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Mr. ARENALES CATALAN

(Guatemala)

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Vice-President)

(Belgium)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi
[4b and 6b] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons
under British administration [4c and 5] (continued)

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Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.859 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEMS 4b AND 6b

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI: (continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1956 (T/1338, 1352, 1358; T/L.810)
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION (T/1346)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate (continued)

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): As usual, I shall leave it to the special representative to reply to the many very interesting questions put by representatives here. I would thank the delegations which have made a constructive contribution to the Council's debate on this subject. The Belgian Government will give its full attention to their observations.

I also wish to tell the representatives of the specialized agencies how much my delegation appreciates their fruitful co-operation in the analysis of conditions in this Territory under Belgian administration. The representative of the ILO has given us a very interesting picture of the development of labour legislation. He was good enough to indicate that the system of old age pensions which has been established in Ruanda-Urundi could profitably be studied as an example in other Territories. On the other hand, he has drawn the Council's attention to possibilities of further development. His views, as well as those of the representative of UNESCO, will be attentively considered by the Belgian Government.

The question of drafting a political plan has once again been the subject of observations by several delegations. I must, however, say that we have been told nothing that we did not already know, and the problem can hardly be said to have been further clarified. At this stage I might read out verbatim the statement which I made last year. I shall, however, confine myself to reading out the following passage from that statement, referring representatives to the verbatim record of the Council's 761st meeting for the remainder:

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"Belgium does not wish to assume the responsibility of administering Ruanda-Urundi for one day longer than is necessary to attain the fundamental objectives laid down in Article 76 of the Charter. But to ask us to say when that goal will be completely or partially achieved is for the General Assembly and the Council to lay down a requirement which my Government cannot meet. ... To promise in advance that certain reforms would be introduced at certain dates would not accelerate political progress. It would hinder political progress because it would invite the parties concerned to think that the evolution of their political institutions was something mechanical which depended only upon the goodwill of the Administering Authority. One does not perfect political institutions by suspending the execution of a death sentence on them; one simply prevents them from achieving their natural maturity, their functional and organic development." (T/PV.761, p. 27)

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

The representative of Haiti, in his remarkable statement, told us that the attitude of the Belgian Government seemed to him to be, above all, a position of principle. I do not wish to engage here in a verbal quarrel. Of course, there are principles involved, and my delegation wishes to reaffirm them. It is true that under the Trusteeship System the Administering Authority in is no way bound to submit its future actions a priori for the views or approval of the organs of the United Nations. The aim of its activities and of its policy is clear. It is that of the Charter. The Trusteeship Council has a supervisory mission, but it cannot share with the Administering Authority the responsibility for the activities which must bring about a progressive achievement of the objectives.

However, in fact the problem has an entirely different aspect. The progress of institutions is an organic process. It must be the common work of those who are administered and of the leaders. It must be the result of a dialogue between those interested. Those who a part to play in this are not lacking in numbers. Indeed, additional participants are joining their ranks, and the future will depend on the crystallization of aspirations which perhaps are not fully articulated now.

During the present discussion I wish to make it clear that what are called intermediary stages and target dates assume the establishment by the Administering Authority of new institutions and the defining of the time when they will enter into force. But the Administering Authority feels that it would not be wise to prefabricate, as it were, the future institutions of Ruanda-Urundi. It intends, according the need and in agreement with the qualified representatives of the local populations, to modify the existing institutions in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the population.

During their questions or in the course of their final statements the representatives of India and Guatemala referred to the association of Ruanda-Urundi with the economic system of the European common market. The basic principles in this field were the subject of clarification during the debates of the Fourth Committee and of the General Assembly, and I would ask my colleagues who are interested in this to refer to the text of the statements made by the French representative at the 678th meeting of the Fourth Committee and by the Belgian representative at the 722nd plenary Assembly meeting.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert. Belgium)

A more precise observation was made by the representative of Guatemala, who expressed surprise that neither the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi nor the Superior Council of Ruanda or the Superior Council of Urundi had been consulted. I believe that I, in my turn, am justified in expressing some surprise in this connexion. I recall that the operative part of the Treaty of Rome dealing with the associated Territories in Africa comprises three points:

- (1) a preferential outlet for their products on the markets of the six European States;
- (2) the placing at their disposal of funds for economic and social investment;
- (3) the possibility, without conditions, to protect themselves against the importation of goods, including goods from the countries members of the common market, which would compete with their young industry.

As may be seen, the association in question implies no responsibility for Ruanda-Urundi, and imposes no obligation upon it. I ask myself in vain what could have been the subject of the official consultation alluded to by the representative of Guatemala. Does he feel that the assent of the representative organs of Ruanda-Urundi was necessary to make it possible for the six States members of the common market to grant a preferential tariff to goods originating in Ruanda-Urundi -- a tariff more advantageous than that applied to similar goods coming from other areas? Does he feel that the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi should have approved the decision establishing a fund which could be used to finance social investments in their Territory? But if the organs responsible for the development of the country, now or in the future, feel that they do not need this fund, the solution is very simple; they will not appeal to the fund, and will dispense with its assistance.

The Administering Authority does not refuse to participate in any discussion or exchange of views, and the prospects of the common market could well form the subject of conversations in Africa or anywhere else in the world, but the constituted bodies of Ruanda-Urundi take up officially only matters which come within their competence and responsibility.

The representative of the Soviet Union has not refrained this year from the usual pattern of propaganda speeches which we have long been accustomed to hear from his delegation. The technique is well known. Certain facts are isolated,

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this or that quotation is carefully selected, and its meaning distorted even, and on this fragile foundation there is built a whole edifice of accusations which collapses under its own weight. The attempts of the Soviet representative to present his conclusions as, in his own words, "a profound analysis of the situation as a whole in order to make it possible to judge how successfully the tasks of trusteeship are being carried out" (T/PV.854, page 51), do not change anything.

I shall not comment in detail on this virtual attack on all aspects of my country's policy and action in Africa. That has already been done in the course of the debate. Nevertheless, I must say that I noted, not without surprise, that the Soviet representative deplors the deficit in the Territory's budget and attributes this regrettable situation to the sinister designs of the Administering Authority whose aim, he says, is to consolidate the dependent state of the Territory.

I am obliged to point out that the Soviet delegation has completely changed its point of view since 1952. In that year the predecessor of our present Soviet colleague, Mr. Soldatov, demanded insistently that more money should be spent for medical services.

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To the objections which were made by Mr. Ryckmans, who occupied the seat of Belgium, Mr. Soldotay replied: "You have defended your right to assume those obligations in regard to Ruanda-Urundi. That does not mean that you should spend only what you are able to levy by taxation. You might have to spend ten times, twenty times or even a hundred times more money than you are able to levy in taxes." I am referring to the 430th meeting of the eleventh session of the Trusteeship Council.

The least we can say is that at that time the Soviet delegation did not see any objection to consolidating, for an indefinite period, the dependence of Ruanda-Urundi on Belgium.

The representative of the Soviet Union was the only one to object to the loan which the Territory has received from the International Bank. He stated that part of the resources of the Coffee Stabilization Fund was used as a collateral for the Congo. "Is it not paradoxical that, on the one hand, we obtain loans for the Territory from abroad and, on the other hand, these loans are placed in a neighbouring colony where conditions are less advantageous?" He sees this as an example "of the policy of unifying the Territory with the colony under the cover of foreign monopolies".

Our Soviet colleagues sees monopolies everywhere. In fact, it is because the Government of Ruanda-Urundi refuses to submit the people and their wealth to monopoly that this paradoxical situation exists. The resources of the Coffee Stabilization Fund are not clearly and simply available to the Government; they belong in the final analysis to all the coffee planters. They are administered by an independent office and they must protect the interests of the producers. They must be available immediately if needed. As regards the terms of the loan of the International Bank, they are not the same thing; as regards the investments of the Fund, they are not the same thing. It is quite inaccurate to say that the loan of the International Bank was granted at a heavy cost.

I have already replied to certain observations made in connexion with the economic association of the Territory with the European Common Market. I shall not return to this subject except to correct the rather surprising observation of

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the representative of the Soviet Union, who seemed to say that a certain group of Western Germany has become a contracting party to the Treaty of Rome. In truth this is a way, and it is a rather timid effort, of mentioning the Federal Republic of Germany.

Finally, I wish to say a few words about the preoccupation of the Soviet delegation in connexion with the Batwa. This population, which descends from the Pygmie aborigines, allegedly faces extinction because of living conditions which are incredible in the twentieth century. First, I wish to reassure the Council that the Batwa are no closer to extinction than are the Banyaruanda and Barundi. I believe that they play their part in the population movement of the Territory.

I might furthermore point out that it is not in a Belgian Territory that one finds populations whose existence is endangered because of conditions which might be incredible in the twentieth century. In this connexion I shall take the liberty of asking my Soviet colleague to give some thought to the opinion expressed not by a Swiss journalist but by a man whose objectivity in such matters is above all suspicion, namely the Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mr. A.F. Gorkine. Pravda, of 12 February 1957, in giving an account of a meeting of the Supreme Soviet, quoted some specific statements of Mr. Gorkine concerning the subject of the unjustified deportation of entire populations within the Territory of the USSR. I shall not quote them, for they do not concern our agenda.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Excuse me, but the representative of the Soviet Union has requested to speak on a point of order.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that it was the President's duty to interrupt the representative of Belgium, who is violating established procedure and who is attempting to introduce questions which are not within the competence of the Trusteeship Council or of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I do not agree with the representative of the Soviet Union that it was the President's duty spontaneously to interrupt the statement of the representative of Belgium, since he was quoting texts and was not necessarily intervening in the internal affairs of a country whose political structure was not under consideration by the Council. However, I should like to ask the representative of Belgium, when he continues his statement, kindly to abstain, by virtue of the rules of courtesy which should always prevail, from that type of statement, which seems to have wounded the sensibilities of a member of the Council.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I had only a few more words to say. I shall not quote these statements of Mr. Gorkine because they do not directly concern our agenda. I simply point out to the representative of the Soviet Union that they may furnish ample material for thought.

Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. LEROY (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The fine quality of the report submitted by the Visiting Mission and the fine nature of a great many of the observations made during the course of the debate will allow me to restrict my last intervention to certain points on which I think clarification is desirable.

I take great pleasure in mentioning the statement made by the representative of New Zealand: "in those cases where the views of the Mission and of the administration have not coincided, the differences have, I am glad to say, appeared to be differences of emphasis rather than of direction". (T/PV.855.p.28)

With regard to the political aspects of the development of the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, I should like to add some supplementary information on three questions: the indigenous councils, the General Council and the Batutsi-Bahutu tension.

Several representatives seemed to have obtained the impression that the indigenous councils established by the decree of 14 July 1952 were purely advisory bodies with no real power. This opinion should be corrected. The decree of 1952 granted new powers to the Bami, but they can only be exercised by the Bami in agreement with the Conseil supérieur of the country.

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Thus the Mwami can determine the boundaries of chiefdoms and sub-chiefdoms and is in a position either to extend or to restrict the territorial limits of a chiefdom. In the interests of hygiene and so forth, he can prevent natives from residing in certain places. He can set up the services necessary for the administration of his area but he can only exercise these powers with the agreement of the Higher Council of the country. The Mwami can issue regulations in relation to the police, he can fix the number of policemen and messengers and take other administrative actions and there is a further provision, which is very important and which appeared for the first time in 1952, namely, he can take measures to guide the customs of the people so as to adapt them to new requirements. This provision, which some one one day may call a defect in our laws, was deliberately formulated in this manner so as to permit of all possible progress. All these powers held by the Mwami can only be exercised with the agreement of the Council as I have already stated.

Further, it is the Mwami who establishes what crops must be grown and what work must be done to protect the soil in the way of irrigation, drainage and reafforestation, and it is he who determines whether individual inhabitants shall take part in the collective labour in case of famine or whether they can escape that duty by paying a tax. Again, this can only be done by the Mwami in agreement with the Higher Council. The Mwami establishes the amount of money which can be collected in addition to taxes and he can set up resources for his country by renting or selling the property of his circonscription. He can levy taxes and can authorize his area and the chiefdoms to raise or to make loans, but again only with the agreement of the Council.

The budget established by the Mwami as well as the annual accounting of the expenses of the country must be approved by the Council and everything which I have just said about the Higher Council of the country applies, mutatis mutandis, to the Chiefdom Councils.

In addition to these functions, which are considerable and of which they are proud, the Councils give advice and state their wishes on all other questions of interest to their circonscription, on the initiative of the Chairman of the Council, of the Territorial Authority, or on that of any of the three members of the Council. It will be seen, therefore, that the advisory function of these Councils is only

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a part of their duties, and that they have real powers which are well defined and quite broad in nature.

In regard to the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi, several representatives here have expressed the wish that wider powers should be given to it. Although, like the Trusteeship Council, I see in the General Council the promise of a future legislative council, I do not believe, if we keep our eyes open to the objectives of the Trusteeship System, that such a development is either possible or desirable now. I want to be clearly understood. The Council in its present form -- as an advisory body -- can render very great services. Its work and its debates are not hindered by any attempts to achieve majorities. Minority opinions are listened to and are often followed, although that may seem rather paradoxical. I have already quoted the case in which the abstention of twelve members out of a total of forty-three composing the Council caused the postponement of the examination of a certain question until a later date. The Administration is as anxious as is the Trusteeship Council to see the natives take part in public affairs, and it has therefore considerably increased the possibilities for Africans to become members of these Councils. Thus at the last two meetings of the General Council in January, eighteen of the forty-two members present were Africans, although that did not prevent the representative of Burma from saying that the native members of the Council could be counted on the fingers of one hand. It would have to be a very large hand. The fact is that of the forty-five members of the Council sixteen are Africans and of the seventy-two supplementary members thirty-one are Africans.

The development of the Territory is far from being completed. Belgium still exercises full legislative, executive and judicial powers and will do so until the end of the Trusteeship. That, for the Administering Authority, is the essential condition for the execution of its mandate. Thus it is only possible to give the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi powers of regulation and powers of legislation in minor matters.

This question is not yet ripe for settlement. When the new Council was set up, the Administration tried hard to ensure that the Bahutu were well represented upon it, but had very great difficulty in finding people who could usefully serve as members. And when I say "usefully" I am not thinking only of the Council's work,

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but also of their education as new Council members. It has been said that the Council does not represent the population. This is true only from the narrow consideration of actual figures. What is the Trusteeship Regime except education? What is it except the leading of a large population by a minority which has had a chance, by reason of its historical circumstances, of learning in the past? The Belgian administration is quite convinced that if it were to follow immediately the suggestions of certain representatives and designate the Council members by universal suffrage, and if we were then to grant full legislative powers to these Councils, we should be opening the door to the worst sort of adventures of which the domination of the Mahutu and the separation of the two countries would be among the least. We should also very likely see the end of economic and social efforts, the decadence of the Territory or perhaps its dismal survival under some iron fist from abroad with which we are all very well acquainted.

To conclude this consideration of the General Council, I have only two more statements to make. One appears in the Visiting Mission's report and was quoted by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission in his observations. It is stated that certain European circles were hostile to the establishment of the General Council. I do not doubt the good faith of the Visiting Mission, but I know the various European circles in Ruanda-Urundi very well and I can state categorically that there was never among them any hostility to the establishment of the General Council, which in any case was envisaged as a development of the Conseil de Vice-Gouvernement Général. It would be true to say that there were opinions in favour of the representation of Ruanda-Urundi on the Government Council in Leopoldville, but this was with a view to protecting Ruanda-Urundi's interests in the Council and it was with this end in view that Mr. Jean-Paul Harroy was sent there as an observer in 1957. Those who wished for the representation of Ruanda-Urundi in Leopoldville in the same spirit claimed an extension of the powers of the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi. The opinion quoted by the Visiting Mission can be no more than the opinion of a single individual.

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The second statement which I should like to bring up was that of the representative of Burma who also was a member of the Visiting Mission. He said in his observations:

"I am only trying to prove to the members of the Trusteeship Council that the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi is composed of a group of extremely patriotic and able persons whose functions are by statute purely advisory, and yet whose approval is sought as if the General Council were a legislative body." (T/PV.856, page 61)

Now I must give some explanation about this. The General Council is exclusively advisory as regards its function. If in one single case -- for example, the loan from the International Bank -- it had to take a decision, it was simply because the International Bank imposed this consent as a condition. I suppose that the Bank did not wish to run the risk that a broader democratization of the Territory might occur and then legislative assemblies might refuse to recognize the commitments made in the past on the sole authority of the Administering Authority. At least that is what I imagine must be the explanation for this condition laid down by the International Bank unless, even more disinterested, the Bank used this means of getting broader powers for the General Council.

With regard to relationships between the Batutsi and the Bahutu, the Administration shares the opinion of the Visiting Mission and of several representatives -- and I am thinking particularly of the representative of Burma who said that all he had seen or heard in the Trust Territory gave no conclusive proof that the Batutsi and Bahutu could not reconcile themselves in harmony and unity in the near future.

I believe, however, that we will only achieve such a happy reconciliation if we refrain from favouring the development of one social stratum to the detriment of any other stratum. The whole population must benefit from any development of this sort.

The points which I wish to touch upon rapidly in the economic field are the birth of a middle class in its relations with credit problems and land tenure problems, a customs union with the Congo, the so-called monoculture of coffee and the development of industries.

(Mr. Leroy, Special Representative)

Many representatives have noted with interest the birth of a middle class among the indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi. Now this movement has been under way for several years now, and the tables on page 418 of the report of the Administering Authority for 1956 provide an index of this. I must recall to the Council that in this list we have only mentioned establishments which have given proof of their stability and vitality. We do not list as a businessman some native who just sell cigarettes or matches or gasoline on the corner of the street. Now on this selective base, there are at the present time 1,942 native commercial establishments, fifty industrial establishments, forty mixed establishments -- that is to say, both industrial and commercial -- and 162 prosperous handicraft activities.

This middle class could be further developed if it owned land and if it could mortgage this land and thus obtain credit. But in order to get such a mortgage, you must have full possession of the land and the full possession of land implies the right to abuse the land; that is to say, to abandon it or to sell it very cheaply in moments of financial difficulty. This is one of the problems facing the Administration. One solution perhaps might be to recognize and to register the right of individual ownership to the land which is developed either by having some construction on it or by plantations of coffee, for example. But to get to that point, we must have a preliminary study of the native land system in all its details, and that is what we have now undertaken. One sentence spoken by the representative of China makes me believe that I did not quite make myself clear in regard to these studies. The official whom I mentioned, with the consent of the native authorities, drew up a very good treatise on these land problems, and this study will soon be published. I expressed the idea that since this official was now in Uganda, this official could compare the land system existing in the two Territories. But I do not believe that he will have enough time to do this.

The custom union with the Belgian Congo has given rise to various observations; some are very interesting while others are rather partisan. Let me mention the Visiting Mission's report as regards paragraphs 133 and 134 as regards this question: there are no customs frontiers between the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo. The principal reason for this situation is that such a boundary

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would hinder exchange and would be more costly than any profit which it might bring. If merchandise going to the Belgian Congo is presented to the customs office in Ruanda-Urundi, the entry tax is collected there and then is credited to the Belgian Congo budget. Inversely, merchandise going to Ruanda-Urundi and arriving there through the Congo pay the entry tax to the Congo which the Administration of the Belgian Congo then pays into the budget of Ruanda-Urundi. But it is possible that merchandise sent originally to one of these territories may have gone through the other territory. In this case, the entry fees do not completely correspond with the destination of the merchandise. Several members of the General Council have asked that a study be made so as to clear up this situation. This will require the establishment of what we have called a statistical frontier, or at least it will require careful co-operation between the principal shippers.

Some people believe that the present situation deprives Ruanda-Urundi of certain reserves; others think that Ruanda-Urundi is not able to get much additional income from this. In any case, the General Consul of Ruanda-Urundi has asked that a careful study be made of the matter, and the Administration of Ruanda-Urundi is taking the matter up. I wanted to repeat this because the representative of the Soviet Union, with his usual vehemence, had spoken of hundreds of millions lost by Ruanda-Urundi, and other representatives also expressed some concern with regard to this matter. The least that can be said is that any conclusion on this matter is premature today. I hope that at a later meeting I will be able to give the Trusteeship Council the information it desires.

Several representatives seemed to be very sensitive about the question of monoculture and its dangers. I wish that we could be more objective about this. No doubt coffee is the crop which brings in the most profit to the indigenous producers. The 1957 crop was quite large, 28,000 tons, but I do not understand the pessimism of the representative of Burma regarding the future. Since 1930 production -- and we must recognize that any kind of agricultural production has its ups and downs -- has been making constant progress. Here are the figures:

(Mr. Leroy, Special Representative)

in 1930	50 tons
in 1935	223 tons
in 1940	4,800 tons
in 1945	4,800 tons, but after having gone up to 10,000 tons in 1942
in 1950	15,600 tons
in 1952	13,000 tons
in 1954	13,600 tons
in 1955	21,400 tons
in 1956	18,000 tons
in 1957	28,000 tons

The planting of new coffee bushes continued by the millions each year and, as far as I know, coffee consumption throughout the world has never reached the point of saturation.

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Special Representative)

But along with coffee we have cotton production, which went up from 350 tons in 1930 to 6,000 tons in 1958; there is also rice, sugar-cane and tea. In addition to the traditional crops, of which the production of some six and one-half million tons in 1956 sufficed to nourish the population, we must recall the introduction of tapioca, potatoes, wheat, not to overlook reforestation. Thus, in my opinion, it is excessive to speak of monoculture. Even if we were to think that there would be a drop in coffee prices, which might persist long enough to bring about the end of the Stabilization Fund, that would bring about impoverishment of the country but it would not bring about a disaster.

With regard to the industrialization of the Territory, it is not as deficient as some people say. If one will look at the tables appearing on pages 434 and 435 of the report of the Administering Authority (T/1338), one can see all the industrial activities set forth there: agriculture, stock-raising, mines, quarries, manufacturing, construction, electricity, transportation etc. May I say to the representative of Burma that if the infant industry of Ruanda-Urundi was born with a glass of beer in its hand, it has, in that regard, followed less the example of the Administering Authority than having improved its usual behaviour. What I mean to say is that beer is traditionally one of the basic foods of the natives. In 1956, about \$50 million came in from these industrial products..

As regards the field of social progress, I would like to offer a few observations concerning emigration, the labour system and the TANU association. The representative of the Soviet Union stated to the Council his concern with what he called the flow of European immigrants and the menace or threat which they represented for future African personnel.

I should like to repeat to the Council that I always admire the skillful manner of presentation shown by the representative of the Soviet Union. When one listens to him, one would think that there pre-existed in the Administration, in business and in industry, certain empty personnel rolls and that the Europeans are rushing there to get those jobs before the Africans can get them. The situation in fact is quite different. Before the European, there is no such thing as a personnel staff, there is no business or industry. Administration, commerce and industry are all created by the Europeans and they cannot create it without being in the country. The European is not taking the place of the natives; rather,

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he is creating the place and without him there would be no such place or job. Very often the motives of the European are very disinterested ones. Let us take, for example, the Missionaries who go there. The European is not usurping any places or jobs there; he is serving as a guide. Once the Africans become skilled enough to occupy these places, the European is forced to give up the place by the simple play of economic laws.

Speaking of immigration, the representative of Burma feels that this is a problem of a very dangerous nature. He feels that native opinion, as represented in the General Council, in the higher Councils of the country and in the chieftdom Councils, should be consulted in this matter. That is the constant attitude of the Administration. I replied, it is true, that the General Council as such had not been consulted, but we must not forget that outside the meetings of this General Council, the Administration has very close contact with the members of all the Councils. It is obvious that a question such as the emigration of natives into the Congo would be submitted not only to the native authorities and to their Councils, but that it is they themselves who will decide about it and who will prepare for its execution.

I was extremely surprised by the following statement of the representative of Syria:

"In the absence of a basic and comprehensive labour legislation and of trade unions, exploitation is bound to occur." (T/PV.855, p. 26)

If this is a declaration of principle, I would be willing to subscribe to it, but if the speaker, as I think is the case, is referring to the situation in Ruanda-Urundi, I must conclude that he has not even gone through the reports presented by the Administering Authority. The Trusteeship Council knows that Ruanda-Urundi has very complete labour legislation concerning the rights and duties of the employers and the workers, the working hours, the remuneration, health and security, lodging, medical assistance, the question of on-the-job accidents, night work, the work of women and children, work in the mines, apprenticeship, paid vacations, pensions and unions.

(Mr. Leroy,
Special Representative)

I regret that I will not be able to make comparisons with the labour legislation of many States which are Members of the United Nations. It would be very edifying to do so, however. Finally, as regards the field of labour legislation, I have heard the fear expressed that the Administering Authority may not sufficiently take into account international conventions. May I refer the Council to annex XXIII of the annual report which enumerates the principal international conventions that are applicable to Ruanda-Urundi.

We can say that any action of the Administration in this field is in complete harmony with the stipulations of the aforementioned international conventions.

In reading over the various statements of representatives relating to the Tanganyika African National Union, I noted that at the meeting of 6 February, I had replied rather concisely to a statement made by the representative of Guatemala. I must express my regrets now. I should like to offer a few supplementary explanations with regard to this matter.

Belgium assumed the task of administering the Territory so as to achieve the fundamental objectives of Trusteeship and it intends to accomplish this mission in all calm and peace, and we have very little consideration for irresponsible agitators. The Administering Authority cannot forget that it bears full responsibility. We feel that in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi there are problems of every sort and enough persons to debate these matters without having foreign elements come in, and the Administering Authority knows that the adjacent Administering Authority had nothing good to say about them.

The Administering Authority always has in mind article 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement and it knows that it must maintain public order and peace in the Territory. We would prefer that TANU confine its activities to its Territory of origin. I seem to note in the statements of certain representatives a tendency to overlook the teaching which is given by the Missions. I would warn the Council against this opinion, expressed so brutally by the representative of the Soviet Union. The teaching given by the Missions is subject to the same requirements of curriculum, competence and inspection as any other sort of teaching. All the

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educated natives, as was noted by the Visiting Mission, were educated in these schools. Such establishments as the Collège du Saint Esprit, Lycée des Dames de Marie and the Lovanium University, can bear up very favourably in any comparison with other such establishments.

(Mr. Leroy, Special Representative)

Here I must reassure the representative of Burma. He deplored, according to the report of UNESCO, a regrettable lack of interest on the part of the High Council of Urundi with regard to educational progress in the country. I can affirm to the Trusteeship Council that this is not at all so. The members of the High Council of Urundi, as those of Ruanda, are very much interested in educational matters and, only a short time ago, they requested with great energy the establishment of a secondary school at Kitega and other improvements in the field of education.

I must now comment briefly on the statements of the representative of the Soviet Union.

In previous years, the representatives of the Soviet Union have often shown their disappointment with regard to the imperceptible progress in the Trust Territory, the hardly satisfactory replies of the special representative and twenty other complaints. Today, this situation is reversed. I am disappointed by the observations of the representative of the Soviet Union. He has accustomed us to better things. He had before him the report of the Administering Authority and the recent report of the Visiting Mission. He swept aside these two documents with a gesture, the first as being doubtful and the second as being too favourable in its appreciation. He found his documentation in the prose of a Swiss journalist who had taken a lengthy trip "to the Congo." The Visiting Mission had taken a lengthy trip to Ruanda-Urundi, a trip for study under the most favourable conditions for observation. But the representative of the Soviet Union did not pay attention to this. He was more interested in the opinion of a tourist than in the opinions of specialists. One sentence would be sufficient to appreciate the historian. He writes -- and I am quoting from the representative of the Soviet Union: "The majority of that population -- even those who have learned how to

read -- is so naive that it believes everything that is said."

The explorer who wrote that, I can confirm, has never met a Nututsi. To confuse politeness towards an unknown and naivety is not proof of discernment. The representative of the Soviet Union is satisfied with this. As for me, I am disappointed and I am hardly encouraged to study what remains of the rest of his accusation. Nevertheless, there remain original matters which deserve to be commented upon briefly. I quote:

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"Should we be surprised that the political development is proceeding very slowly if it is intended to use Ruanda-Urundi as an economic enterprise?"

This is a big word, a worthy conclusion from the wisdom of the Neue Zurchen Zeitung. Where are the profits which Belgium derives from Ruanda-Urundi? And this diatribe ends with praise for the population of the Belgian Congo. Yet we have been told that the population of Ruanda-Urundi is so naive that it believes everything.

My African friends in the General Council of Ruanda-Urundi will not fail to appreciate the judgement of Mr. Schwarenbach of them. I do not need to comment any further.

The desire of the representative of the Soviet Union to show the bad faith of the Administering Authority is such that he even engages in supplying gratuitous information. He declares that the utilization of electric power has remained in the paper planning stage. It can be seen from paragraph 205 of the report of the Visiting Mission that the power stations of the Ruzizi and of Taruka are being built.

Here I must clarify a point, for the representative of the Soviet Union has taken advantage of a somewhat brief reply which I gave in order to draw conclusions unfavourable to the Belgian administration (T/PV.854, p. 62). I said in T/PV.851, page 76 that the building of a single power station on the Ruzizi river would suffice and, even more, be able to supply all the needs of the Territory. I must elaborate somewhat on this point. The power of the Ruzizi river unquestionably is sufficient to supply electric energy to territories much larger than Ruanda-Urundi. In order for this to be a fact, it would be necessary to build at great cost either a tremendous power station or a network of power stations on that river. But the needs of the Territory in the near future are not such that it will be necessary to use all this investment. Thus, the Administering Authority decided to build some small power stations -- one of them on the Ruzizi -- in order to meet current needs.

I should like now to take up again an old formula. I wish to think out loud about the union of the Territory with the neighbouring territories.

I am always surprised to see that the best minds are influenced by prejudice. The union of Ruanda with Urundi seems to many to be indispensable to the progress of the Territory and it would not be difficult for me to find texts where it

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has been recommended to the Administering Authority how to take action in this regard. But when we deal with the Belgian Congo, these same representatives seem to be inspired by horror. And in one case or the other, one curiously forgets the provisions of Article 76 b of the Charter "to promote ... their progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned ...".

In other words, when the Administering Authority maintains and defends the administrative union with the Belgian Congo, it acts in conformity with the spirit and the letter of the Trusteeship Agreement. But when representatives invite us to be firm in maintaining the union of Ruanda and Urundi despite their will, then their invitation is contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Charter.

In truth, as the representative of Belgium has said so many times, these two countries, once they have become able to administer themselves, will be able to build their future in their own way, and I fear that the Trusteeship Council as well as the Administering Authority will be unable to change anything there.

May I nevertheless be permitted to add that the most intimate union with the Belgian Congo would have the happiest consequences for the Territory: the end of its financial difficulties, outlets for its surplus population, and above all, something which has hardly been mentioned thus far -- the opening of an immense field of activity for the Banyaruanda and Barundi who have acquired degrees from universities and who could perhaps find it difficult to secure adequate employment in their own Territory. Ruanda-Urundi would have everything to gain and nothing to lose from this union.

As regards fixing the dates for the achievement of autonomy and independence, I cannot and will not do so.

I am as sure of the future autonomy of Ruanda-Urundi as I am of my eventual death. But it would not be serious on my part if I estimated when that would happen. I cannot possibly say how it would come about. I cannot possibly place before Belgium the alternative of introducing a premature reform or feeling that it has failed in its obligations. I regret that I have to state this, but hypocrisy plays a certain part in international relations. Very often, one uses gratuitous words. Outside of Africa, there are countries which are called

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independent which have governments more colonialist than those of Ruanda-Urundi or the Belgian Congo. We want for Ruanda-Urundi an independence which would be genuine and not a facade behind which there would be foreign influences.

(Mr. Leroy, Special Representative)

Neither do we desire for this Territory the system of the iron fist which is in force elsewhere. We also wish to avoid the attainment by this Territory of a system of independence under which true patriots commit suicide. No one speaks about it, but everyone knows what is behind certain flags which wave in the wind just opposite this building.

In conclusion, I wish to quote the following words with which the representative of France opened the general debate:

"...there are no panaceas, there are no universal remedies. There is hard labour which must be adapted to specific conditions. Capital is required; personnel is required; political, social and moral training is required; and this a tough kind of training..." (T/PV.854; page 48-50).

I share that view.

Before leaving this Council table, I wish to thank the President and the Vice-President for the way in which they have guided this discussion. I also wish to thank all the representatives here for the courtesy which they have shown me. I am grateful, too, to the representatives of the specialized agencies for their support of our work, and to all the personnel of the Secretariat, including the interpreters.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The representative of Belgium attempted to show that there were some contradictions in the position of the Soviet Union delegation. He even attempted to represent matters as though the Soviet Union delegation had at this session departed from its previous stand in favour of a constant increase in funds for medical services. In this connexion, I feel it my duty to state that this year, the Soviet delegation takes a decisive stand -- as it did in 1952 -- in favour of constant increases in the allotment for medical services and all other social needs in the Territory. This position in no way contradicts our opinion that the present policy of the Administering Authority is aimed at strengthening the dependent status of the Territory. This policy, as we have repeatedly demonstrated, is reflected in the unilateral and typically colonialistic direction of the Territory's economic development, a direction which excludes the creation of a sound financial basis. As in 1952, we state today -- and we shall not tire of stating in the future --

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

that it is necessary to improve the living conditions of the indigenous population in every way, to improve the health services, to develop all other social services, by using the tremendous profits of the foreign corporations operating in the Territory.

Unfortunately, the chronic budgetary deficit of the Territory has not been eliminated. Can there be any doubt as to the dependence of the Territory's budget upon the goodwill of the Administering Authority? This does not testify to a desire to lead the Territory towards independence.

The representative of Belgium and the special representative have also referred to the question of the unification of the Territory with the Belgian Congo. We have already taken a position on that question. I feel compelled, however, to repeat that the unification of any Territory with another is not within the framework of the Administering Authority's obligations. Only the people can decide this question, and they can do so only after they have achieved their independence. The Administering Authority's obligation is to promote the achievement of independence at the earliest possible moment.

The representative of Belgium and the special representative have made other observations which perhaps do not call for comment on my part. The inconsistency of their observations is obvious. Anyone who would be convinced of that need only read the verbatim record of our statement in the general debate and of the questions which we put to the special representative.

I shall not refer to the rather inappropriate devices used to reply to the criticisms made by the Soviet delegation with regard to the situation in the Territory. Again, anyone who wishes to inform himself on this matter can do so by reading the verbatim record. Neither shall I follow the bad example of the representative of Belgium, who violated both the Council's rules of procedure and the tradition of the Council's debates. My delegation therefore will completely ignore the insinuations which the representative of Belgium and the special representative permitted themselves to make. We must state once again that, despite these insinuations, the representative of Belgium has not succeeded in refuting a single argument presented during the discussion by the Soviet Union representative -- and for the simple reason that the Soviet Union representative's arguments were based on hard and irrefutable facts.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I did not wish to interrupt the Soviet Union representative, although the length of his last statement would seem to have the effect of reopening the general debate. The fact is that the general debate has been concluded, as has been the period of questions and answers. The Soviet Union representative's remarks will of course be found in the verbatim record.

I now call on the representative of Syria, and I would ask him to be brief, confining himself to replying to certain points in the statement of the special representative which he feels must be raised.

Mr. TOMEH (Syria): I would assure the President that I shall be brief.

In my remarks on the question of labour, I cited paragraph 227 of the Visiting Mission's report; I also cited paragraph 96 of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat. My remarks were very clear in this respect. If the special representative had taken the trouble to refer to what I said, he would undoubtedly have seen that in every instance I adhered strictly to the terms of the two working papers before the Council.

I am very happy to have heard the special representative's remarks about labour conditions in the Territory. I did state that labour there is on a contractual basis, subject to limitations.

I do not wish to go any further than that. I only regret that the personal remarks addressed to me by the special representative went much beyond the limits of the duties of a special representative at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement of the representative of Syria will appear in the verbatim record.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I did not wish to interrupt the representative of the Soviet Union or the representative of Syria for reasons of courtesy, which does not mean that the representative of Belgium or the special representative will necessarily reply to the observations which were made by them. For some years now it has appeared to be the practice of the Soviet delegation to try to have the last word in the debates, as is the case sometimes with lawyers whose cause is not very strong. I am somewhat surprised to find the Soviet representative claiming a violation of the rules of procedure by the President or the special representative when, during the nineteenth session of the Council, that same Soviet representative tried to take part in the debate after the closure and was called to order by the President, who was then Mr. Asha of Syria. If, contrary to precedent, we admitted the procedure of the counter-reply, then the debates in this Council would become infinite and no agenda could ever be complied with.

Every delegation has the right to express its views, even if it wishes to put forward propaganda, but every one of our colleagues can do that during the debate. When the debate is ended there is, traditionally, a statement by the representative of the Administering Authority. I feel that the present debate is concluded, and I do not therefore intend to reply to the formal views which have just been put forward.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has thus concluded its consideration of the annual report on the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration. We have now to elect a Drafting Committee for the report on that Territory. I propose the following membership for that Committee: China, France, Guatemala and the United States of America.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would ask the President to put those nominations to the vote separately.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In accordance with the request from the representative of the Soviet Union I shall put the nominations to the vote in turn.

China was appointed as a member of the Committee by 10 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

France was appointed as a member of the Committee by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Guatemala was appointed as a member of the Committee by 13 to none, with 1 abstention.

The United States of America was appointed as a member of the Committee by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. Leroy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, withdrew.

AGENDA ITEMS 4c AND 5

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION: (continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1956 (T/1340, 1350, 1353, 1359; T/L.811)
- (b) PETITIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/L.811/Add.1; T/PET.4/L.6; T/COM.4/L.24; T/PET.4 and 5/11; T/PET.4 and 5/L.15, 16, 17 and Add.1 and 2; T/COM.4 and 5/L.2)

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.

Economic advancement (continued)


budget
Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My first questions relate to the budget of the Territory. After perusing the Administering Authority's annual report and the working paper in which the Secretariat summarizes the conditions in the Territory, we realize that a major contribution to the revenues of the Cameroons under British administration is represented by the Federal Government grant to the Territory, and we know that this grant is governed by the Order in Council of 1954 and by a subsequent resolution of the House of Assembly of the Federation. On the other hand, we have read in the working paper that during the London conference the relationship between the Federation of Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons was the subject of at least some preliminary conversation, and that at that conference it was decided that the Governor General should appoint a fiscal commission, part of whose agenda would be taken up with a review of the situation so far as concerned relations between the Cameroons and the Federal Government. I should like in this connexion to ask the special representative a few questions.

First of all, am I correct in understanding that this was only a proposal made by the London conference and that, of course, it is up to the Governor General to implement -- if I may use that word -- the proposal itself?


Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The conclusion of the London conference was that the Secretary of State should appoint a fiscal commission to inquire, among other things, into the future financial arrangements for the Southern Cameroons. That commission has already been appointed and has commenced its investigations.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): With reference to that reply, I should like to ask the special representative if he could tell me -- and of course I do not want many details -- what is roughly the composition of that commission. Is it a technical commission or is it composed of representatives of the kind who attended the conference?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): It is a Commission of experts. The Chairman is a gentleman of considerable experience in public finance, Sir Jeremy Raisman, who was at one time a finance member of the Government of India. The other Commissioner is Professor Tress, a professor of economics at Bristol University. The third member is an expert in sales taxes who is a member of the United Kingdom Civil Service.




Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): Am I correct in assuming that this Commission is supposed to report to a conference which will convene at a later stage in Lagos?




Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The intention is that the report of this Commission should be submitted to a resumed conference. Where the conference will be held is not yet determined.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I understand that the eventual implementation of the suggestions which the conference will draw on will be left to the usual authorities, that is to the Government of Nigeria and the Government of the Cameroons.



Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The implementation of the recommendations of this Commission will depend on the resumed conference, which will study the recommendations. The extent that they are accepted in agreement round the conference table they will ultimately be embodied in the constitutional arrangements.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I should like to invite the attention of the special representative to document T/L.811, paragraph 51. It is quite clear that the deficit was made up mainly by the statutory Federal Government grant. There was a subsequent grant from the Federal Government of £110,595. There is one point which is not very clear to me. The deficit amounted to £140,547, of which £132,214 was provided by grants. Of these grants, £110,595 was a grant from the Federal Government. I should like to ask the special representative what was the source of the balance of this grant?



Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): I am not completely clear on the figures which the representative of Italy is asking me to explain.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I quoted the figure £132,214 for grants, including £110,595 from the Federal Government. The difference in those two figures is approximately £22,000. From what source was this grant given to the budget of the Government of the Cameroons.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): I do not have the figure before me at the moment. Perhaps I can reply later.

revenue
Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I am quite satisfied to receive an answer later. Following the conclusions of the Administering Authority, which emphasized the fact that there is a difficulty in the Territory in finding sufficient revenue, Commissioner Field will no doubt remember a question I put to him last year: Has any study been made by the Administering Authority with a view to increasing revenues by means of direct taxation in the Territory?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The possibility of increasing revenue by direct taxation has engaged the attention of the Government but, as regards direct taxation in the sense of an income or capitation tax on individuals, the Government does not directly levy such a tax itself. That tax is payable to and is collected by the Native Authorities, and the Government takes a share of it by way of a capitation levy, the balance going to the Native Authority Funds. It is of course open to the Government to increase its capitation levy and if it does that it is left to the Native Authority to decide whether or not it will find the extra amount out of its own resources derived from the existing rates of taxation or whether on the other hand it will increase the rate of tax to meet the additional demand. I think it will be apparent that any move of that sort has to be carefully considered, because it might place an undue burden on the Native Authorities and result, if they felt that they could not materially increase the tax, in their having to curtail their own services to enable them to meet the increased capitation levy payable to the Government. The Government is examining the problem at the present moment, but it has of course to take into account the whole field of Native Authority services and the extent to which they could reasonably be expected to pay out of any surpluses may have or by imposing extra taxation. It is something that cannot be done just by a stroke of the pen. The Government has done something to increase its revenue to a certain extent; instead of collecting a capitation tax of five shillings per taxable male, it collects on the basis of 12-1/2 per cent of the tax revenue accruing to the Native Authorities. As a result, a certain additional sum has accrued to the Government, and it also means that if the Native Authorities themselves decide to raise their tax rates for their own purposes, an additional sum goes to the Government at the same time. This, however, is only a transitory measure pending a full examination of the whole problem.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I am sure the Government of the Territory is considering this problem seriously and I realize it is very difficult. The point is that a deficit exists, and I am sure the Administering Authority will do its best to find a solution for this difficult budgetary situation.

have My next question refers to foreign trade. In the Administering Authority's report a full account of the principal imports and exports through the ports of the Trust Territory is given in Tables 36, 37, 38, 39 and so on. Am I to understand that no assessment has been made of exports and imports through the ports of the Federation of Nigeria?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): It is possible to make an assessment of certain commodities passing through Nigerian ports, for example produce imported from the Cameroons of which the origin is definitely known and which is bought by the Marketing Boards, but I am informed that it is not possible to work out complete and accurate figures of all goods passing through Nigerian ports originating from or destined for the Trust Territory. There is of course a land boundary between the two and there are no check points on it and in regard to goods imported into Nigeria, it is very difficult to discover what proportion may stay in Nigeria and what proportion may find its way to the Cameroons.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): Is it correct to assume in very broad terms that the figures appearing in the report are generally descriptive of the trend of trade -- of the balance of trade in the Territory?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): They are generally descriptive, I think, but since they do not completely reflect all imports and exports I would not myself like to express firm and definite conclusions regarding any particular trend.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): Perhaps the special representative is rather conservative in his answer; I notice that the position is quite a healthy one, judging from the figures I have before me, since exports fairly exceed imports calculated on the basis of value. I do not think, therefore, even if trade not included in these figures is taken into account, this would change the picture considerably.

I have one final question relating to page 65 of the Annual Report, where reference is made to research carried on in the Territory under the heading "Mineral Resources". As I have not heard this question put before, I wish simply to ask the special representative whether any search for mineral deposits has been carried on or whether any study has been made for the same purpose?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): There have been geological surveys of the Territory, both the northern and southern parts from time to time. A survey of the northern part was made, I think it was, in 1954. But no sign of minerals in payable quantities were discovered. Similar investigations have been carried out in the southern Cameroons in the past, again without any minerals of commercial value being discovered, or that show the prospect of any commercial value of minerals being discovered. But the Federal Government has recently posted a geologist to the southern Cameroons. He arrived there recently to carry out yet another comprehensive survey of the possible mineral resources in the hope that possibly something may have been overlooked.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I have one question which is rather a kind of explanation which I shall ask of the special representative. I read in paragraph 321 of the annual report that by the employment of mechanized excavation equipment, some reservoirs have been excavated, if I am correct, in the northern part of the Territory. As I have had similar experience in Somaliland with the excavation of reservoirs, I am interested to know what use is made of these? Is it both for the population and cattle? Is it for irrigation purposes and is it generally a sort of water reservoir which should, as in the case of Somaliland, prevent the population from having to move away during the dry season?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The purpose of these dams is principally for the watering of cattle. There are, of course, water supplies in the northern part of the Trust Territory, but they are somewhat widespread, especially in the dry season. By the provision of these additional watering points, it does mean that the cattle do not have to move such considerable distances; they can obtain water and can graze, can avail themselves of grazing in areas which otherwise, for lack of water, they would not be able to do.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I have another point to cover under this item. Are they designed to satisfy the demands of -- let us use these terms -- a tribe, a group or a family or an area? What is the size of this reservoir?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): They are not for any particular tribe; they are distributed geographically to increase the number of water points throughout the area. The size of them is 150 yards by 80 yards.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): So I assume it is for the use of the community, without any particular distinction. I have no further questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now take our usual 15 minutes recess.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

coffee U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I have a number of questions in the economic field and, in passing, I would like to remark that I am afraid that I cannot count the number of questions on my fingers. The first question is the following. In paragraph 179 of the annual report it is stated that the House of Assembly of the Southern Cameroons passed a bill imposing a tax on the purchases of raw coffee beans. The Bill, it is stated, proposed a tax of 1 1/2d. a pound on arabica coffee and 1d. a pound on robusta coffee. According to the report, the Bill has not received the Governor-General's assent owing to certain technical difficulties.

I would like to ask the special representative the following questions: First, since the publication of the annual report, has the Bill received the Governor-General's assent? Secondly, could the special representative tell me what constitutes certain technical difficulties? Thirdly, who would be largely affected by the imposition of the tax on purchases of raw coffee beans? Fourthly, is the special representative in a position to tell me the total estimated revenue from the tax on purchases of raw coffee beans?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The difficulties into which this legislation ran were constitutional ones regarding the relative competence of the Federal Government and the Southern Cameroons Government to pass legislation to impose a tax of this nature. The bill as originally drafted and originally passed was thought by the legal authorities to infringe on the sphere of the Federal Government. The bill was redrafted in order to overcome those legal difficulties. A new version was enacted by the Southern Cameroons Legislature and has now received the assent and is law.

The persons affected by the legislation ultimately will be the coffee producers. But the tax is levied at the stage where the coffee is purchased for export. Therefore, it is immediately paid by the exporters. It is anticipated that it will yield a revenue of about £15,000 a year.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I thank the special representative for his reply to my question, but I do not think he has replied to the question as to whether the people who will be affected are the indigenous inhabitants or the non-indigenous inhabitants.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The people ultimately affected will be the indigenous inhabitants in that when taxes are levied on produce of this nature, it is usually reflected backwards in the price that is paid to the prime consumer. It was in fact intended for those who are making the maximum profit out of this crop, who are in fact the producers and who were not paying any tax on their produce. Unlike the producers of cocoa, the producers of banana and the producers of palm oil -- all of whose commodities are taxed -- a considerable number of coffee producers were not taxed, and the object of this legislation was that they too should make their contribution to the public revenue.

budget

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question pertains to the budgetary situation of the Territory. In paragraph 180 of the annual report, it is stated that although it had been estimated that the Territory would close the financial year 1955-56 with a surplus balance of £445,542, including the £300,000 advance of working capital from the Federal Treasury, the hope was not realized because the expenditure in 1955-56 exceeded the revised estimates and the actual surplus at 1 April 1956 was £348,266, almost £100,000 less than the forecast. I should like to ask the special representative whether he could tell me why the expenditure in 1955-56 exceeded the revised estimates.

It is stated in the annual report that as a result of the forecast going wrong, it has been necessary for the Government to conduct its financial affairs in the current year 1956-57 with the utmost caution and restraint. I should like to know in what field of development would expenditures be curtailed.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): It was not so much a case of the Government having embarked on a spending spree and having increased in the course of the year their expenditures to such an extent that they were less well off than they had anticipated. It was a case that revenue expectations were not realized. It was partly due to the fact that profits from the Southern Cameroons Development Corporation were nil, I think, in that year; and owing to the drop in cocoa prices there was a drop in the company tax. As a result the revenue figures did not come up to expectations.

The necessity for the Government to conduct its financial affairs with the utmost caution and restraint was due to this drop in revenue so as not to present a budget that would be more unbalanced than was absolutely essential. The necessary developments were not curtailed, the reason being that the capital programme of the Southern Cameroons is at present borne by grants made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act by the United Kingdom Government, which also bears 100 per cent of the current expenditure on these things at the present time. Of course, income from that source was not affected and, accordingly, the actual development programme was not cut. But what it did mean was that the Southern Cameroons Government was not in a position to embark itself, out of its own revenues and expenditures other than those sources, on any programme of expansion. In fact, it had to watch very carefully every penny that it spent on its existing services.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the holders of various licences who have to pay licence fees. In paragraph 186 of the annual report the rates for licences are given. Who are the recipients of these licences? I am interested in knowing how many indigenous inhabitants and non-indigenous inhabitants hold arms licences, game licences, goldsmith's licences, gold dealer's licences, petroleum storage licences, liquor licences, wireless licences and motor vehicle licences.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): No separate figures are kept on the origin of licence holders, and I am afraid that I cannot produce those figures. It would need a very great deal of research through all the files of the licence books to try to sort out the holders of licences into the categories that the representative of Burma has mentioned.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I thank the special representative for the explanation given, and I bear in mind the inability of the Administration to make this special list of licence holders according to their nationalities.

My next question relates to the table of licences for commercial motor vehicles in the Northern Cameroons and Southern Cameroons. We find that there is a marked difference in rates in each part of the Territory for the same type of vehicle. According to the table on page 41 of the annual report, the rates are higher in the Southern Cameroons. Can the special representative tell me why?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The levying of motor vehicle licence fees is a matter which is within the competence of the Southern Cameroons Government. The licence fees payable in the Southern Cameroons were increased by the Southern Cameroons Government in view of its financial situation and as a means of increasing its revenue. The present position, as I understand it, is that the Northern Regional Government is contemplating introducing legislation in order to increase its licence fees, the intention being that there should be uniform licence fees for vehicles throughout the Federation. If there are differentials rates, there is, of course, always the temptation to license one's vehicle where the rates are lowest.

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produce for sales

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the produce sales tax. In paragraph 188 of the annual report it is stated that with effect from 1 January 1955 the rates of the tax on palm oil and palm kernels were doubled to £4 per ton and £2 per ton respectively. Can the special representative give the reasons for doubling the rate on the tax on palm oil and palm kernels? Are the market conditions for palm oil and palm kernels favourable to the doubling of rates? Who are the producers of palm oil and palm kernels? Can the special representative give me the estimated revenue which will be derived from the produce sales tax on palm oil and palm kernels?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The rates were increased because it was thought that the commodity could bear an increase in tax. This was a fiscal measure aimed at increasing the revenue of the Southern Cameroons. As in the case of all these commodities, the aim is to obtain a contribution to the revenue from the producers, who receive the income from the export of the commodities.

As regards the actual revenue from the tax in 1955-1956, the figure for palm kernels was £5,373; and for palm oil, £14,940. The estimate for 1957-1958 -- the current year -- is £9,000 for palm kernels and £24,000 for palm oil.

A very great proportion of this tax, of course, is levied on the oil and the kernels produced by the Cameroons Development Corporation, which is the major exporter of these commodities from the Southern Cameroons.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to overseas enterprise. Referring to the Territory's general economic conditions, the annual report states in paragraph 193 that:

*Overseas
enterprise*

"The principal economic feature of 1956 has been the introduction of overseas enterprise following upon the Government's declared intention to encourage such enterprise to come to the Territory."

The report mentions three overseas firms which have begun operations in the Territory. I should like to ask the special representative the following questions in this respect:

First, what are the terms and conditions under which the three firms referred to are permitted by the Government to exploit and operate in the Territory?

Second, does the Government insist that indigenous inhabitants should be permitted to participate in the management of these firms, and that the local population should be trained in the various fields of production and in the processing of the products?

Third, what are the terms under which 1,200 acres of cocoa estate, twenty-one square miles of forest and almost 4,000 acres of land have been leased, respectively, to Messrs. Cadbury and Fry, Lestey Cameroons Ltd. and the Estates and Agency Company Limited?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The terms and conditions under which enterprises of this nature are permitted to operate in the Southern Cameroons depend, of course, upon the nature of the enterprise concerned. The conditions for a cocoa estate in one part of the Territory would not necessarily be the same as those for a timber exploiter in another part of the Territory. In each case, the terms and conditions are the subject of negotiation between the person who wishes to undertake the enterprise and the Government. They are, of course, related to the economics of the particular enterprise.

There are certain conditions which can perhaps be stated in general terms, although they may vary in detail from enterprise to enterprise. One is that the amount of land granted shall not be in excess of that reasonably required for carrying on the enterprise in question. A second is that the rent payable for the land shall be a fair rent, having regard again to the economics of the enterprise. Sometimes the rent is on a sliding scale, being lower during the development period and increasing as the enterprise comes into production.

I turn now to the question of the participation of the local inhabitants in the enterprises. The Government is not in a position to insist that a proportion of the capital in any such enterprise should be contributed locally, because the Government cannot compel any local investor to put his money in any particular enterprise if he does not want to. The only stipulation that the Government can make in that respect is that facilities should be available for the participation of local capital, if anyone does want to invest. In fact, in the three cases which have been mentioned, the companies concerned have themselves, without any prompting from the Government, stated that they would welcome local participation.

The training of the local population and its participation in management are, again, questions which must be left for negotiation in each case, rather than being laid down as a hard and fast rule. The object of the Government is that there should be opportunities for training and for this kind of participation. Again, the companies have expressed themselves as being very willing to make those opportunities available, realizing, I think -- apart from anything else -- that it is fully in their own interests to have enterprises in which, so far as possible, local people can and do participate in positions of authority.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

Of course, one of the objects in this matter is to attract new capital into the Territory, rather than to mop up local capital, of which there is practically none. Another object, however, is that these enterprises should bring with them the technical skill enabling them to exploit the Territory's economic resources for the Territory's benefit.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

As I say, there is not at the moment a great deal of skill of that nature available, and, such as it is, when it becomes available it is usually absorbed in the Government or in the Cameroons Development Corporation. But within the economics of their enterprises the companies concerned have all stated their willingness to train indigenous inhabitants to take over responsible positions in them in due course. At the moment of course they are very new. It is very much in the stage still of clearing and planting the ground, so that a great deal of technical skill is not at the moment required.

yes
U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to tea. There are possibilities of ~~growing tea in the Territory~~, as recommended by the International Bank Mission. In paragraph 222 of the annual report it is mentioned that

"...Dr. Thomas Eden, who is a recognized authority on tea soils... In a preliminary verbal report...indicated that some 20,000 acres could be developed immediately in the Bamenda area as tea estates, and that of this acreage approximately half could be planted with tea, the balance being used for timber supplies, windbreaks, factory sites, grazing, etc."

I should like to ask the special representative whether Dr. Eden's report, which was due for publication early in 1957, has now been published, and what are his recommendations.

Field
Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): Dr. Eden's report has been published. A considerable amount of it is technical detail on the quality of the soils, and similar matters, but his conclusions are that the particular area on which he reported was suitable and showed very good prospects for the development of a tea growing industry.

palm
U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the production of palm oil. According to paragraph 228 of the annual report palm oil production was lower than in 1955. Could the special representative give me the figures? What are the causes of the lower yield? In spite of the lower production of this crop, why was the rate of purchase tax doubled for palm oil?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): I am not sure that I have the actual figures readily available for the exports of palm oil in that year, but the reason for the fall in the price of palm oil was climatic conditions. The oil palm has the peculiarity that in certain years when the climatic conditions are good it will yield copiously, and in the following year, when they are not so good, the fall might be quite marked. Although the quantity of oil produced in that particular year did fall, the price did not, and consequently it was not considered that the fall due to climatic reasons was in itself sufficient justification for refraining from increasing the tax on the production of oil.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the omission from the annual reports of statistical information on investment in the Territory. The 1956 annual report is no improvement on the 1955 report in that respect. Are there any serious difficulties which prevent the Administration from compiling such vital statistics?

Investment

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): I find that a little difficult to answer as I am not myself a statistician and I do not know what is involved in compiling figures of this kind.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I thank the special representative for that explanation. In paragraph 231 of the annual report it is stated that a decision was taken to hand over to the Government the Buea Farms, which had for some time been operated uneconomically. Who owned and operated those farms? What is grown on them? Could the special representative give me the facts and figures in respect of the assets and liabilities at the time when those farms were handed over to the Government?

Buea Farms

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The farms in question were part of the estates of the Cameroons Development Corporation. I have not the facts and figures showing the profit and loss accounts for the farms over the period in question, but the Corporation came to the conclusion that it was not an activity which it was advantageous for it to carry on, and accordingly it was anxious to relieve itself of this responsibility. But in so doing it afforded a very favourable opportunity to the Federal Government that might not have arisen again.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

It was the Federal Government which took these farms over for the purpose of turning them into an open prison. Accordingly, they are not now run on an economic basis at all. They are run as part of a prison, in which, of course, profit and loss does not determine whether or not it is a worthwhile proposition. The farms were taken over by the Federal Government at a valuation of the stock and buildings existing on them at the time. That stock consisted largely of a herd of about three hundred milking cattle which is now run as part of the prison herd. In addition, the prisoners grow a certain number of crops, both for feeding the cattle and for providing food for themselves, and those at the moment are the main activities on the farms.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I am also interested in knowing who the convicts are who are working on the farms. Are there any non-indigenous convicts? *Courts work*

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): Convicts working on the farm are all persons who have been convicted by the courts in the Southern Cameroons.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): The answer again does not satisfy my delegation.

My next question pertains to the participation of the indigenous population in the produce trade. According to the annual report, paragraph 241, as a matter of policy the Marketing Boards encourage the indigenous population to participate in the produce trade. Except for the Cameroons Co-operative Exporters Limited, no other indigenous concern has applied for appointment as a licensed buying agent for palm kernels in 1957. Could the special representative tell me what non-indigenous concerns have been appointed as licensed buying agents and licensed suppliers of the Southern Cameroons? *trade & indig.*

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The concerns licensed as buying agents for the Southern Cameroons are those listed in paragraph 242 of the annual report: Cadbury and Fry (Cameroons) Limited, Cameroons Development Corporation, Cameroons Co-operative Exporters Limited, John Holt and Company (Liverpool) Limited, Pamol Limited, the United Africa Company of Nigeria Limited and the United Africa Company Limited.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the training of indigenous inhabitants. Has the Administering Authority taken steps to provide facilities for the training of the indigenous population to participate in the produce trade? How many Cameroonians in each non-indigenous concern which is now engaged in the produce trade have been employed solely to learn the "tricks of the trade"? *training of ind. line.*

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): There are already a considerable number of Cameroonians who are in fact engaged in the produce trade, but they are all engaged in the trade in a smaller way. I cannot give the representative of Burma the actual number of how many indigenous employees of these concerns are employed in the produce industry, but a very large number of the buying stations of these concerns are in fact under the management of Cameroonians and possibly some Nigerians, but, in any case, not Europeans.

cooper
U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to the co-operative movement. The annual report, paragraph 253, states that two central hulling, cleaning and grading factories have been built, one at Bamenda and the other at Kumba, at a cost of £9,000. I should like to know who built these two central hulling, cleaning and grading factories.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The one at Kumba was built by the co-operative society that functions in that area, the Cameroons Co-operative Exporters Limited. I am not certain who built the one in Bamenda, but I believe that it was also built by the Co-operative Department. It may possibly have been built by the Development Agency.

✓
U TIN MAUNG (Burma): It also states that in the remote areas of Bakossi co-operatives have been assisted by CCE to purchase, instal and maintain hulling units, five of which are now operating. What happened to the other units? Does the special representative not think that instead of installing a few units in those remote areas it would be much more economical and effective in the long run to build one or two factories?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): I think -- and here, of course, I am expressing a personal view without having gone into the economics of this question -- that generally speaking it would be more economical if these hulling units were centralized to some extent. But here it is a question of distance and communications. It was owing very largely to those difficulties that these smaller units were put up in the remoter areas.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to coffee producing areas. The annual report, paragraph 254, states that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies went on a tour of coffee producing areas in the East African territories and that, as a result of this visit, he recommended that a general review of the coffee industry should be made by an expert. I wonder whether that recommendation has been implemented. I should also like to ask the special representative whether that person has submitted a report. Also, has the Administration considered centralizing processing through co-operatives, as recommended by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies? I know that the final decision will have to rest with the Government.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The expert referred to has arrived in the Territory and is at present carrying out his survey of the coffee areas. He has not yet submitted a report. It will probably take him some time before his survey is complete.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to what I would like to call the weak position of the co-operative movement in the Northern Cameroons. So far as I could see from the report, only two co-operative societies exist in the whole of the Northern Cameroons. Could the special representative tell me whether the Administration has given serious thought to the accelerated development of the co-operative movement in the Northern Cameroons. The reason why I have to ask this question is because the people in the Northern Cameroons appear to me to be quite capable of forming and managing co-operative societies, as evidenced by the existence of a co-operative consumer society in addition to a co-operative thrift and loan society.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The two societies that existed in the north, the Thrift and Loan Society and the Co-operative Consumers' Society, were and are rather small organizations in the co-operative movement. The Northern Regional Government has lately had under review this question of encouraging the development of the co-operative movement in the northern part of the Trust Territory, and as a result has posted a co-operative inspector and an assistant registrar to the Trust Territory for the express purpose of encouraging the development of the co-operative movement in that area. As a result of their exertions they have already organized two co-operative marketing societies for groundnuts and cotton, and these have got off to a very good start. They are of course at the same time exploring the possibilities of extending the movement into other economic spheres.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I note from the report that no co-operative staff are employed solely in the Northern Cameroons but that supervision is normally provided by an Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies stationed at Maiduguri. I would like to ask the special representative whether the Administration contemplates overcoming staff difficulties, which are stated to have rendered it impossible to post an Assistant Registrar to Maiduguri during 1956? Do staff difficulties include the lack of trained personnel?

Commerce & Trade
Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): They did, but as I have just explained the Northern Regional Government has since then made available an inspector and an Assistant Registrar for work in the Trust Territory.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question deals with commerce and trade. The structure of commercial life in the Cameroons is such that the majority of indigenous inhabitants, who are farmers and herdsmen, have to take their surplus products for sale to the trading stations operated by commercial firms, which are mostly European. The commercial firms import goods in bulk and supply them to middlemen who act as distributors to petty traders, who again sell the goods at retail prices to the farmers and herdsmen.

(U Tin Maung, Burma)

This pattern of commercial life gives no scope for the indigenous inhabitants to gain advantages from direct participation in the commercial life of the Territory. In order that the majority of the indigenous inhabitants will be able to sell their products directly to exporters and buy their goods directly from importers, does the Administration contemplate establishing Government trading centres where no middleman will have a place? The reason I have to ask this question is that the indigenous inhabitants would have some scope for participating in the commercial life of their own country if they had the facilities and were given encouragement to trade directly with the suppliers of their daily needs, which in most cases are imported goods. The establishment of Government trading centres where no middleman would be permitted to engage in trade would, I think, be greatly appreciated by the indigenous population.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): This is very largely a question of wholesale and retail trade. So far as taking produce to the firms is concerned, it is true that in some of the remoter areas the produce passes through the hands of middlemen, but they do in fact perform a useful service in buying up produce in small quantities and providing the means of transport to get it in bulk to the buying agents. I think that that is not a pattern of trade which is entirely peculiar to the Trust Territory. They do not just sit there and provide no service as middlemen; they provide a point of collection and the means of transport which otherwise the individual producers would have to provide for themselves. As I have stated, a large number of these buying points are operated by expatriate trading firms -- if one might call them that -- but a number of them have in fact registered themselves as companies in Nigeria and in law are Nigerian companies. In actual fact, the factors in charge of these buying stations are for the most part Cameroonians, although one or two of them may be Nigerians, and the European staff is confined largely to such posts as manager in charge of a district rather than being in charge of any particular buying point. As regards the retail trade, the firms in question are in the nature of wholesale importers and although at certain points they do carry on retail trade for those who wish

(Mr. Field,
Special Representative)

to buy directly from them in small quantities, the bulk of their trade is as wholesalers who sell again to retailers who in turn carry on a retail trade. It is the policy of the Government to encourage such firms to confine themselves to the wholesale business, because the retail business is one which Cameroonians can and do carry on very well by themselves. The outlets provided by Cameroonians who perform a valuable service in carrying their goods into the remoter markets are such that I do not think that any advantage at all would accrue to the people, either in the availability of goods or in the price at which they can be sold, if the Government itself were to endeavour to engage in the distributive trade.

concessions
U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question concerns the concessions recently granted to foreign companies in the Territory. In particular, we are told in paragraph 304 of the annual report that during 1956 1,200 acres were granted to Cadbury Brothers Ltd. for a cocoa plantation in Kumba. I should like to know the terms on which this land was granted to this British Company. In the same paragraph we are told that an application has been received from the Estates and Agency Company for the grant of a right of occupancy over 3,950 acres in Ndu for the purpose of establishing a tea plantation and this application has been approved in principle, though the terms of the grant are now being negotiated. Could the special representative tell me whether he is in a position to divulge the terms of that grant?

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(U Tin Maung, Burma)

It is also stated in the same paragraph of the annual report that the application for the grant of a right of occupancy was eagerly welcomed by the inhabitants in the Northern part of the Southern Cameroons for the economic benefits and employment that an established tea plantation would bring. I should like to ask the special representative whether the inhabitants of that region were consulted before the application for the grant was considered and how would they benefit economically from the establishment of a tea plantation? Are the inhabitants of the Territory permitted to invest their capital in that company? Is there any scheme initiated by the aforesaid company to train the inhabitants in the management of the tea plantation?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): As to the cocoa estate that was granted to Messrs. Cadbury Bros. Ltd., I am afraid I do not have with me the exact terms of the certificate of occupancy which they were granted over this land. The general terms of it were that they should pay an economic rent, that they should bring it regularly under cultivation, cultivate it in a diligent manner, together with the usual provisions that are put into such documents regarding forfeiture of the title for non-fulfilment of its terms, and that sort of thing. I should like to say that in connexion with this particular company they are not, in the ordinary course of events, a plantation company; they are coffee and cocoa manufacturers, and they put this estate here entirely for the purpose of experimenting and demonstrating improved methods of cocoa production in the hope that by doing so they would be able to make some contribution to the quality of the cocoa produced in the Southern Cameroons. At the moment the estate is still in its formative condition; so much is being planted every year, but nothing of it has yet come into bearing and the stage where they might begin to train staff for managing an estate has not yet been reached. It is still very much in its infancy. The same is true about this estate in the Ndu area for the growing of tea. At the moment it is only at the stage where the land is being cleared and where the seedlings are being raised with a view in due course to planting them out.

The people were in fact consulted in both these instances as to the desirability of these enterprises being carried on in their area. The persons

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

who were the customary occupiers of these lands were fully consulted and were fully in agreement with the grants being made. They appreciated -- and especially the people in the Ndu area where the tea estate has been established -- that the establishment of such an enterprise there would provide employment for the people of the area, that it would bring money into the area and that in its wake there would be other benefits such as are normal in a plantation, benefits such as a school, which I understand it is the intention and the normal practice of this particular company to establish on its estates, medical services and such similar benefits which normally go with enterprises of this nature.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question pertains to the Irrigation Scheme at Wulgo on the shores of Lake Chad in the Dikwa Division. This is a pilot irrigation scheme designed to reclaim some 1,500 acres of ground in the marshes surrounding the lake for purposes of irrigation. In 1955 work was reported to have started on the flood dyke and masonry control works, and that to speed up the construction, a mechanized plant had been installed.

In paragraph 315 of the annual report we are told that this irrigation scheme has suffered a setback because of high floods for the second year in succession. It looked as though, according to the report, the scheme would have to be abandoned. Many factors, which unfortunately were not foreseen when the scheme was first mooted, intervened such as floods, the ineffectiveness of two mechanical draglines and the high cost of molluscicide.

I should like to ask the special representative if, before the scheme was first blueprinted, a thorough survey of the lake area was undertaken and, if so, what were the steps taken to prevent the incidence of floods. My next question is this: Has the Administration taken the decision, the final decision, to abandon the scheme altogether? Of course, the information given by the special representative in his opening statement in regard to this matter is not very clear on this last point.

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The area was surveyed before the scheme was started and it was drawn up in the light of all the information available at the time as to the area, the levels of the lake, its rise and fall and in the light of such information as was available.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

The scheme was essentially one of bunding with sluices and sluice-gates to let the water in and out of this area which was to be irrigated, and as is natural in such cases, the bunds were so designed to be in excess of the maximum known level of the water. I am not an engineer and cannot go into further details than that. But for some quite unpredictable reason, the level of the lake began to rise higher than it had been known to rise before, and in fact continued to rise over a period of two to three years until in fact it rose higher than the level of the bunding that had been finished and higher than the level of the safety addition that had been worked out as necessary to put on the top of the lake from the known highest level ever recorded, and washed away the work that had been done.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

As I say, the reason for this quite unpredictable rise in the level of the lake is the following: Although it has fluctuated a little bit, the level has not sunk to its original level. Therefore, it is clear that it was not just a temporary rise of one particular year. Something appears to have happened to the lake. Whether or not that is a permanent rise, in so far as these things are permanent, or whatever it is, is now a matter for investigation by the irrigation engineers. At the moment I do not have the information to predict what the future level of the lake might be. But in view of this intervention of nature, it is impossible to continue with the scheme. It will not be possible until there is some reliable information on the level at which the lake is likely to stabilize itself.

Whether or not that information can be obtained quickly or whether it will be a matter of years is of course impossible to say at this moment. In view of these happenings the scheme has been suspended. A decision on whether or not be resumed or whether it will have to be abandoned altogether will depend results of the investigations of the irrigation engineers.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My next question relates to forests. In paragraph 335 of the annual report we are told that an agreement for the control and exploitation, over a period of twenty-one years, of a concession area of 169 square miles in the reserves of the Kumba Division was signed with a timber company in September 1955. It is stated that the agreement provided for the establishment of a medium-sized sawmill for the manufacture of sawn timbers for local demand and export. It is further stated that exploitation of the concession in the first year of working was disappointing because the company failed to establish a sawmill in time.

I would like to address the following questions to the special representative. First, what is the name of that company? Secondly, were the inhabitants living in that area consulted before the concession was granted? Thirdly, what steps did the Administration take against the timber company for failure to establish the sawmill in time, which I think is a clear case of a breach of agreement? How many indigenous inhabitants were employed in the timber company as the managing staff?

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): This concession was granted in a native administration forest reserve and before it was granted the native administration was consulted and was agreeable to the grant being made. The company concerned calls itself "Cameroon Limited". It is a company established and registered under the company laws of Nigeria, although in fact the capital put into it is capital from overseas. I am afraid that I do not have with me figures as to the number of employees of this company at the moment. I am hazarding a guess, but I believe I have heard that it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 500. I would not like that to be recorded as an exact figure.

A number of these employees are performing skilled operations in the manipulation of a logging machinery which they are being trained to use -- a new skill which has not been available in the Cameroons. At the moment, as far as I am aware, no Cameroonian has a post in a managerial capacity. I do not think that there is as yet a Cameroonian with sufficient knowledge of the techniques of exploiting timber in this particular manner and of the timber market. I do not think there is as yet a Cameroonian who has the qualifications to hold such a post.

The sawmill was delayed in being put up. It was a technical breach of agreement in that it was not put up in the time specified. But there were delays in obtaining machinery. A further considerable factor in this was that the director of the company immediately responsible for attending to this and installing it was unfortunately involved in an air crash and spent a considerable number of months in hospital, during which time he was not able to attend to this aspect of his business except in so far as he was able to do so from his hospital bed.

In the circumstances, it was considered that the technical breach, such as it was, could be waived. Since then the sawmill has been installed and is operating.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): My last question relates to the cultivation of rice. In paragraph 320 of the annual report we are told that the Southern Cameroons Department of Agriculture has stimulated, among other crops, the growing of rice during the year. I should like to ask the special representative how many acres of land were thrown open for the cultivation of rice, what are the varieties of rice grown, and what is the production of rice during the year under review, that is, in 1956?

rice

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): As regards the stimulation of the growing of rice, which is a new crop in the Southern Cameroons, this is the extension work of the Agricultural Department which is carrying out experiments on their own experimental plots and encouraging farmers, where it seems desirable, to take up the growing of rice themselves. I am afraid that I do not have the information as to the kinds of rice or in fact the acreage that has so far been put under rice. I do not think that at this stage the acreage is very great.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I wish to thank the special representative for his very useful information, which I have not been able to detect in the annual report.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.