference, may be able to pronounce its opinions. We should prefer future conferences to be held in the Territory itself in order to attract the attention of the local population and to provoke exchanges of views and opinions concerning the development of democratic institutions in the Territory. My delegation also feels that the Administering Authority should establish closer contacts between the representatives of the North and the South prior to the London Conference.

As regards the over-all political situation, particularly the present provisions under which the Northern Cameroons is administered as a part of the northern region of Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons has a semi-federal status, we believe that these provisions were dictated by the desires of the populations of these two parts of the Territory. We are compelled to conclude, however, that these arrangements have complicated the administration of the Territory and fail to reflect the specific political personality of the Territory as an independent

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

unit. We also feel that the uncertainty which still seems to prevail with regard to the future of the colony of Nigeria is not likely to make clear the future of the Trust Territory. However, we are somewhat assured in this connexion by the assurances given by the Administering Authority. We are led to believe that the two parts of the Territory will develop towards independence and self-government at a similar pace, which should, of course, be based on the degree of development of the Southern Cameroons and not retarded by considerations based on the stage of developments in the North. We wish, however, that the future of the Territory should not be decided hastily as regards the integration or future association of the Territory into a political entity which would be larger, and that that future should be the subject of a decision of the population, to be determined by democratic means.

In the field of public service we have noted with satisfaction the progressive Cameroonization, particularly in the South. Progress is slow, however, and should become more active and be extended to technical services in all fields.

With regard to the judicial situation, we have noted the efforts of the Administering Authority to separate the executive and judicial powers. These efforts, it appears, were connected with the control exercised by District Officers over the judicial organs and the appeals functions entrusted to magistrates. We believe that officials should be entirely eliminated in this secondary stage of judicial functions. The Administering Authority should also take steps towards abolishing corporal punishment.

In the economic field we have welcomed the measures taken by the Administering Authority to improve the economic situation of the Territory, especially the introduction of new crops and the expansion of communications and co-operatives. However, we have noted that the efforts in the development of food crops and industry have not been sufficient. In most of the regions of the North, improvements in agriculture, in cattle-feeding and soil conservation continue to constitute an urgent problem.

It appears that no progress has been made in the North as regards the preservation of forest resources up to 1955.

We note also that malnutrition is one of the main causes of mortality in the Territory.

(Mr. Mufti. Syria)

The balance of payments has been characterized by an increase in imports and a decrease in exports, the latter affecting particularly bananas and rubber. We hope that this decline is only temporary and will not have protracted effects. The import of certain products, such as beer, does not seem to us to be vital at a time when the Territory is short of fruits and vegetables.

We have the impression, in studying the economic situation, that the involved structure of the economic and administrative services have made it difficult to judge the over-all economic situation in the Territory. This complicated structure leads to the splitting up of responsibilities and, therefore, it is difficult to pass judgement. Thus, it would be advisable for the Territory to have, as far as possible, an economic administration of its own.

We have noted that the Administering Authority obviously is anxious to promote the investment of foreign capital in the Territory and has granted concessions on terms which, although to some extent they protect the interests of the indigenous population, are nevertheless open to criticism. For example, certain concessions concerning vast tracts of land are not reasonably limited. We feel that all concessions, whatever their purpose, should be subject to reasonable restrictions and should not be solely dependent on such agreements as are concluded between the Administering Authority and the concessionaires.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

We hope that the efforts to resettle the hill people in the plains will be pursued.

If notable progress has been achieved in the social field, much remains to be done. In the field of education, it appears that the Northern part of the Territory is still quite backward in all respects, as far as schools, school attendance and availability of teachers are concerned. The gap between male and female pupils is also very wide. Educational statistics should be improved in order to show the capacity of the schools and the distribution of the school children among the various grades. Vocational training does not seem to be satisfactory and the number of teachers for the normal schools seem to be inadequate.

As regards the labour field, the inspection services for supervising labour conditions in the Territory do not, in our opinion, seem to fulfil all the requirements which attach to such services. They cannot accomplish their mission satisfactorily. A single inspector is, of course, not in a position to fulfil the enormous task which is entrusted to him. We have also learned with surprise and regret that there were no newspapers in the Southern Cameroons. In addition, we have noted that the audio-visual means were not sufficiently developed, and that radio broadcasting was not sufficiently discussed in the annual report.

As regards the field of health, although the report for 1955 shows considerable progress, efforts remain to be undertaken in order to develop the health services in the North. Medical services in schools must be established. Activities between hospitals and the dispensaries must be co-ordinated. Medical personnel must be trained and medical centres must be established in each region, in order to take care of the preventive aspect of medical services.

These are the few hasty observations which my delegation wished to formulate in connexion with the consideration of the over-all situation in the Cameroons under British Trusteeship. We cannot conclude this statement without thanking the representative of the United Kingdom and the special representative for the courtesy with which they have always replied to our questions. My thanks also go to the representatives of the specialized agencies who have been good enough to give us the benefit of their experience.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): The examination of any sector of reality, whether from a scientific, practical or political point of view, always presents the disadvantage that we must stop reality at a given moment in order to study it, as if in effect the course of events of the very existence of reality could be stopped so as to examine it. The truth is that at the moment when such a thing is done, what we have left, for example, is the crystallized shell of reality which has continued on its way. We now have before us material which is already different and quite often far removed from present fact. This difficulty arises from the activities of our Trusteeship Council, and although this is not the place where we can solve such an important metaphysical question, we believe, however, that we can hope for the examination of events closer in time.

These considerations, upon a situation which is perhaps without solution but which may, on the other hand, have some possibility for improvement, arose in our mind when we examined the documents and the development of events in the British Cameroons. We regretted, for example, that it would not be possible to analyse until next year the results of the constitutional conference which will be held in a few weeks time concerning the future of the Federation of Nigeria and which, by virtue of the arrangements for the administration of the Cameroons, will be of special importance for this Territory.

In the meantime, there has been further implementation of the political reforms introduced into the Government of the Cameroons by virtue of the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council of 1954, which gave effect to the proposals agreed upon at the London Conference of 1953, which was then continued in Lagos at the beginning of 1954.

According to the terms of the aforementioned law, the Northern Region of the Territory continued to be a part of the Northern Region of Nigeria, whereas in the Southern sector there was established a Government with a quasi-federal status, as was stated by the Administering Authority. The terms under which these reforms will be carried out was stated by the Secretary of State for Colonies of the United Kingdom in a dispatch which figures as annex B in the annual report for 1955.

My delegation realizes that in a few weeks time there will be a conference on further constitutional developments in the Federation of Nigeria, and we feel that in order to avoid future difficulties, it would be advisable for all parties

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

concerned to study the advantage of establishing political institutions for the Northern Region of the Territory separate from the Northern Region of the Federation. Thus, we would respect the juridical status of the Territory and we would make it possible for public opinion to be prepared for the moment when the Territory must determine its own future, as well as the organs of government in the Northern section. The existence of regional governments in each sector would also facilitate consultation between them, and this would serve to facilitate the evolution of the Territory itself toward the attainment of the objectives of the trusteeship regime, in the manner to be determined freely by the population.

The reforms in the electoral system which were implemented in the Southern Cameroons contributed to give the new Assembly a greater representative character. We hope that the encouraging results of this political experiment and the work which the Assembly will do will make it possible, in the near future, to have all the members of the Assembly elected by universal suffrage. According to the electoral provisions, all inhabitants over twenty-one years of age who have paid their taxes can vote. It so happens, however, that the obligation of paying taxes is held by inhabitants who are sixteen years of age and over; that is to say, for some five years they pay taxes without voting.

Such a situation, in our opinion, must be changed so as to bring it into conformity with the principle of no taxation without representation. On the other hand, young men and women in tropical regions reach maturity earlier than elsewhere, either because of the geographical and physical medium or for anthropological reasons, and so forth, and perhaps even because of the interaction of all these factors. We feel that the age of eighteen, as has already been determined by many countries, is a very reasonable age at which to grant the vote. Our delegation recommends that the Administering Authority should consider the desirability of extending the vote to men and women from the age of eighteen.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

Furthermore, we do not feel that requiring the payment of taxes as a prerequisite for voting is the best way to encourage the fulfilment of civic duties. We feel rather that by separating the obligation to pay taxes from the right to vote, a great deal would be gained.

Political progress in the North must be speeded up, and this action must run parallel with a greater effort in the economic, social and educational fields, but particularly in the latter field of education. If the resources of the ordinary budgets are not sufficient to achieve an increase in the educational field as required by circumstances, it would be appropriate for the Administering Authority to consider a special plan, perhaps even an emergency plan, financed out of extraordinary resources.

We are happy to see that the political parties in the Southern Cameroons participated actively in the recent elections. This demonstration of civic interest by the people in general and the parties in particular is an indication of their progress and augurs well for the future.

The powers of the Governor General and the Commissioner, on the one hand, and the rights of legislation limit quite considerably the powers of the authorities of the Southern Cameroons. Our delegation does not hesitate to urge the Administering Authority to broaden the powers of the local Assembly and the Executive Council. The Advisory Committee for the Northern Cameroons was established in order to preserve the identity of the Northern Cameroons as a separate entity different from Nigeria. My delegation has studied the information available concerning the activities of the Advisory Committee, and we put questions to the special representative in order to obtain a more complete picture of the work being done by that Committee. We have not been convinced that the Committee has taken any decisive or effective action to preserve the identity of the Northern Region of the Trust Territory. It seems to us rather that it has contributed to the growing merger of this part of the Territory with the Northern Region of the Federation of Nigeria. My delegation, in stating this, does not wish thereby to indicate that the work of the Committee is not useful. In fact, it may be that for the administration of the Region its activity may be of great value, but what we doubt is that it is effectively fulfilling the principal purpose for which it was created.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

As regards local government, the available information indicates that in the South the Native Authorities have been completely reorganized in the Division of Victoria on a representative basis. We see that in the Division of Bamenda in 1956 elections were held for a new Council by means of a secret ballot, which was the first time that this took place. There was also similar progress in the Division of Mamfe. In the North also the Authority at Adamawa recognized the principle of admitting six elected members to the Central Council.

However, this progress is still very slow, particularly in the Northern Region, and it does not correspond to the urgency of the situation created by the rapid evolution of the political events in the Federation of Nigeria. We must mention our concern because of this slowness in the political development of the Territory, all the more so because we feel that the institutions of local government constitute cells of vital importance in the political and administrative structure of the Territory and without whose existence we do not really have governmental solidity.

The access of the Cameroonians to public administration is a problem closely connected with the educational process. The policy of the Administration to the effect that the Cameroonians can aspire to any post in the civil service is an excellent policy. The reality, however, is that there are very few Cameroonians who fill the requirements for these important posts, and this shows once again that there is an educational lack in the Territory and that there is an urgent need to put into practice more vigorous measures, even special and extraordinary plans, as we had suggested on one occasion.

I now come to certain outstanding aspects of the economic development of the Territory.

The separate manner in which the two sections of the Cameroons under British administration have been administered has brought about its lack of economic unity. The two regions into which the Territory is divided, one in the North and the other in the South, separated by the basin of the Benue River, gives rise to two separate economies, with very few points of contact. Both regions have distinct organs of government and administration, separate budgets and separate bodies for economic development.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

The economic and financial penetration of the Northern Region seems to have come closer and closer to the Northern Region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. They have common federal services such as inspection of produce, comptrollerships, etc. The Regional Government is responsible for the projects which are being carried out in the Northern Cameroons with resources coming from the Fund for Development and Colonial Welfare. They have a unified budget as a matter of fact.

The Southern Region of the Cameroons, on the contrary, has its Territorial Assembly having powers so that it can obtain revenue from certain sources which are not subject to the Federal Government of Nigeria. It also has local administrative organs such as the Permanent Committee for Finance. Furthermore, the Southern Cameroons is being developed economically as a separate geographical entity although we lack some data for analysis of this situation. The statistics are not complete. In effect, the considerable movement of exportations through Nigeria is not known to us, especially as regards the amount. The same thing is true for imports so that it is difficult to calculate a trade balance.

This shows the administrative and economic peculiarities of the Trust Territory that we are now discussing. There are serious difficulties here if we wish to evaluate the economy as a whole. Since the Southern Region is very different, the Administering Authority should provide complete figures for foreign trade so that we could have it as a basis for judgement in this matter. Our delegation received with interest the news of the establishment of the Development Corporation in the Northern Region, and we hope that in future reports a full account will be given of the work of this organ and also its work in promoting co-operatives and providing technical assistance to the farmers of the Northern Region. We were happy to note the encouragement being given in this region to coffee and cotton plantations.

As the Council is aware, the most important factor in the economy of the Southern Cameroons is the Development Corporation, both because of the size of their plantations, which cover more than a hundred thousand square miles, as well as for the variety of its products, namely, bananas, cocoa, palm oil and rubber. It handles a high percentage of exports and imports and it has controlled the maritime ports. The Development Corporation of the Cameroons

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

makes great profits, but due to its policy of financing its investments from its current income and amortizing such investments during the same year under consideration, some years it registers losses, as was the case in 1955. The Mission of the International Bank had also taken note of this practice, and in one of its recommendations it asked that it justify the payment of £200,000 a year for a term of five years on behalf of the Government of the Cameroons.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

Concerning this matter, the special representative gave a report to the effect that this was being studied. My delegation would express the hope that the Administering Authority will keep the Council up to date on the results of these inquiries and investigations, because we believe this to be a matter of importance.

During the question and answer period in the economic field, the special representative said that the wealth of the Territory consisted in the abundant land which is not yet under cultivation and that the Government of the Cameroons was considering the establishment of enterprises, such as plantations for forestry exploitation. It seems that this also is giving good results because private capital is becoming interested in this great agricultural exploitation. The modernization of the economy of the Cameroons should include the development of these plantations, due to the tropical nature of the country, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the land remains the greatest source of wealth of the Territory and therefore it is desirable that private agricultural enterprises should bring direct benefits to the indigenous population, by training them to use the land, to fight plant diseases and so forth. These must be programmes which are conducted at the cost of the enterprises and are in charge of experts.

Other examples could be given: for instance, roads should be built by these plantations and these plantations should establish and maintain schools and hospitals.

It cannot be doubted that the establishment of plantations constitutes an important factor in the development of the economy of the Cameroons; but there are various risks involved. There may be powerful foreign interests involved, which may set up a possible disequilibrium with regard to the genuine interests of the Cameroonians. The conditions under which concessions are granted should be such that they will assure the greatest benefit to the Territory apart from the payment of rent and taxes. My delegation feels that it should recommend to the Administering Authority that it should report to the Council on the details with regard to the different agricultural and forestry concessions granted to private companies.

My delegation has received with the greatest interest the information concerning the Colonial Development Corporation to the effect that it has

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

established a system of bonuses so as to improve the wages of the workers. It is important for studies to be undertaken of the means by which the wages of the workers in these plantations should bear some relation to the profits realized by these enterprises. My delegation would invite the Administering Authority in its future reports to give more details concerning this matter and, if necessary, it might ask for the advice of the ILO, which has conducted special studies in this field.

Since the current expenditures in the Southern Cameroons are not entirely financed by the revenues of the Territory and the deficit is covered by grants from the Federal Government of Nigeria, we would refer to the recommendations of the Mission of the International Bank, namely, the necessity to increase the duties on the export of bananas and to create similar duties as regards coffee. Our delegation endorses these recommendations.

With regard to the development plans of the Southern Cameroons, my delegation has taken note of the fact that the Development and Welfare Fund of the United Kingdom has made grants amounting to £1,560,000 sterling for projects to be carried out during the five-year period ending in 1960. Priority has been given to projects for the construction of roads, and my delegation fully approves of this.

I now wish to make certain comments in the social field. Everyone realizes how important social evolution is in the Territory and how important it is that there should be respect for human rights. Without provisions which will guarantee freedom of the press, of speech, of association, the right of petition and personal security, it would be difficult to have the active participation of all the groups of the population in the solution of community problems. Therefore, when we come to the consideration of the principal aspects of social development in the Territory, my delegation would like to insist on the necessity -- and we have done this on many other occasions -- that such rights and freedoms should be set forth in a statute which will serve as a fundamental text in the future self-governing and independent life of the Territory. We feel that we should thus be encouraging a sense of responsibility in the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory and that this is necessary for the future establishment of a democratic regime in the Territory.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

In this connexion, my delegation regrets that there are still restrictions upon personal freedom in the Territory, that there is a system of intervention by the police in certain cases and that decisions of the Governor can restrict the exercise of certain fundamental rights and that such decisions have no appeal; also, that the inhabitants do not have sufficient guarantees against abuses and arbitrary methods.

We have noted with satisfaction that in January 1956 an amendment was approved to the labour code which deletes from this code those provisions authorizing compulsory labour in the field of transportation. This amendment brings the labour code into conformity with article 18 of the ILO Convention of 1930 which prohibits forced labour. We would be glad to see extensive application of similar provisions with regard to the restriction mentioned in paragraph 575 on page 132 of the annual report. Mention is made in this paragraph of certain works of communal interest which cannot be undertaken without the agreement of the inhabitants of the town or city benefited, which agreement has to be obtained by prior consultation or by direct consultation with their representatives. We feel, nevertheless, that among these works are included some the achievement of which should rest with the authorities and because they benefit all the population they should not be the result of the work of the people of any given town.

On the other hand, we feel that the degree of development of maturity of the inhabitants themselves makes it necessary to protect them from discriminatory and arbitrary measures.

The Administering Authority reports that the number of unions has increased during 1955 from eleven to fifteen, with a total membership of 27,900. Furthermore, during the question and answer period the special representative told us that the number of such organizations was greater by two than the figure given in the report, in other words, there are now seventeen unions. In view of the fact that the great majority of the workers in the Territory are employed by just a few enterprises, we interpret this information as an indication that the policy followed by the Administering Authority is bearing fruit. The workers thus participate more directly in the defence of their economic and social rights and we hope that the Administering Authority will in future give us more detailed information on the branches of economic, commercial, industrial

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

and agricultural branches of activity in which the members of these new unions are employed.

In concluding our remarks on the labour field, we would express the hope that the Administering Authority will see the possibility of further improving the labour legislation in the Territory by the adoption and the application of the new conventions of the ILO.

My delegation feels that fine efforts have been made to improve the standard of living of the inhabitants as well as to extend medical and health services throughout the Territory. With regard to this matter, we must indeed view with satisfaction the inauguration of the Bamenda Hospital, which was opened at the beginning of this year, as well as the work which was begun on the construction of the Wum Hospital. However, we feel that such efforts are not in conformity with the growing requirements of the Territory and we express the hope that the Administering Authority will intensify its efforts along these lines and will not limit itself to the treatment of endemic diseases in these zones but will rather go on to the improvement in a preventive manner of the health situation of the Territory. The number of doctors is still very low, and we are sure that the Administering Authority will agree that the medical staff must be increased and that the Cameroonians must be trained in the medical and connected branches.

Finally, my delegation would wish to express its concern over the considerable increase in certain offences tried by native courts during the period 1951-1955. In view of the discrepancy in these offences, such an increase, in our opinion, constitutes an index of the social situation. It is perhaps the result of economic and social causes, and anyway all of this should be studied very carefully.

The most important aspects of educational development obviously deserve certain comments from me. With regard to this matter, document T/1304, which contains the observations of UNESCO, is very useful. We have carefully gone over these observations and we recommend to the Administering Authority, as well as to the organs of government of the two regions of the Territory, that the most careful consideration be given to this UNESCO study. A new system which establishes some six years of primary school and two selective years of higher primary education, rather than the division into two periods of four years as was the case previously, may indicate an improvement in primary education, but, if such a benefit is to occur, the school system must increase the coefficient of retention of students from one year to the next. The data which the Administering Authority will supply in the future will indicate whether the

six-two plan is effectively achieving its goal. School attendance is still very precarious because, of the whole school population between the ages of seven and fourteen, only 22 per cent attend school. This percentage is even more alarming if you break it down between the North and South regions because you will observe that the percentage in the North suffered a decrease as regards the total student body, not only in 1954 but also in 1953. In 1953 it was 9.3 per cent of the total of the students enrolled. In 1954 it went up to 10.5 per cent, but in 1955 it dropped to 8.3 per cent. The school population in the South has increased in the past four years but it does not yet show figures which are really satisfactory; rather it would be a matter for great concern that progress has been achieved so slowly.

Particular attention must be paid by the Administering Authority to the education of women because, as we can see from the data contained in the annual report, the number of girls in schools is very small indeed. My delegation recognizes that there are financial problems in connexion with extending the school system. There is also an obstacle in the lack of sufficient trained personnel, but, in view of the importance of this problem, we do not hesitate to recommend a re-examination of the educational plans with the object of finding some means of making headway in this field. In this examination, particular attention should be paid to the desirability of eliminating school fees in primary schools. My delegation feels that the primary educational system should be universal and free, since it is the minimum service which a community should give to its children. On the other hand, we fear that the payment of school fees may be one of the reasons contributing to this lack of enthusiasm for education which the Administering Authority attributes to the population. This seems to be also the opinion of the Administering Authority itself, to judge by what we read in paragraph 760 of the annual report:

"Poor attendance is caused chiefly by lack of interest and enthusiasm for education. Inability to pay school fees, and the desire to have the boys for work on the farms, especially during planting and harvest, or for fishing, and the girls for work in the house or on the farm and for looking after the babies, are further factors."

The use of certain vernacular languages for teaching presents interesting problems, especially in the North of the Cameroons. In June 1953 UNESCO published a pamphlet which contains the report of the meeting of experts on the use in education of African languages in relation to the use of English. The meeting took place in Jos, northern Nigeria, from 17 to 29 November 1952. If the studies and recommendations contained in this publication were not sufficient to throw light on the problem brought up by the Visiting Mission in 1955 in paragraph 364 of its report, it would be appropriate for the Administering Authority to request the co-operation of UNESCO so as to study the situation in greater detail, as was recommended by the Visiting Mission.

The extension of secondary education depends to a great degree upon the limitations of primary education, and the same may be said of higher education. The Territory has not yet any institutions of higher education, and for that reason students have to leave the Territory if they wish to pursue higher studies. Taking into account the educational needs of the Territory, we feel that we should recommend a considerable additional effort in the field of secondary and higher education, synchronized with the effort being made in primary education.

The training of teachers also requires urgent attention. The number of teachers decreased during 1955, and this shows that also in this aspect of educational activity a careful re-examination is required. The increase in the scale of salaries for teachers, which came into effect in October 1954, is a measure which will probably contribute to attracting candidates to the teaching profession.

The programmes for adults and fundamental education seem to have acquired greater impetus and this is a development which must be viewed with satisfaction because the high percentage of illiterates makes it necessary that there be in the Territory a vigorous campaign to bring fundamental education to the adult population. My delegation would like to encourage the Administering Authority in its efforts in this field, and we should hope that more detailed information will appear in the annual reports in the future.

Similarly, we would request that the Administering Authority in its next report to this Council give us more complete data concerning the bringing of education and culture to the population by radio. It would be a very fine thing to know, as was suggested by UNESCO, the contents of the programmes broadcast to the African population, the number of radio receivers in the Territory and their distribution, and whether there is any plan to bring such radio receiving sets to the population without involving a prohibitive cost.

Before concluding, my delegation would like to thank the representative of the United Kingdom and the special representative for their contributions to our debate. They both co-operated fully and their interventions contributed to the clarification of many points concerning which there had been some doubt. In addition, they shed considerable light on coming events, such as the conference which is to take place at London. We should also like to express our gratitude to the representatives of UNESCO and FAO, who made interesting contributions to the debates of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes the statements of the members of the Council on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration. Tomorrow the Council will hear the closing statements by the special representative and the representative of the United Kingdom.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): Earlier this afternoon the Council was informed of the tragic death of the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, the distinguished Egyptian diplomat, Minister Kamal Eddin Salah. In order to complete the record on this very sad matter, I should like, with the President's permission, to read a telegram which the Secretary-General has just received from the President of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Abdulla Osman, and from the Prime Minister of the Government of Somaliland, Mr. Abdallahi Issa, which states the following:

"The Legislative Assembly and the Government of Somalia share in the deep mourning which has befallen the United Nations following the grievous disappearance of the Chairman of the Advisory Council, Minister Kamal Eddin Salah, victimized by an irresponsible individual who shall be exemplarily punished."

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS: 183rd and 184th REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.743, L.744) [Agenda item 47]

The PRESIDENT: The 183rd report of the Standing Committee on Petitions contains in its annex five draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. I shall put each of these draft resolutions to the vote separately.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 7 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I believe that there is an error in the drafting of draft resolution III. Operative paragraph 2, instead of reading "Considers that the two complaints of the petitioner are outside the competence of the Standing Committee on Petitions", should read "Considers that the two complaints of the petitioner are outside the competence of the Trusteeship Council". I believe that this is a material error.

The PRESIDENT: That will be corrected.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 8 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In paragraph 6 of section IV of the report, we find a paragraph which was included in the initial text of the draft, which states:

"Expresses the hope that the Administering Authority would take measures to avoid the imposition of double taxation on the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory." (T/L.743, page 10)

I should like to have this paragraph put to the vote.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like briefly to recall to the members of the Council exactly what this double taxation means. There is double taxation when someone pays the same type of tax twice on the same source of revenue. If the petitioner is subject to personal taxation, then it is the minimum personal taxation. In addition to that, if he has land in British Togoland, he pays taxes on the revenue from his cocoa

plantation. It is not the same tax; that constitutes two different taxes. Consequently, the principle of double taxation does not apply. The representative of the Soviet Union, however, proposes that we should consider this as double taxation.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now vote on the amendment proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

The amendment was rejected by 10 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): I merely wish to explain my vote. I voted against the amendment because my delegation does not consider that double taxation is relevant to this petition.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3, page 2 of the report, was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 6 of section V, appearing on page 17 of the English text, in which the Standing Committee on Petitions recommends that the points raised in petition T/PET.7/520 be taken into consideration when the Council next examines the conditions in Togoland under French administration. I shall now put that recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of section V was adopted by 7 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: We now come to the 184th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions, contained in document T/L.744. This report deals with petitions concerning the Cameroons under British administration. It also contains in its annex nine draft resolutions proposed by the Committee, which I should like to put to the vote separately.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In paragraph 8 of section I, we find a paragraph which was in the initial text:

"Recommends to the Administering Authority to take measures for the democratization of the local administration in the Nsaw region and also to create such conditions as would guarantee the rights and safeguard the security of all the inhabitants of the area, including the petitioner." I should like to ask the President to take a vote on that paragraph.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My delegation will vote against such an amendment because it is not in accord with the request made by the petitioner, who only speaks of the differences with his Fon. Furthermore, the request made by the representative of the Soviet Union would be better considered when we come to the Territory as a whole.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not want to cause us to waste time and to explain why I want a vote on this paragraph. I think that all members of this Council are acquainted

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

with this petition. In this petition, there is a complaint. We are told that an indigenous inhabitant was driven by the Administering Authority from the place where he had lived for a long time, and he is not allowed to return because he does not follow certain customs and does not respect the chief. Without due process, this indigenous inhabitant has been deprived of his rights of residence. When we examined the petition, it was determined that the conditions which hindered the democratic development of this Territory -- and the Administering Authority recognized that more democracy must be brought to this Territory. That is why I want a vote to be taken on this concrete proposal.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I do not know whether there is a difficulty in the interpretation, but it seemed to me that the representative of the Soviet Union stated that the petitioner was forcibly chased out of the Territory by the Administering Authority. I believe that is inaccurate. The petitioner was chased out by the mob -- and, in order to be able to flee, he benefited from the protection of the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT: I shall put the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union to the vote.

The proposal was rejected by 8 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): I should like to explain my vote. I abstained on the vote because my delegation felt that inclusion of this paragraph in the draft resolution might prejudice the efforts which the Administering Authority has made to democratize the local administration. In our opinion, this aspect of the responsibility of the Administering Authority should be to cover a general area rather than confine itself to specific cases. Furthermore, the Trusteeship Council could take this fact into consideration when examining the Territory of the British Cameroons in general.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote each of the nine resolutions contained in the annex to document T/L.744.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 8 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom): My delegation would like to ask for a separate vote on the last phrase of paragraph 2 of draft resolution VIII, which reads as follows: "and to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Soppo Bobila villagers are provided with a sufficient amount of fertile and conveniently located land".

My delegation will vote against that phrase. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution makes it clear that the Administering Authority has already conducted an inquiry and has given its assurance that it will conduct a further inquiry with a view to providing the petitioners with land to satisfy their present needs. The terminology of the last phrase of paragraph 2, which I have just read out, has a peculiarly peremptory ring, which is not in accordance with the undertaking given by the Administering Authority.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): I merely wish to call attention to a slight correction which should be made in paragraph 8 on page 16 of document T/L.744. The first phrase should read: "At its 431st meeting, the Committee approved by 5 votes to none, with 1 abstention ...".

The PRESIDENT: That correction will be made.

I now put to the vote the last phrase of paragraph 2 of draft resolution VIII, beginning with the words "and to take all necessary measures".

The phrase was rejected by 7 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII, as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 on page 2 of document T/L.744 was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION FOR 1955 (T/1300, 1304 and Add.1;
T/L.740) [Agenda item 3e]

The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of France, the
Administering Authority of this Trust Territory, to make a statement to the
Council.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): In presenting
the statute of the new self-governing Republic of Togoland at previous sessions
of the Trusteeship Council, the French delegation has emphasized the evolving
nature of that statute.

It is true that a political situation is rarely static; that it must be
changed and adapted to the circumstances; and that, to the extent that it is
defined by a text, that text must be periodically amended. This is particularly
true of a country like Togoland, whose emancipation has been marked by the
adoption of highly original structures. Thus, these structures could not be
determined on the basis of any precedent, but had to be laid down after trials
and errors and certain necessary clarifications.

That is the present position. A decree of 22 March 1957 amended the
decree of 24 August 1956 concerning the statute of Togoland. Some of the changes
which have been made are relatively unimportant, but others relate to essential
points. I shall refer to the changes which, in my opinion, are the most
characteristic in that they transfer major powers from the Administering Authority
to the Togolese Government.

Previously, the Legislative Assembly could only be dissolved by decree
of the High Commissioner, taken on the proposal of the Prime Minister. Now,
the Legislative Assembly can be dissolved by a decree of the Prime Minister,
issued after consulting his Cabinet.

The number of Ministers is no longer limited to nine. The Prime Minister
now is completely free to decide on the number of members of his Cabinet.

(Mr. Barges, France)

The protection of the exercise of public freedoms and the intelligence and general security services have been removed from the list of matters falling within the province of the French Republic. The Administering Authority retains jurisdiction in this field only over external security and the policing of the frontiers.

The original statute envisaged the creation of a service of general co-ordination of administrative action, to function under the authority of a secretary-general. This service has not been created. Obviously, co-ordination between the services of the French Republic and those of Togoland is necessary, but, under the new provisions, the powers of the officials who will be responsible for that co-ordination will be defined by orders adopted jointly by the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister.

I have given these few examples to inform the Council of important measures recently adopted. I have done so, furthermore, in order to demonstrate that the statute has developed in the way envisaged in the original text. Finally, I have wished to draw the attention of members of the Council to the complexity of the problems posed by the adaptation of Togolese administration to the new structures resulting from the new statute.

Thus, the local authorities are faced with a heavy and delicate task. To meet it, they must demonstrate mature political judgement. Efforts from all sides will be required. The local authorities must have the constant assistance of all the administrative personnel at their disposal. That is why it has not been possible for the Administering Authority to include in its delegation a special representative who would be fully cognizant of the situation in the Territory. The present delegation will, of course, do its best, in the absence of a special representative, to give members of the Council all the explanations which they may find necessary. We wish to apologize in advance for any gaps which may be found in our documentation.

It must be noted that the Commission appointed by the President of the General Assembly in implementation of the Assembly resolution of 23 January 1957 will leave New York in about a month. This Commission has the task of examining the entire situation in the Territory resulting from the practical application of

(Mr. Bargues, France)

the statute. It will furnish the Trusteeship Council, in a report to be examined before the twelfth session of the General Assembly, the most recent information on the situation in Togoland. . This would seem to take away a rather large part of the interest of the present debate.

In any case, members of the Trusteeship Council will undoubtedly admit that the examination of that part of the Administering Authority's report which relates to political progress during 1955 can now be interesting only in retrospect.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to recall to the Council that, at its 756th meeting, it decided to grant a hearing to the Comité de l'Unité togolaise. The representative of that organization, Mr. Sylvanus Olympio, has arrived in New York. He is not prepared to speak today, but, if there is no objection, the Council will hear him tomorrow.

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The PRESIDENT: We have completed today's agenda. There are three items on our agenda for tomorrow: the hearing of the petitioner, the closing statements of the representative of the United Kingdom and the special representative of the British Cameroons, and the questioning, in the political field, of the representative of France on Togoland under French administration.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like the President to be kind enough to tell us whether the Drafting Committee on the French Cameroons is likely to meet in the near future.

The PRESIDENT: The Drafting Committee will meet tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In that case I should like to point out that, during the general debate on conditions in the French Cameroons, my delegation made a suggestion to the effect that we should leave open the chapter relating to political conditions in that Territory in the hope that some news might yet come in with regard to approval of the new Statute for the Territory. From information which has appeared in the Press, we understand that the Statute has been approved. The French Press has produced information to the effect that final parliamentary touches have been given to the Statute and that it is fully in force.

In these circumstances, and since the Drafting Committee is about to begin its work, I would ask that the suggestion of my delegation be taken into account to the effect that this matter might be left open so that we should have an opportunity to discuss it either at this session or at the twentieth session of the Council and, in any event, so that our report to the next session of the General Assembly might contain an examination of recent events in the Territory and the matter would not be left in complete.

In the opinion of my delegation, the representative of France, better than anyone else, might be able to tell us whether, at our present session, we shall receive such information or whether we shall have it at the twentieth session. In any case, whatever decision we may take will have some influence on the work of the Drafting Committee and that is why I wished the Council to take some action in the matter, particularly with regard to the suggestion of my delegation.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): It is true, as the representative of Guatemala has said, that the Council of the Republic, which had before it the Statute previously adopted by the National Assembly, has approved the draft. Therefore, it has become a law and, in order to be implemented, has only to be signed by the President of the Republic, if it has not already been done -- it will take only a few days. Therefore, the Statute can be applied within a very short time.

Might I say, by way of information, that the amendments introduced in the debates in the National Assembly referred to points of detail only, so that the general provisions of the Statute are those the outline of which I indicated in our debate on the Cameroons under French administration. In other words, the Statute adopted by the French Parliament is, subject to the reservations which I have indicated -- namely, a few more amendments -- the Statute that was adopted by the Representative Assembly which introduced important amendments to the draft submitted by the Government of the Administering Authority.

Having given this information to the Council, I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the proposal of the representative of Guatemala.

As I stated in one of my interventions in the debate on the French Cameroons, the very pace of our work inevitably implies that a review of the situation in a Territory can be made in the Trusteeship Council only after some time has elapsed. But we must pursue this review regularly. If we are to take into account the changes introduced by the Administering Authority in the various Trust Territories, our work will be disturbed and we shall be returning in the same year to the situation in a certain Territory. To the best of my knowledge, the Council has never proceeded in that way. Important reforms have often been introduced in the Trust Territories -- those under French administration, under British administration and under Italian administration -- and, to the best of my knowledge, the Council has never devoted special meetings to a review of these reforms in addition to the meetings which it normally devotes to a review of the situation in question.

Furthermore, if there is a change in the political or administrative structure in a certain Territory, this change is examined by the Council at its next regular session, during which it normally reviews the situation in that Territory. It does not seem to me that there are sufficient reasons to change

(Mr. Barques, France)

the procedure which we have followed thus far. However, may I say in this respect that my Government has communicated its intention to submit to the Trusteeship Council a communication regarding the new Statute for the Cameroons. Unfortunately, I cannot tell the Council today when the communication will be made. However, I do not believe that it is necessary to await its arrival for the Drafting Committee to consider the political situation in the Territory, taking into account the debates which we have had. To proceed otherwise might mean, as regards public opinion in the Territory, that the situation was a difficult one because a decision by the Council would leave the political situation in suspense and recommendations adopted on this occasion might constitute a vacuum.

I do admit that we find ourselves faced with a situation which is somewhat anomalous. By taking into account such anomaly, we must also bear in mind the fact that it is desirable for the Council to follow a normal system of work. I do not believe that we should be governed by the fact that there is a coincidence in time, namely, that the new Statute of the Cameroons has become final during a Council session and that its implementation will follow rapidly upon the closing of the Council's session, since the Statute will, at any moment, be enacted as an official law. It will be published shortly and it is, therefore, conceivable that possibly, during the next month, the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons will be called upon to invest the first Government with its new powers. I believe that the Prime Minister has already been appointed -- at least, he has been named.

In the light of these considerations, I do not believe that the Drafting Committee should be prevented from continuing with its work, taking into account the information that has been given officially by the French Government on behalf of the Territory.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): My delegation had occasion to support the proposal made by the representative of Guatemala. It is a fact that the Statute which we have discussed at such length has created a certain note of optimism in this Council regarding the political situation in the Trust Territory. If the Administering Authority does not now wish the recommendations of the Drafting Committee to take the Statute into account, then I think that we might refrain from asking the representative of the Administering Authority to give us additional information, as requested by the delegation of Guatemala. If, on the other hand, the Statute is to be mentioned in the recommendations of the Drafting Committee, my delegation feels that it should be referred to in its final details. These are the reasons why my delegation shares the viewpoint stated by the representative of Guatemala regarding the need to have additional information on the Statute.

The PRESIDENT: Do I take it that the representative of Guatemala is making a formal proposal?

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): In effect, the suggestion which I made had a very clear goal as its objective, namely, that if there is to be approval of the Statute during our present session, it would be quite logical to think that our report to the General Assembly should contain the most recent data concerning conditions in the French Cameroons. On more than one occasion we have had the opportunity to state that our examination of the Territory is quite often behind the times and that when the conditions are examined here in the Council, or later in the General Assembly, the events have been by-passed by more recent events. Therefore, the matters contained in the report to the Assembly are often quite old and stale.

I think that on this occasion we have an opportunity of bringing our report up to date. We also thought that it would be in the interest of the Administering Authority to provide additional data, because it is a step ahead; it is evidence of progress in the Territory. That is why we took the liberty of making this suggestion during the general debate. My delegation wishes to ask you, Mr. President, to leave the matter pending today, so that we can think about it overnight and consider it again tomorrow or later on when we have had occasion to exchange views.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I am sincerely convinced that the representative of Guatemala, as well as the representative of Syria who supported his proposal, are moved by the same desire to be of service to the Administering Authority and to the Trust Territory. I share this concern. But I find myself in a rather delicate situation. When there is an important measure that has been applied in the Territory, it is an act of courtesy on the part of the Administering Authority officially to communicate this measure and have it accompanied by a summary. Clearly, the French Government had not been in a position to present its comments and to present a summary, since, as I have already indicated to the Council, the Statute adopted by the Territorial Assembly, had not yet been approved by the French Parliament when it was being discussed. Today the Statute has been voted upon. The decree will be enacted, first of all, in the French Republic, and then in the Territory itself. That will take a few days.

My Government will submit the communication to which I have referred. However, I am not in a position to say when the communication will be submitted. Above all, I hope that the concern which animates my colleagues will not hamper the work of the Drafting Committee. I share their concern, but I believe that we ought to allow the Drafting Committee to continue with its work and to do so on the basis of the information given by myself and the special representative. Both of us are most willing to assist the Drafting Committee.

While awaiting this communication from the French Government -- which cannot be received until such time as the Statute is implemented and the first Cameroonian Government is constituted -- we must avoid having the work of the Drafting Committee left in suspense, because in the eyes of the Cameroonian population, which will take cognizance of the United Nations documents, it will then appear as though we had neglected the political aspect of the problem of the administration of the French Cameroons.

(Mr. Bargues, France)

I have asked to speak again, and I apologize for this, in order to indicate the scope of the reservation I made as a result of the interventions of the representatives of Guatemala and Syria.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My delegation is quite ready to respect the natural courtesy due to the delegation of the Administering Authority, so that they can in due course present the official text of the Statute and the comments they wish to make. However, since the representative of France himself has indicated that the possibility exists that his Government may submit this information to the Council in the near future, I would like to offer the following concrete proposal, namely, that we should not hold up the work of the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee should meet and proceed in normal fashion. In the second place, we should leave open the possibility, if the information concerning the approval of the Statute comes in from the French Government in good time, of holding a brief discussion on the Statute and incorporating the results of such examination in the document prepared by the Drafting Committee. Perhaps in this way we will have reconciled the interests being voiced here.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria)(interpretation from French): May I make an additional proposal to the one just made by the representative of Guatemala. We might, for example, ask the Drafting Committee on the French Cameroons to take up first the consideration of the economic and social conditions in the Trust Territory and to leave the chapter on the political situation open, in order that we may have the information which might later be included in the report.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I am most grateful to my two colleagues for their respect and understanding, and I support their proposals.

The PRESIDENT: I take it that if any official information should be forthcoming from the French Government, it would not be discussed by the Drafting Committee; it will come before the Council. Naturally, we will discuss it first and then, on the basis of that discussion, the Drafting Committee may make its recommendation. I think the matter is very clear now. The Drafting Committee will commence its work tomorrow as scheduled. It is up to the Drafting Committee to consider whatever subject it wishes. The President has nothing to do with that matter. But we do have a clear understanding of how the Committee should proceed.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.