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### VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 20 February 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN

(Guatemala)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration [4c and 5] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration [4d and 5] (continued)

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## 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, 1355, 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.

General debate (continued)

Mr. FIELD (Special Representative): The debate on the Cameroons under British administration has covered a wide field and I think that most of our problems have been exhaustively examined. Some representatives have touched on aspects of the recent constitutional developments in the Cameroons which raise issues of higher policy that are rather outside my sphere and the representative of the United Kingdom will deal with these. I propose to confine myself to filling in gaps that seem to have been left uncovered, to clarifying certain matters that appear to me to need it, and generally to tying up any loose ends there may be.

There are one or two matters in the political field with which I should like to deal. The first is the question of representation at the London Conference. One or two delegations have expressed doubt whether the Trust Territory was adequately represented at this Conference. In the first place, it has been suggested that five representatives from the Southern Cameroons was not enough. But we must consider this question in its proper context. This was a conference of representatives from the whole of the Federation of Nigeria, of which the Southern Cameroons is a part. The population of Nigeria, excluding the Southern Cameroons, is over 30 millions and those 30 millions were represented by thirty delegates. The population of the Southern Cameroons is about 750,000 and they were represented by five delegates. I think those figures dispose of any suggestion that the Southern Cameroons was not fairly treated.

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Again, it has been suggested that the delegates from the Trust Territory did not adequately represent public opinion therein. The decision of the Conference in 1953 was that at this Conference the delegates should be selected so as to represent all shades of political opinion. Obviously this had to be interpreted within the bounds of what was practicable. At the last election in the Southern Cameroons there were six parties and seven independent candidates. Presumably these independent candidates also represented a shade of political opinion, but it is surely not suggested that they should each have been given a seat at the Conference table too. Clearly a line had to be drawn somewhere and it was drawn to exclude all those who could not command sufficient support to obtain a seat in the Legislature. In terms of votes, the three parties who sent delegates to the Conference pulled a total of 68,999 votes, while the three parties and the seven independents who were not included, mustered only 9,440 votes between them.

In the North there is no party that is specifically identified with the Trust Territory and the shades of political opinion there are those of the Northern Peoples Congress, the Northern Elements Progressive Union, the Bornu Youth Movement and the United Middle Belt Congress. They were all represented at the Conference. Whatever else these parties might differ on, they are united in their views on what the future of the Northern part of the Trust Territory should be.

There also appear to be certain misapprehensions about what was decided at the Conference and some suggestion that certain of the decisions were foisted upon the delegates against their will. I should like to say, emphatically, that this is not the case. The decisions were freely negotiated around the conference table and nothing was foisted upon anybody. The representative of Burma has questioned the retention of the Governor-General to preside over the Federal Council of Ministers and the continued presence of the three official members in the Southern Cameroons Executive Council and House of Assembly. The Governor-General continues to preside over the Council of Ministers, not for reasons of prestige as the representative of Burma suggests; the delegates at the

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Conference specifically asked that he should, and similarly, the official members will remain for the time being in the Southern Cameroons Executive Council and House of Assembly because the Southern Cameroons delegates asked that they should.



(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

The representative of Burma also expressed some misgivings over what he termed the "ingenious device" whereby the Commissioner would continue to preside over the House of Assembly. There is no trick in this. The plain intention is that there shall be a Speaker, but it was not apparent that there was anyone who could immediately be appointed to that office. If the Commissioner had been removed from the House forthwith, it might well have happened that the House would have been unable to function for the want of someone to preside over it. There was nothing more to it than that. I can assure the representative of Burma that the Commissioner has no desire to preside over the House for a day longer than is necessary and that he will remove himself at the first opportunity.

Both the representatives of Burma and of the USSR have expressed misgivings about the House of Chiefs. This, again, was not foisted on the people. Provision was made for it because the people asked for it and its powers and duties will be such as they themselves considered the circumstances of the Territory require. The representative of Burma's fear that the House will delay progressive legislation is unfounded. The House of Chiefs will have no delaying powers, nor will the Government be precluded from proceeding with important legislation merely because the House of Chiefs is dilatory over tendering its advice.

The representative of Burma drew attention to one or two other points on which he had misgivings, but I hope that what I have said will reassure him that what was agreed upon at the Conference was in fact the result of free negotiation around the conference table and represents the wishes of the people at this stage of their development.

The representative of the USSR appeared troubled because the proposals for the Southern Cameroons had not been formally endorsed by the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly. But before the delegates ever got to the London Conference there was a local round-table conference attended not only by the members of the House but by representatives of the chiefs, native authorities and prominent men from each division in the Territory -- an even wider body than the House of Assembly. Officials attended only to give advice when it was asked for. This local conference hammered out what it would ask for at the London Conference, and what it asked for is what it substantially got. There can therefore be no question but that the latest constitutional advances are in accordance with the wishes of the people.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

With regard to the ~~Northern Cameroons~~, some doubt has been expressed as to the effectiveness of the Northern Cameroons Consultative Committee as an instrument for marking the identity of the northern part of the Trust Territory. Personally, I think criticism along these lines is ill-founded. Anyone who has met this body and studied its proceedings can be left in no doubt that it is very well aware of the status of the Territory it represents and of its determination not to let anyone forget it. If at the same time it advocates, and indeed presses, for the integration of this part of the Trust Territory into the Northern Region that is hardly a matter for surprise; were it to do otherwise it could hardly be said to represent public opinion in the Territory. And here I should like to correct the impression that there are any officials in this body. Except for the Lamido of Adamawa, within whose jurisdiction a substantial part of the Trust Territory lies, all the members are Cameroonians. Officials attend, if invited, to give advice and the Secretary is an official, but beyond that, officials, European or otherwise, have no part in the proceedings of this body.

I feel that before leaving political matters, I should say something in answer to the representative of the USSR's charge that the Administering Authority is suppressing civil liberties in the Territory. In the first place, I should like to make the general point that nothing of which he complains has been done except on the advice of councils in which there is large representation of the elected representatives of the people -- African representatives -- and in the case of the Council of Ministers a very large majority of elected representatives. In the first place he instances the banning of certain Communist literature. That was done on the advice of the Council of Ministers because of the subversive propaganda contained in these publications. And then there is the banning of the UPC and its affiliated organizations, again on the advice of the Council of Ministers with the support of the Southern Cameroons Executive Council. Here I might take the opportunity, in reply to a request by the representative of the USSR, to quote the provisions of the Criminal Code under which this action was taken. The relevant provisions of section 62 of the Code read:

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"(1) A Society includes any combination of ten or more persons whether the Society be known by any name or not.

"(2) A Society is an unlawful Society -

... (ii) if declared by the Governor-General in Council to be a society dangerous to the good government of Nigeria."

I gave to the Council examples of the kind of conduct that had led the Council of Ministers to believe these organizations to be dangerous to the good government of Nigeria. I do not wish to take up time enlarging on them again, but I did not cite the mere holding of demonstrations and processions as an example: I cited attempts to hold processions in circumstances that were deliberately provocative to other sections of the community and likely to lead to breaches of the peace. I did not cite mere criticism of the Government's economic policies as an example of disruptive tactics; I cited deliberate misrepresentation and the dissemination of false statements designed to stultify a specific project. And as for instances in speeches threatening recourse to violence, these were not the isolated remarks of individuals but were made at gatherings organized by and in the name of the organizations concerned and must therefore be taken to be the views of those organizations. Who can doubt that it is the duty of any Government and the right of the people, through their elected representatives, to protect themselves against dangers of this sort?)

Turning now to economic matters, I should like to say something about the Southern Cameroons Government's policy of attracting overseas investors. I wish to make it clear that this policy is one which has the support of the people of the Southern Cameroons. What that policy is is clearly set out in the following statement that was issued by the South Cameroons Government in early 1955. It represents the policy of the party at present in power and was fully endorsed by the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly.

"The Southern Cameroons Government, recognizing the great need of the Territory for direct investment from abroad to hasten the development of its resources, and in particular its agricultural resources, is anxious that foreign enterprise should participate to the full in the economic advancement of the Territory.

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"To this end, the Government proposes to take all such measures as are within its power to attract foreign enterprise to the Territory in all spheres of economic activity.

"Although the Government prefers that there should be an element of local partnership in such enterprise, it does not propose to apply a rigid insistence upon local financial participation.

"In particular, the Government proposes, by all available means of publicity, to bring to the notice of overseas enterprise the many possibilities for development that exist in the Territory, at the same time explaining the desire of the Southern Cameroons Government for foreign investment.

"The Government also proposes to advise the Governor-General to make land available on reasonable terms for all suitable types of enterprise, including overseas plantation enterprise, having due regard to the interests of indigenous inhabitants.

"Apart from the lease of land, the Government will grant such other facilities as are within its power to assist foreign enterprise that comes to establish itself in the Territory."

It will be recalled that the Council has commended this policy. Now how has that policy been applied? In the first place, the greatest care has been taken to ensure that grants of land and of other facilities have been made only to established concerns who could show proof of adequate capital and technical skill and who have sound reputations as good employers.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

Such grants are not made by officials; the terms and conditions of every grant are examined and approved by the Executive Council and I need hardly say that if a proposal was opposed by the unofficial members it would not be approved. Some concern has been expressed as to whether the interests of the indigenous inhabitants have been safeguarded in these matters. Perhaps the best evidence that they have is the fact that whenever I travel I am constantly being asked when I am going to arrange for a plantation company to start up among this or that community so that they, too, may enjoy the benefits that such enterprises have brought to others. If I may cite the example of one estate, the company concerned maintains some twelve miles of excellent public road, has built a school for the benefit not only of its own employees but for the surrounding community as well and maintains at its own expense an up-to-date and fully equipped hospital which, again, serves not only the plantation but the local community as well. The newer companies are still clearing the ground and have not reached the stage where it would be reasonable to demand that they should yet provide all these facilities but we fully expect them to appear as their enterprises develop. The Government has no use for investors who are not prepared to make a permanent contribution to the economy of the country; at the same time it must be careful not to frighten away the kind of investors it wants by making demands that no prudent person could be expected to comply with.

The representative of Burma was somewhat critical because the Government had not exacted a penalty from the timber concern that was late in putting up a sawmill and said that had the firm been a non-European concern no such leniency would have been shown. But we have a Cameroonian who entered into an undertaking to put up a sawmill and defaulted in his obligation not for one year, but for three. In his case, too, there were extenuating circumstances and we did not, in the words of the representative of Burma, "give him the K.O." -- instead, we extended the time in which he should fulfil his obligation, and extended it again, and yet again, and now, I am glad to say, with the help of the Forestry and Public Works Departments, we have got his sawmill going for him.

With regard to the Cameroons Development Corporation, I cannot, of course, prophesy what solution will be found for its financial troubles, but I can assure the Council that the Federal Government has this matter very much in mind. I should like to dispel any idea that for lack of capital the Corporation is



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proving to be a white elephant. Even though in the last year or two the Corporation has paid over only very small profits to the Southern Cameroons Government, it does in fact make a very substantial contribution to the economy of the Territory, a fact which is sometimes lost sight of. Apart from the money which it brings into the country and disburses in the ordinary course of business in the way of wages and payments for services, it also makes a substantial contribution to the Southern Cameroons in the way of import and export duties, income tax, licence fees, etc. It also provides substantial medical and educational services which would otherwise have to be paid for by the Government. It has been estimated that the contributions which the Corporation makes, directly and indirectly, to the public revenues of the Southern Cameroons is somewhere between £400,000 and £500,000 a year.

The representative of the USSR has accused the Corporation of dissipating its lands. Perhaps I should make it clear that the Corporation cannot dissipate its lands. It cannot transfer any land out of its possession without the consent of the Southern Cameroons Government. The estate in question, which was surrendered to the Government and then granted by the Government to another concern, was an undeveloped ex-German property which was handed over to the Corporation along with the other ex-German estates. It was in a remote area and at a considerable distance from the Corporation's other properties and it would not have been an economic proposition for the Corporation to develop it. That was why the Corporation surrendered it to the Government. But it did lie adjacent to the property of another concern which was in a position to develop it and put forward proposals for doing so. That was the reason why the Government granted it to this concern.

The Buea farms were an ancillary activity of the Corporation. They, too, came into the Corporation's possession along with the rest of the ex-German lands but they were not, and showed no prospect of ever becoming, an economic proposition, nor did they contribute to the Corporation's main task of running its estates. They were made over to the Federal Government at a valuation of the stock and buildings and were turned into an open prison. As a result, very few first offenders in the Cameroons now see the inside of a conventional prison, and indeed the population in the conventional prisons has been very greatly



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reduced. Instead, they are placed on the farm, which has no locks or walls to prevent escape and where the prisoners are taught improved methods of farming. And perhaps I may make it clear that all the prisoners are Cameroonians, except perhaps for a few Nigerians who may have been convicted in the Cameroons. I must confess to some disappointment that this arrangement has been criticized instead of being recognized for what it is -- an advanced experiment in the treatment of offenders.

While on this subject I might mention the matter of corporal punishment which the representative of the USSR referred to. It is, of course, the wish of the Administering Authority to see this form of punishment abolished but it is a matter which, with the constitutional changes, has passed into the hands of the people of the Cameroons themselves, and the action which the Southern Cameroons Government can take in a matter like this depends largely on the state of public opinion. It is the intention of the Government to bring before the next meeting of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly a bill which will abolish corporal punishment except for a very limited number of serious offences involving acts of violence. That is as far as my Executive Council feels it can go at the moment, having regard to the present state of public opinion, and, of course, we cannot say whether the House will accept the bill; we may find that we are trying to legislate too far in advance of public opinion. But if the bill becomes law, as we hope it will, there should be very few instances where corporal punishment will be awarded in the Southern Cameroons and the way will be prepared for abolishing it altogether.

Several delegations have urged that effect be given to the World Health Organization's recommendations that health services should be organized on an area basis with a hospital in a Division as a centre, medical facilities pooled and the technical personnel within the Division working as a team to direct their efforts to preventive work, and to the Organization's offer of assistance in planning a programme. As I mentioned in reply to questions, a certain amount of progress has already been made in co-ordinating services along these lines, both in the Northern and Southern parts of the Territory. Whether this could, or should, be expanded to the full extent recommended by WHO is, of course, a policy decision for each of the Governments concerned. I shall certainly bring this

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interesting suggestion to the notice of the unofficial member of the Southern Cameroons Executive Council who is responsible for medical affairs and to the attention of the Minister for Northern Cameroons Affairs, who, I am sure, will give close consideration to the proposals in consultation with their professional advisers.

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

I have little to add to the answers I have already given on educational matters, but I cannot pass on without a reference to the conclusion reached by UNESCO that:

"the adoption of free primary schooling by the Administration would provide a better basis for future development than the present policy of official support for the charging of fees" (T/1353, para. 11) -- a view that was urged by a number of delegations. This is preaching to the converted, but it overlooks the practical difficulties of putting the conclusion into effect. In the North, primary education is already free. But neither the Northern Regional Government nor the Government of the Southern Cameroons has the resources in money, materials and teachers to introduce a system of free universal primary education. It was because of these inescapable limitations that the Southern Cameroons Government framed its policy for primary education in the following terms:

"Our immediate aim is to provide adequate facilities for all children in the Territory who wish to pursue a course of primary education and eventually, as our financial position becomes capable of bearing a greater burden, to introduce a system of universal education ...

"It is our intention that the Government should, through the grant-in-aid vote, continue to bear the major share of financial responsibility for education, but some readjustment of this responsibility will be necessary if the local communities are to make a fair contribution towards the growing cost of primary education and to relieve central funds of part of the ever-increasing burden. It will be our policy to encourage local financing of primary education by education rates. We propose that ultimately the complete cost of such education should be covered by the combined proceeds of these rates and grants-in-aid, but we wish to leave to the local communities the decision as to whether or not fees should continue to be charged. We look forward, however, to the time when the system of contributions and levies falls into abeyance and the entire local share of the cost of education is borne by the rates, thus bringing us well within sight of our ultimate goal of universal education."

(Mr. Field, Special Representative)

That is a policy based on what seems to the Southern Cameroons Government to be practicable. I confess that I should find it helpful if those who advocate free primary education could at the same time offer some practical suggestion as to how, given the resources available to the Trust Territory, it is to be done.

I think that in passing I should refer to the conclusion reached in paragraph 7 of the UNESCO paper (T/1353) that almost the entire public expenditure on education in the Northern part of the Territory is attributable to local bodies and scarcely any to the central authorities. The information given in the tables in our report on which UNESCO has based this conclusion is, I regret to say, not complete. In fact, during 1956-57 the Northern Regional Government contributed £47,100 towards education in the Northern Cameroons, of which £7,800 was grants to native authorities; £8,000, grants to voluntary agencies; and £31,300, direct governmental expenditure.

I undertook to give the USSR representative some information on the instruction given to children in the Trusteeship System and the sort of questions they were expected to answer. There is no formal syllabus and, having regard to the age of the children and the complexity of the subject, it will be appreciated that the instruction is not very detailed or the questions very searching. An attempt is made to give the children a general idea of the Trusteeship System and of the responsibilities of the Administering Authority both to the Territory and to the United Nations. Examples of questions asked are: "Name two Trust Territories, other than the Cameroons"; "why does the United Nations Visiting Mission visit only the Cameroons and not Nigeria?"; "why does the Commissioner of the Cameroons attend meetings of the Trusteeship Council?". The Principal Education Officer adds: "Children are aware of the right to petition the Council, and some know people who have done it!".

The representative of Haiti has drawn attention to the need for community development. The Southern Cameroons Government is very conscious of the value of progress of this nature. Eighteen thousand pounds is provided in the current estimates to be disbursed as grants to native authorities who are responsible for organizing these schemes. A number of projects have been undertaken, including the building of minor roads, market improvements, improvements to water supplies and the building of incinerators for the disposal of refuse. The grants are not,

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of course, made to reward the communities for their labour but to provide them with the tools and materials they require for carrying out their projects.

Finally, I should like to add a note about broadcasting, to which the representative of Guatemala referred. There is now in the Southern Cameroons a programme unit of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, staffed entirely by Cameroonians, which records material from which programmes are made up for broadcasting to the Cameroons, and also collects material for broadcasting to the rest of Nigeria so as to spread a knowledge of Cameroons affairs. And there is, of course, a Southern Cameroonian representative on the Board of the Corporation. It is the intention of the Corporation to set up a transmitter in the Southern Cameroons, but it has at the moment heavy commitments elsewhere in the Federation and we may have to wait a little while before we get the transmitter.

And now, Mr. President, I should like to thank you and the other members of the Council for the understanding manner in which I have been received here. If one has to undergo an inquisition, one could hardly ask for more kindly inquisitors.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I shall start off with a word about economic, social and educational problems because I want to make clear to the Council that, although I shall be concentrating in this statement on the political and constitutional problems, I do not in any sense underestimate the great importance of ensuring that economic, social and educational development go forward hand in hand with political development, in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement and the United Nations Charter.

The representative of France, whose eloquence has put all of us on our mettle, has said that it would be wrong to assume that we wish to close our eyes to the difficulties which exist and to believe that all is for the best in the best of all possible Cameroons. To believe that all is for the best is to be complacent, and complacency is one of the seven deadly sins in government.

We are gratified by the congratulations which we have received on various aspects of our policy from many delegations, and for the sympathetic understanding which they have shown of what we, in close co-operation with the people of the Territory, are doing. We are delighted, also, that a number of delegations have



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

drawn attention in constructive terms to the chief tasks which remain in front of us in economic, social and educational development.

I feel sure that it will have been appreciated from what the special representative has just said that, while we are proud of what we and the people of the Territory have been able to do in physical circumstances which are not easy, we fully recognize the problems which have to be faced: the problems of expanding education and medical services, of improving roads and water supplies, of increasing the efficiency of agriculture, of producing a larger number of Cameroonians qualified to take higher posts in the civil service -- the last of these problems was specially emphasized by the representative of India, whom we are so delighted to see here in the Council. As the special representative has explained, all these tasks are being vigorously tackled with all the means at our disposal.



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

We have heard references during this debate to the "golden key". I should like to refer to the golden goose -- or the goose which lays the golden egg. And I hope that nothing which is said here will tend to suggest either that this goose should be killed before it has laid or that, in fact, it should not ever be allowed to get out of the egg itself.

We have heard references, by the representative of Burma, to an octopus. I hope that we shall avoid any octopus-like use of economic theories to strangle economic development. In a country like the Cameroons under British administration, it is most necessary that all means of possible development should be used, and it would be a pity if this or that economic theory were to interfere with the use of any of them.

We believe in combining private enterprise with State enterprise -- State enterprise such as the Cameroons Development Corporation -- and it is a source of great encouragement to us that the people of the Cameroons and their leaders believe in the same thing and are giving practical effect to the same thing by their decisions in the economic field.

Indeed, what encourages us more than anything else in our task of helping these people forward is the fruitful and cordial co-operation which exists between the people and their leaders and the overseas officials who are in the Territory to serve the people, and only to serve the people.

The Southern Cameroons Government, with overseas officials in it, at the request of the people themselves, is tackling these problems. In the North we have the Consultative Committee, a committee of the Executive Council of the North, which ensures that the views of the people of the Northern Cameroons are fully felt in the decisions taken by the Northern Regional Government. More and more, future progress will depend on the efforts of the people themselves. We shall help them by every means we can, so long as our responsibilities remain under the Trusteeship Agreement. After they have ceased -- and we can already start talking about this period -- we shall still be ready to give the people of this Territory all the help we can if they desire it.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

May I turn aside for a moment to express the appreciation of my delegation to the representatives of the specialized agencies for the valuable contribution which they have made to the debate. And may I do something which gives me special pleasure, and that is to tell the Council of a communication which I had from the representative of UNESCO. We now know that the request which my Government had made for technical assistance from UNESCO for the Cameroons under British administration, for expert assistance in drawing up plans for an adult literacy campaign, has been approved by UNESCO, and the United Kingdom Government has already been informed of this. We look forward to fruitful co-operation in this matter.

May I now turn to the main theme of what I am going to say: political and constitutional development.

Most delegations have expressed their support for our policy and have shown that they clearly recognize the nature of the problems still to be dealt with -- problems which, as the representative of Italy said the other day, become especially difficult when a country is approaching the goal of the Trusteeship System. I should like to express the appreciation of my delegation for all that has been said.

The debate on the Territory was started by a very learned statement by the representative of Guatemala. I am grateful to him for having gone so carefully into the procedural problems which will affect the popular consultation which will take place in the Northern and Southern Cameroons. I will have some things to say, at a later stage, about what he said.

If I may say so, I was a little disappointed by some of the things that the representatives of Burma and Haiti said about political matters. I hope to be able to persuade them that these remarks were perhaps not entirely justified. But I should like to say that I fully appreciate the spirit in which these remarks were offered and the concern of these delegations for the welfare and best interests of the people of the Territory.

The representative of the USSR questioned us in great detail on constitutional matters. I am most grateful for his interest and I much enjoyed answering his questions. For that reason, I have been searching my mind in the hope of finding something nice to say about his speech. But I fear that I have not been very successful in these efforts. He seemed to me to be using all his efforts and

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energies to squeeze out of the orange of our policy some drops of colonialist original sin. I watched him very closely during his speech, but I did not see one drop fall. I felt, while I was listening to his speech, that, if I myself had been a candidate in some examination in the Soviet Union, I might have got very few marks, because, after all the replies which the special representative and I gave to the Soviet representative on constitutional matters, every conclusion which he expressed in his speech seemed to us to be wrong. The fact that these conclusions of his, in every case, seemed to me to place the worst complexion on British policy -- this fact it would perhaps be more charitable to put down to mere coincidence.

The representative of Burma has questioned the competence of the representatives of the Trust Territory who attended the London Conference to express the views of the mass of the people. I found this very hard to understand. The special representative has already made some reference to this matter but, because of its importance, I should like to say something more.

The parties representing the Southern Cameroons at the Conference were, as the special representative has explained, all those who had very recently won seats in the general election which was conducted in the Southern Cameroons on a very wide franchise. In the case of the Northern Cameroons, as the special representative has said, not only was this part of the Territory specifically represented by a Northern Cameroonian who certainly commands general support in this part of the Trust Territory, but all shades of political opinion in the Northern Trust Territory were represented within the Northern delegation either by the Northern Cameroonian to whom I have just referred or by other Northern delegates from outside the Trust Territory but representing parties which exist inside the Trust Territory. There is no doubt whatsoever that -- to use the phrase of the representative of Burma -- the opinions of the mass of the indigenous inhabitants in the whole Trust Territory were in fact fully represented.

The representative of Burma has regretted that unificationists were not there. If he was suggesting that they should have been there to represent the mass of the population, I cannot understand his view, since, in an election just conducted, they had won less than 2,000 votes in all the seats -- combined --

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

that they had contested. If he was suggesting that they should have been there, irrespective of their popular support, just because they advocated unification, then I would point out that the purpose of the London Conference was not to discuss whether the Cameroons should be part of Nigeria after independence, or what its future should be, but to discuss and settle the various constitutional measures to be taken in Nigeria and the Cameroons. The London Conference should not be confused with the popular consultation about their future which will take place in the Northern and Southern Cameroons.

(Sir Andrew Cohen,  
United Kingdom)

There were also suggestions by the representatives of Haiti and Burma that popular consultation, when it does take place, may be influenced in some way -- perhaps undesirably -- by the Territory's existing connexion with Nigeria or by the financial difficulties of the Southern Cameroons. With regard to the first point, I can only repeat statements from the White Paper, and I quote these statements made by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State said:

"I can state quite categorically that there can be no question of obliging the Cameroons to remain part of an independent Nigeria contrary to her own wishes."

He went on:

"Before Nigeria becomes independent the people of the North and South sectors of the Cameroons would have to say freely what their wishes were as to their own future."

He said further:

"Her Majesty's Government will of course pay the very greatest regard to their views, whatever form they may take."

Nothing in the history of the administration of the country or in the present position will be allowed to interfere with the free expression of their wishes as to the future by the people of the North and the South Cameroons.

Now I come to the representative of Burma's golden key. The golden key to the Bank of England, if such an object indeed exists, has figured quite considerably in our discussions, and I think I must refer to this matter again. When the Secretary of State said that remaining as a Trust Territory under the United Kingdom would not give the Territory the golden key to the Bank of England, he meant no more and no less than he said. He did not, of course, mean -- as the representative of Burma suggested -- that financial assistance would thereby be cut off from the Territory. Let me assure the Council again on that point. He did no doubt mean that the people of the Territory could not assume that the financial assistance which they would get in those circumstances from the United Kingdom would be absolutely unlimited. Well, as I said the other day, it is certainly not unlimited now, and this matter of financial assistance will certainly not be allowed to put pressure on the people of the Southern Cameroons to decide this way or that way.



(Sir Andrew Cohen,  
United Kingdom)

This brings me to another suggestion, either specifically expressed or implied by certain delegations, that we have somehow done wrong in administering the Cameroons up to now with Nigeria. In view of all that has been said in the past in the United Nations, and in view still more of the facts of the case, I have been greatly surprised to hear these suggestions. They were put in their most extreme form by the representative of the Soviet Union. He suggested, as I have heard him suggest before, that under the Trusteeship Agreement we are not under an obligation to administer the British Cameroons as an integral part of Nigeria. We, of course, maintain that we are under that obligation, and it astonishes me that the representative of the Soviet Union should say this. Does he not recall the discussions which took place when the Trusteeship Agreement was being negotiated? I remember them very well because I was present as an adviser to the United Kingdom delegation. I feel that I must quote certain statements which were then made by the representative of the United Kingdom in the Fourth Committee -- statements which I quote in order to make it quite obvious that we, on behalf of the United Kingdom, made it absolutely clear that in accepting Trusteeship for the Cameroons we were accepting it on the understanding that the Cameroons would be administered as an integral part of Nigeria, and that that was the meaning which attached to the phrase "their territory". The quotations which I want to give the Council are as follows. Mr. Thomas, representing the United Kingdom, said:

"Furthermore, it was not the intention that those Territories should be administered as an integral part of the United Kingdom. The Cameroons would be administered as part of Nigeria, and Togoland as part of the Gold Coast. It would be the laws of those Territories which would be applied rather than the laws of the United Kingdom itself".

And again:

"The terms of the mandates for the Cameroons and Togoland under British mandate had deliberately contained instructions to the mandatory to administer them as integral parts of other Territories under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, because this was the only possible way to ensure the progressive development of the territories and was the only practical method of administration."



(Sir Andrew Cohen,  
United Kingdom)

I am perfectly aware that the Soviet Union representative at the time objected to the inclusion of this phrase in the Trusteeship Agreement, although his objection was not as between the reference to Nigeria and "territory" but the reference to "integral part" at all. On what practical considerations he based his objection I am unable to say. There was a great deal of argument at the time, but the fact is that the General Assembly accepted our version on the understanding on which it was put forward, and that was the basis on which we accepted the Trusteeship for this Territory. The Trusteeship Council, as far as I am aware, has always accepted this position ever since, and this of course is the way in which this Territory has always been administered.

Another point which I would make is that whereas, in the case of the Trusteeship Agreements for the Cameroons and British Togoland, this phrase was included, it was not included -- and was deliberately not included -- for Tanganyika because Tanganyika was a large Territory which did not require this arrangement. I can only conclude that the Soviet Union representative is flogging a dead horse -- a horse which is not only dead but buried, and which, I suggest, ought to be forgotten. Indeed, it is a horse which never should have got on to its legs.

Now may I turn to a phrase in what the representative of Burma said? He said, on 17 November, that one thing which did come certainly out of our discussions was

"that the Administering Authority, in its execution of a larger and far-reaching scheme, had already succeeded in the destruction of Cameroonian unity, in the fragmentation of the solid national entity and in the Territory's absorption into the larger Federation of Nigeria".

(T/PV.861. pp 72 and 73)

With all due respect, and on reflection, is such a phrase really a justifiable description of what we have done? Surely not. Can the representative of Burma explain to me how, otherwise than we have done, we could have carried out our obligation under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement to promote the political development of the Trust Territory, given the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and the fact that the General Assembly had accepted that we should administer the Territory as an integral part of Nigeria?

(Sir Andrew Cohen,  
United Kingdom)

Is it really fair to describe us, I do not say as an octopus, but at any rate as a great mill crunching up this small country, when in fact we have been doing what we have been doing with the full authority of the United Nations, and in the realization of our obligation to help these people go forward?

What Cameroonian unity is it that we are said to have destroyed? What solid national entity is it that we are said to have fragmented? I am afraid that these things just do not exist.

Another suggestion which has come forward in the course of the debate is that we have done wrong in not promoting the unity of the Trust Territory itself. What exactly does this unity mean?

Members of the Council are familiar with this map, but none the less I flourish it in my hand because it seems to me that this or any map of the Cameroons under British administration shows that it would be impossible in practical terms to develop unity in a territory like this without some reference to territories alongside it. It seems to me that there is a danger sometimes in our deliberation of excessive emphasis on the theoretical conception of a Trust Territory tending to exclude the real interests of the inhabitants. Trusteeship is not an end; it is very far from being an end. That is one of its great merits. It is a means to an end: to promote the happiness, well-being and progress of that people and their advance to independence or self-government.

Is it really suggested by anybody that these would be promoted by creating an artificial unity of administration and political progress out of the whole of the Trust Territory just as it stands without any relation to neighbouring countries?

May I turn now to a remark made by the representative of Haiti on 18 February. He said: "we must not lose sight of the fact that their boundaries" -- that is the boundaries of the Trust Territory -- "were drawn arbitrarily on the map without taking into account the true interests of the population". I am afraid that I must join issue with this statement, because that is precisely the way in which the boundaries of this Territory were not drawn. The boundaries were in fact drawn on ethnic grounds and precisely because of the true interests of the population, and to put right to a large extent errors which existed before.

(Sir Andrew Cohen,  
United Kingdom)

Let us look at this Territory from the north to the south. What do we find? First of all, south of Lake Chad we find the Dikwa Emirate, an Emirate which comes ultimately under the Shahu of Bornu in Nigeria. Prior to the redrawing of these boundaries after the first World War, the people in the Dikwa Emirate were separated from their rightful place under the Shahu of Bornu in Nigeria. How can it be said in these circumstances that these boundaries were drawn without regard to the interests of the population?

Exactly the same applies farther south in Adamawa, where people who come traditionally under the Lamido of Adamawa were separated and outside his jurisdiction as a result of the previous boundary.

And then one comes to a little area which is in fact entirely surrounded by British Trust Territory and Nigeria -- that area at the south end of the northern part of the Territory which comes within the jurisdiction of the Benue Province. Here again are people -- Kentu, Tigon and Ndoro -- all of whom are closely allied ethnically with the people on the Nigerian side of the frontier.

Now, sir, let us freely admit it -- when one comes to the southern part of the Cameroons the position is not exactly the same, because the people in the southern part of the Cameroons under British administration do not have any greater ethnic connexion, as far as I know, with the Nigerian tribes than with the tribes in the French Cameroons. But here I would say that the boundary between the British and French Cameroons was drawn to cover the interests of the populations on both sides of the line. I believe also that if one examined the history closely, one would find that the people of that area at that time definitely preferred to be with Nigeria. Of course one must recollect that at that time political advance was much more backward and that people were far more concerned with their local tribal affairs than with their larger affiliations.

After World War II, the people of the Southern Cameroons asked to be separated from the eastern region of Nigeria where they had been administered while, of course, remaining within the Federation of Nigeria. Their wishes were met. Even the representative of the Soviet Union has agreed in his speech that they were met. But he has remarked that they were met "only as a result of insistent and determined demands", that is, by the people. Now why is it that when we do something which the representative of the Soviet Union does not like, he criticizes

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

us, and when we do something that he does like, he says that we only do it at the insistent and urgent request of the people, that is that we only do it because we are forced to do it? I have heard this kind of thing before, and it does not seem to me very convincing to believe that countries with these kinds of responsibilities are always in the wrong. Why is it suggested that we are always in the wrong? In any event, I come back to the point.

After the war, some years ago, the Administration of the Southern Cameroons was separated from Eastern Nigeria and a separate Government as part of the Nigerian Federation has been built up in the Southern Cameroons.

My conclusion is that these particular criticisms about our action in relation to the unity of the Territory are not justified. History, I am certain, will record that during the period of the Mandate and of Trusteeship we have given the people of this Trust Territory the best opportunity they could have had of political advance. We have brought them to the stage where they will have the opportunity of freely expressing their wishes as to their future status and when we can be confident that they will approach this crucial choice in a reasonable and responsible manner. Pending that choice, they have been given constitutional arrangements by progressive measures of advance one after the other which suits their interests. Who can doubt that the most natural arrangement from the point of view of the interests of the people concerned is to put people who belong to Bornu with Bornu and people who belong to Adamawa with Adamawa? This is what they have always said they wanted, and this is the way in which they can best advance to the present stage.

Would giving them an independent political or economic personality, as the representative of the Soviet Union has suggested, have met their interests or fulfilled the Trusteeship Agreement better? Obviously not. And obviously it would have been absolutely wrong for the existence of a Trusteeship Agreement to have forced these people out of their association with their natural and ethnic fellows. The people of the Northern part of the Trust Territory have never given any indication that they do not want their destiny to be with Northern Nigeria, and in fact they have always asked for this. I think everyone in this room knows this to be the case. But of course, I repeat, and repeat again, that when the moment comes, they will have an absolutely free choice as to their future. Let no one be in any doubt about that.



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

The position in the Southern Cameroons is, as I have said, different. Here the political opinion is divided -- and widely divided. One of the main groups consisting of two parties the KNC and the KPP wants union with an independent Nigeria. The other, consisting of the KNDP, wants to remain under trusteeship for the time being, leaving their choice as to the future to be made at a later stage. I repeat again that the people of the Southern Cameroons will have an absolutely free choice whether to join with an independent Nigeria or not. Meanwhile, their special status as part of a Trust Territory has been fully recognized by the new constitutional arrangements.

We have heard a number of criticisms of these arrangements, of the details of them at any rate, some from the representative of Burma and some from the representative of the Soviet Union. I need not go into these criticisms in detail because I think they have been fully covered by the special representative who has explained that the House of Chiefs in the Southern Cameroons, the retention of officials in the Southern Cameroons Executive Council and Legislative Assembly were things which have been done at the instance of the representatives of opinion in the Southern Cameroons, not things foisted on the Territory by ourselves, but put in by ourselves at their request.

The suggestion by the representative of the Soviet Union that the reserve power of the Commissioner -- or is it the High Commissioner -- in the Southern Cameroons to intervene where public order or public faith is involved, his suggestion that this destroys the whole arrangement is perhaps one of the most theoretical things that he has said in the course of this debate, if I may use a very modest adjective. This arrangement is a well known one in British Territories and always works smoothly and well, and the occasions when the Commissioner or High Commissioner in fact have to intervene are extremely rare, if nonexistent.

Another argument which the representative of the Soviet Union used was about the division of functions between the Southern Cameroons and the Nigerian Federation, and he read out a long and impressive list of things which the Southern Cameroons Government would not deal with. It surprises me that this should be done because every federation in the world has these arrangements, and I should be very interested to know what the length of a list of subjects not dealt with, for example, by the State Governments in this country would be

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United  
Kingdom)

or possibly subjects not dealt with by the governments of the various component parts of the Soviet Union. There is nothing extraordinary about this. Of course, in a federal arrangement the federal government does one thing and the state governments others. But what the Soviet representative did not say at any stage was that the Southern Cameroons will have due representation according to its population, as it already has in the Federal Government, in the Federal Assembly itself. Also, incidentally, it has representation, especially provided representation, minimal representation in the Federal Government. He did not refer to the Senate where the Southern Cameroons will have the same number of members as each of the regions of Nigeria, although its population is less than a million; each of the regions of Nigeria runs into several or many millions.

There is one other point to which I must refer in the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union. He started off his speech with a reference to target dates, final date for independence of the Territory, and he said that we as the Administering Authority had done wrong because we had not complied with the various resolutions of the General Assembly for the fixing of target dates. This again I suggest demonstrates the highly theoretical character of the approach of the delegation of the Soviet Union. Is it not appreciated that of the two main groups of opinion in the Southern Cameroons, one has stated its policy to be that the Southern Cameroons should remain under trusteeship for the time being. I refer to the Kamerun National Democratic Party. They have not set any date for independence although of course they want to proceed to independence as rapidly as possible.

In this whole process of helping the people of Nigeria and the Cameroons to independence, we are working with the leaders of the people, in close consultation with them, and we are in fact settling each step in conference with them. Now, given this fact and given the view of the KNDP, could we now set a firm date for independence? Also, at the same time, surely everybody knows that the setting of a date is in fact quite unnecessary. We have amply demonstrated our good intentions. We have in fact set in motion the machinery which will bring Nigeria to independence. As my friend the representative of the United States said so eloquently the other day, we have said that before



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United  
Kingdom)

Nigerian independence takes place, the people of the Cameroons will have the opportunity freely to express their wishes on the future. In these circumstances, I am not prepared to pass silently any suggestion that we are in default in this respect. We are manifestly not in default, and this is shown in fact by the two recommendations made by the Trusteeship Council at its two last sessions on this subject, which I will quote. First of all, I will quote from the report covering the period from July 1955 to August 1956. I shall quote from the recommendation in the passage in the report dealing with the establishment of intermediate target dates and final time-limit for the attainment of self-government or independence:

"The Council draws the attention of the General Assembly to the situation as outlined above.

"The Council expresses the hope that the result of the constitutional conference will throw light on the attainment by the Territory of the final objective of trusteeship and such steps as may be required to achieve it;

"The Council invites the Administering Authority, when it submits its next annual report, to inform the Council of the results of the constitutional conference as affecting the Trust Territory, including possible proposals concerning the future of the Territory, and of its consideration of the Council's recommendation." (A/3170, p. 150)

Now the next session of 1957 was held after there had been some unavoidable delay in the constitutional conference, not through any fault of ours really -- and here I need only quote this:

"Noting that the representative conference, which was originally scheduled to take place in September 1956, will be held in May 1957, the Council reaffirms the conclusions and recommendations adopted by it at its seventeenth session." (A/3595, p. 121)

There was nothing said there about the actual fixing of a date, and now we know that a substantial step forward on the road has been taken, and no one need have any ground for alarm.

May I now turn to the very interesting statement with which the representative of Guatemala opened this debate. He devoted a substantial portion of his statement on Monday to the question of the popular consultation which is to take place in the Territory, and in particular to the timing of the arrangements for this consultation.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

He began this part of his statement by making certain deductions about the date of independence for Nigeria based on his reading of the report of the Conference. On this point I cannot do better than repeat what was accepted by the Secretary of State as recorded in this report, and I must make a fairly substantial quotation:

"I understand that it is proposed that some time about January, 1960, the new Nigerian Parliament will debate a resolution asking Her Majesty's Government to agree to full self-government within the Commonwealth by a date in 1960 which will have been mentioned in the resolution. In any case the constitutional machinery would take time and you would no doubt bear this very much in mind in coming to a conclusion as to what date you should ask for. It might therefore be, as many of you have urged, a good thing for there to be some informal consultation with us as to what sort of date was realistic. On receipt of your resolution, Her Majesty's Government will consider it with sympathy and will then be prepared to fix a date when they would accede to the request. We could not at this stage give any undertaking that the date would be the same date as asked for in the resolution, though we would do our utmost to meet the resolution in a reasonable and practicable manner."

This, if I may so, is a statement which no member of the Council should regard as unreasonable. It is also a statement which I am quite sure is well understood in Nigeria and the Cameroons itself, and that I venture to suggest is the most important thing of all.

I do not propose to comment in detail on the possible timetables which might be followed in the United Nations for the arrangements for the popular consultation in the Cameroons under British administration. The time for that will, as I said earlier, come later. But I might mention -- and I think the representative of Guatemala will probably agree with me in this -- that I do not consider that the alternative courses he mentioned are the only possible ones. Of course, I agree with him when he concludes that the Administering Authority should inform the Council as soon as possible about its plans. I interpret the term "as soon as possible" as meaning as soon as we are in a position to do so. And I can assure the Council that we shall do this as soon as we are in a position to do so.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

The representative of Guatemala raised one other point of considerable interest. He suggested that the popular consultation to take place in the Cameroons under British administration should be at the same time as that in the Cameroons under French administration. Any question affecting the Cameroons under French administration is not of course, obviously, a matter for my delegation. But I would, with great respect, suggest to my friend from Guatemala that his apparently simple procedural question embraces issues of a complex nature and presupposes the existence of conditions which cannot necessarily be taken for granted at this time. However, these, I venture to suggest, are questions which can no doubt be examined on a later occasion.

I would like to end up these remarks on political and constitutional problems on a rather more full-blooded note. I have appreciated the support for our policies which most delegations have expressed. To those who have expressed some doubts about the future, and particularly to the delegations of Burma and Haiti, I would say the following. I will speak first about Nigeria, with which the Cameroons is now associated in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement.

Political developments in Nigeria, including the London Conference, during the last twelve months give grounds, in my view, not for disappointment and doubt but for happiness and confidence. A sense of unity of purpose has unmistakably emerged in all parts of the Nigerian Federation with regard to the future of the Federation. A representative government has been established under the leadership of a Nigerian Prime Minister, a man greatly respected in all parts of Nigeria and outside it, and a man who has long been associated with the political progress of the country as a whole. The London Conference succeeded in dealing with highly complex and potentially very controversial issues -- controversial not so much between the Nigerian and Cameroonian leaders and Britain, but as between public opinion in different parts of Nigeria and the Cameroons. Where these questions could not be settled at the Conference, a procedure was established for settling them afterwards with the help of expert and impartial advice.

There is, I believe, a spirit of great confidence about the future in Nigeria itself, and since we in this Council are concerned with the affairs of

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, which is now part of the Nigerian Federation, we can rejoice in this fact. I myself am particularly proud to have sitting with me today three Nigerians who, with a number of others in different places, are in training for the Nigerian Foreign Service of the future. They, I suggest, represent a concrete sign here of our confidence in the future and the confidence in the future which is felt in Nigeria and the Cameroons themselves.

As I said in my opening statement, the Cameroons under British administration have shared in the most recent constitutional evolution of the Federation of Nigeria fully in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations. The conditions have thus been created in which the people of the Northern and Southern parts of the Trust Territory will at the appropriate moment be able to choose whether they wish to continue in association with an independent Nigeria or not. Let me assure this Council once again that they will be able to express their wishes freely and without any kind of pressure.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I shall be very brief. I do not intend to enter into a controversy now and to renew the debate. The representative of the United Kingdom has said that he found nothing pleasant in the statement which was made here by the representative of the Soviet Union. I must say, in this connexion, that the Soviet delegation did not pursue such a purpose. It did not intend to say anything agreeable to the representative of the United Kingdom. If the representative of the United Kingdom desires this very much, then I can do this, with pleasure, but outside the premises of the Trusteeship Council. I can do it only unofficially.

My delegation made its statement in the interest of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory and its aim was to state frankly what we think of the existing situation in the Trust Territory and of the tasks which in our opinion

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

are before the population of the Trust Territory. The representative of the United Kingdom also said that he disagreed with the conclusions which we had drawn in our statement. I believe that the representative of the United Kingdom did not expect that the Soviet representative would draw conclusions from his point of view, and not from the point of view of the delegation of the Soviet Union, as regard colonial questions.

I have two more observations. The representative of the United Kingdom made a very colourful statement in respect of a dead and buried horse which, allegedly, the representative of the Soviet Union was riding. I must tell him that if someone was riding a dead horse, it was the Colonial Secretary of the United Kingdom, who recently made a statement on this question at the London Conference. I merely made an observation in connexion with that statement of the Colonial Secretary of the United Kingdom.

In connexion with the quotations which were used by the representative of the United Kingdom as regards the point of view of the United Kingdom delegation in respect of whether the Trust Territory should be administered as an integral part of Nigeria or not, those quotations merely indicate the point of view of the United Kingdom delegation.



(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

But it is well known that there is also a Trusteeship Agreement which was confirmed by the General Assembly and in that Trusteeship Agreement there is no reference whatsoever to Nigeria.

The representative of the United Kingdom has made a comparison as regards the division of power of authority between the Federal Government and the Government of the component parts of the federation. All I can say in this connexion is that if the representative of the United Kingdom were better familiar with this question as regards the situation existing in various federal States, and if he knew the conditions in which such federal Governments came into being, then he would not make a comparison with this situation prevailing in the Camercons under British administration. I will merely refer to the fact that in the very statement of the Administering Authority we were told that they plan only to consult the population of the Trust Territory on whether it wishes to become a part of the Federation of Nigeria.

U TIN MAUNG (Burma): I shall not take a minute. I do not intend at this late stage to reopen the general debate, as I can be counted among those who really believe that a good case will stand on its merits, and therefore need not be defended twice. Of course, the United Kingdom representative has presented only his point of view, and we are also entitled to our points of view.

My delegation has carefully studied the issues which have been before the Council since last week. Its participation in the debate and our comments on the replies of the representatives of the Administering Authority, who naturally try their best to put in the best light the conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, are motivated by no other consideration than that as a member of the Trusteeship Council we feel obliged to discharge our duty without overlooking the fact that the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the people of the Trust Territory and the destiny of their country are paramount and should therefore receive not only our closest attention but also our sympathetic consideration.

We have done our duty. The records of the meetings of the Council and also all the important documentation, are there for all those who wish to see and study them. I trust that the Drafting Committee which will soon be appointed

(U Tin Maung, Burma)

will not fail to take into account all the views of the members of the Council. Since adding fuel to the fire is not my favourite pastime and serves no useful purpose, but will only prolong the intensity and enlarge the scope of the conflagration, I shall be happy to confine myself to these few remarks.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I shall not keep the Council a moment. I just want to correct one thing in what the representative of the Soviet Union said, which may have been due to an inaccuracy in interpretation. I did not say that I found nothing pleasant in the speech of the representative of the Soviet Union. I said I could find nothing pleasant to say about the speech -- which is slightly different. Of course, I know that the representative of the Soviet Union will express his views just as I express mine. But the hope which I had, and still have, is that where questions of fact are involved or questions of deduction from certain facts, sometimes one may succeed in this Council in persuading people that their point of view is not the correct one; perhaps, sometimes, I may suffer this fate myself.

If I may address a word to what has been said by the representative of Burma, I ask him only one thing: to look very carefully again at what I have said this afternoon. Of course I understand the spirit of interest in the people of the Territory with which he and his delegation invariably approach these problems.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I think that we have now concluded this stage of our consideration of the conditions in the Territory. I think also that the Council will agree with me if, on behalf of the Council, I thank the representative of the Administering Authority as well as the special representative for the co-operation which they have brought to the Council in the consideration of this Territory. They have very conscientiously prepared their statements, and this, I am sure, evidences a spirit of respect for the Council and the various opinions voiced in the Council.

Appointment of the Drafting Committee

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Council should now designate the Drafting Committee on this Territory. I take the liberty of suggesting as members of the Drafting Committee the delegations of Australia, Belgium, India and the Soviet Union.

It was so decided.

Mr. KIANG (China): I wish to place on record my delegation's reservations with respect to the membership of the Drafting Committee which you, Mr. President, have just appointed. You may notice, Mr. President, that I did not raise the point when you made the announcement; I did it afterwards. It is simply because it would be contrary to the tradition and earlier practice of this Council that the membership of the Drafting Committee should be subject to a separate vote, and that such a request on the part of any member of this Council would be taken to mean that we lacked confidence in the President of the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The statement of the representative of China will appear in the record. I should like to give a clarification. The Drafting Committee was not designated by the President; the President suggested the membership of the Drafting Committee and the Council gave its assent, since no objection was raised.

We have now concluded our consideration of this item.

## AGENDA ITEMS 4d and 5

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

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1956 (T/1351, 1354, 1363;  
T/L.813)

(b) PETITIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/L.813; T/PET.4 and 5/11;  
T/PET.4 and 4/L.15, 16, 17 and Add.1 and 2; T/COM.4 and 5/L.2; T/PET.5/L.416,  
417, 430 to 432, 434 to 451)

Political advancement (continued)

Mr. KELLY (Australia): My questions will refer principally to certain paragraphs in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.813). I should initially like to refer to paragraph 6 of that working paper and to the observations made yesterday by the special representative concerning registration in the electoral registers. I should like to ask the special representative whether all persons eligible for registration in the Cameroons under French administration are in fact now registered. In short, can one conclude that there is an enrolment or registration of 100 per cent?

*elector*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that we can consider that almost all the voters are really registered voters on the electoral rolls subject to some errors due to residence or illness. I must recall to the representative of Australia that the number of registered voters is very high -- between 1.6 million and 1.9 million. I believe we may consider that all the individuals who are eligible to register have registered with the exception of the few cases I have mentioned.

N. c. Mr. KELLY (Australia): My next question relates to paragraph 19 of the working paper (T/L.813). I should like to ask the special representative whether he has any observation to offer on the persistence or otherwise of separatist tendencies in the northern province. In other words, have the inhabitants of the northern province by and large an increasing loyalty to and sense of integration with the Cameroons under French administration?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): As I said yesterday, I believe, in reply to questions put by two representatives, there is no northern province at the present time because the Cameroonian Government and the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons did not follow the procedure which would allow any Cameroonian law to be passed establishing such a northern province or any province.

I might read something out here, namely, the motion presented on behalf of the Cameroonian Union Group. I referred to this motion yesterday, but I did not read it out. It was made by Deputy Mohammed Lamine who is the President of the Group. This motion will give to the representative of Australia the exact opinion of the Northern representatives. It is as follows:

"The Cameroonian Union Group,

"Reaffirming its deep attachment to the principle of the establishment of a northern province endowed with a deliberative organ to manage the affairs of the population;

"Notes, nevertheless, that we must not burden the functioning of institutions when they are first established;

"Considers that the installation of the provincial organ will involve heavy expenditures which the financial status of the Territory cannot bear



(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

without having recourse to new taxation which the people in the North cannot really undertake;

"Invites the Government to postpone for four years the application of articles 32 to 38 of chapter III of the Statute of the Cameroons."

These were the articles concerning provincial regimes. This motion was presented by the Northern representatives and was adopted unanimously by the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons on 14 December 1957. It stated that the establishment of the northern province which had been requested by the Assembly upon the motion of the Northern representatives was postponed for four years upon the suggestion of these very Northern representatives.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): My next question relates to a statement made by the special representative in his opening address. I should like to ask him whether the mayors of the sixty-eight urban or rural communes are elected or appointed, and, if appointed, by whom. *Mayon*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The mayors of the urban communities are elected by the Municipal Councils in accordance with the provisions of the Law of 1884 which governs the municipal system in France and the Law of 19 November 1955 which governs the practices in Overseas France and is very similar to the French provisions. The mayors of other communities are appointed.

In some cases, the Municipal Councils are elected. There are no longer in existence any appointed Municipal Councils except in the two mixed communities of the North Cameroons. In all the other communities, the Councils are elected. The mayors are appointed, sometimes from among the officials. They may be the chiefs of subdivisions or their deputies. Almost always they are Cameroonians. Sometimes they may be local notables or Cameroonian officials or chiefs. In other words, there are many who are eligible for appointment as mayor of rural or urban communities.

UPC

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I should like to call the attention of the special representative to paragraph 22 of document T/L.813. I do so because the sequence of the last two sentences in that paragraph may give rise to a possibly incorrect impression in certain quarters. Is it a fact that the UPC was not dissolved simply for making the demands set out in the final sentence of the paragraph in question?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): When I read this document, I did notice the curious drafting in paragraph 22. I thank the representative of Australia for drawing the Council's attention to this point. It seems that there is some connexion between the dissolution of the UPC by the Administering Authority by the decree of 13 July 1955 and the demands made by the UPC for unification and independence. This is not the case. The UPC and its affiliates were dissolved by the decree of 13 July 1955 not because they asked for independence and unification but by virtue of the Law of January 1933, which is in force in France and also in the Cameroons, because they had resorted to violence systematically so as to force themselves into power.

ref from

Mr. KELLY (Australia): With reference to paragraph 26 of the same document, I should like to ask the special representative whether he is in a position to give us the number of petitions received by the Secretariat -- in the first place, pertaining to the total number of persons consistently supporting all the activities of the UPC; and, in the second place, pertaining to the total number of persons voting for other political groupings.

I might put it another way and ask if the 6,000 petitions are, on the whole, the result of an intensive drive on the part of one political grouping, as document T/L.813 seems to imply, or, on the other hand, are they an accurate reflection of general trends of political opinion in some limited part of the Territory such as Sanaga-Maritime?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I do not have before me -- but I could find it -- one of the documents which we are now studying which describes a certain number of petitions dealing with problems of a general nature. I do not know whether it is No. 4, No. 5 or No. 17. I can check it. That document shows very clearly that the majority of the petitions received are simply mimeographed sheets on which the names of the villages have been left blank and spaces have also been provided for signatures. Therefore, I believe that there is no doubt that there is no connexion between the number of petitions received and the actual currents of public opinion.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

I think there must be factories which manufacture petitions. Most of them are in the British Cameroons -- we note this from the addresses given by the petitioners themselves. We always find four or five addresses the same which are given as those of the petitioners. It is quite easy for anyone to put a number of names of places or of individuals, of this or that region, on a sheet of paper and to manufacture a petition which will affirm no matter what. Very often these petitions mix up the names of places and persons and often confuse the state of affairs. They attribute to the Administration murders which have been committed by brigands and, in general, there is a great deal of fantasy in these petitions. If there is not actual fantasy, then we find unfounded allegations and accusations.

To sum up my answer to the representative of Australia, I might say that there is no connexion whatever between the number of petitions which reach the Secretariat of the United Nations and the intensity of public opinion in the Territory.

*Res. of the G.A.*  
Mr. KELLY (Australia): I should now like to refer to paragraph 29 of the working paper, which paragraph contains a reference to two telegrams sent by the former Prime Minister of the Cameroons with reference to the action taken by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, at its last session, to grant a hearing to certain Cameroonians. I should like to know from the special representative whether the new Prime Minister of the Cameroons would concur in the views expressed by his predecessor in this respect.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I shall begin my reply by saying that the new Prime Minister of the Cameroons was formerly the Vice-Prime Minister. With regard to the protest of Mr. Mbida against the decision taken by the General Assembly, the explanation, which is very simple, is the following. The protest was against the hearings granted and also against the resolution.

It is very difficult, as we all know, for anyone who is not accustomed to the procedure of the United Nations and who does not understand the rather curious language which is sometimes used at the United Nations, to understand, without further direct information, what goes on in the Organization,

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and it cannot be denied in the present case that Prime Minister Mbida was shocked to know that a hearing had been granted to petitioners whom he considered directly responsible for murders and to read in the resolution the phrase "the renunciation of the use of violence by all political parties", because he felt that one single party, namely, the UPC, was responsible for the violence. That is why he reacted as he did. It is easy to understand this because he had not directly followed the debates and had not really understood the procedure followed in granting the oral hearings. Later he received some explanation as to what went on.

Mr. KELLY (Australia); My final questions consists of two parts. I should like to know whether the special representative would concur in the view expressed in certain areas that the persistence of terrorism in a small section of the territory is to be interpreted, in part at all events, as an effort to intimidate the United Nations. Secondly, is it possible to conclude that the terrorists in the territory have derived comfort or encouragement from attitudes publicly adopted or decisions taken in the United Nations? In this context I should like to add that, together with the representative of India, I deplore the shedding of a single drop of Cameroonian blood and deplore the continuance of fratricidal strife among the Cameroonian people. I would hope that all the peoples of the Cameroons would endorse the view that resort to violence is completely out of place in a Trust Territory whose well-being is the object and constant care of this Council and of the General Assembly.

*peace & fear*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative): interpretation from French): There is no doubt that one of the aims of the activities in a certain area of the Territory by groups of bandits is to impress the United Nations. This is clearly shown in a number of documents which have been issued by these persons.

I might add that certain positions which were taken by the United Nations have undoubtedly encouraged the continuation of these terrorists activities referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union. We have, for instance, found documents indicating that the granting of a hearing to Mounier Félix by the Fourth Committee was interpreted -- or at least there was a tendency on



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the part of certain leaders of these bands to interpret it as a disavowal of the dissolution of the UPC ordered by the Administering Authority, which was recorded by the Council and by the General Assembly when it approved the report of the Administering Authority. It was alleged that the United Nations was giving moral support to those who, in the Cameroons, were continuing their enterprise of imposing through violence their ideas and who were seeking to impose themselves, through violence, as the ruling group.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Many questions have been put to the special representative and the representative of France. They will therefore not be surprised if my delegation finds it necessary to revert to some points on which other delegations have put questions.

In the first place, I wish to associate my delegation with certain questions just put by the representative of Australia, particularly those concerning an organized movement of petitions and the repercussions which this movement has had on the internal politics of the Cameroons.

~~Through my first question I should like to obtain~~ some clarification of a subject on which questions were put yesterday -- that is, the interpretation of the amnesty law. I have the impression that some confusion has arisen with regard to the meaning to be given to this political decision of the Administering Authority. Thus, I would ask the representative of France and the special representative whether the following interpretation of the amnesty law is the correct one.

The amnesty relates to infractions of a certain nature committed at a certain time. Those who were condemned for these infractions have their sentences removed from their record through the amnesty. Furthermore, the amnesty removes the possibility of sentencing other persons who committed these particular infractions of the law at the time in question. The fact that, in order to obtain the amnesty, the sentenced persons must present a request is only a procedural matter. In presenting the request, the sentenced persons undertake no obligations for the future; and, for its part, the State in granting the amnesty in no way amends its legislation concerning public order. The acts which are the subject of the amnesty remain acts whose commission may lead to judicial sanctions. Indeed, respect for laws and for public order is not a question that can be negotiated between the State and its citizens. The amnesty is a unilateral decision of the sovereign and, by its very nature, no conditions can be set by those benefiting from it.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

Now, if the future behaviour of the persons who have been amnestied runs counter to the legislation then in force, that behaviour will be judged by the courts in the ordinary way, with no reference whatever to any obligation undertaken through the granting of the amnesty.


Could the special representative or the representative of France tell me whether that interpretation is correct?

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Belgium for his question and for his legal interpretation, which is absolutely correct. I shall sum up the essential points.

In the first place, the request for an amnesty raises no condition of substance. The request is a purely formal act, and no conditions are demanded from the person presenting it.

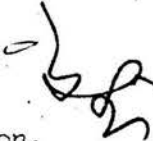
In the second place -- and this point is equally important -- the person who is amnestied becomes a citizen by that very fact. But, as a citizen, he is subject to the laws of his country. Hence, if he steals or commits another crime, he comes under the jurisdiction of the law of the land, and he is prosecuted for that theft or crime. Indeed, that new act which he has committed has nothing to do with the amnesty.

I have made those remarks merely to confirm the interpretation given by the representative of Belgium.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The next question concerns the implementation of the Statute of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons. Article 11, paragraph 1, provides that the Legislative Assembly has the initiative for expenditures and is responsible for administrative decisions. Article 27 of the Statute provides, on the other hand, that, within the limitations of the budget, the Prime Minister sees to it that laws are implemented, he organizes the administrative services, and so forth. I wish to touch upon this question. 

My first observation is that therefore the passage in Article 45 of the report of the Administering Authority which provides that the Assembly may not create new posts is no longer relevant in view of recent developments.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Prime Minister does execute the laws and he organizes the public services within the limits of the budgetary provisions, that is, within the limits of the budget as voted by the Legislative Assembly. However, this is one of the provisions which do not appear in the Statute. It appears in the organic law, to which I referred yesterday in reply to various questions. This cannot present new requests for expenditures without presenting at the same time suggestions either for transfers from other chapters in the budget or for new income. This is what we call the loi des maxima. Therefore, if new administrative posts are to be created, the Administration will also have to present some new income or else do away with expenditures in other parts of the budget.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): In the organization as it results from the Statute, it seems to me that the principal hub of the administrative organization is the subdivision and the circonscription. The chef de circonscription is the key man. In particular, he is responsible for the budget of the circonscription and he is responsible for the general services and for all the services in the Cameroonian State. 

Article 54 of the Statute specifies how these District Administrative Officers are appointed. The Statute says that they are appointed by the High Commissioner after agreement with the Prime Minister. Could the special

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

representative tell me whether, as regards these appointments, the Cameroonian Government, represented by its Prime Minister, has the power to take the initiative?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The text of Article 54, paragraph 1, as drafted, reserves the power of initiative to the High Commissioner, because it says "appointed by the High Commissioner after agreement with the Prime Minister". That is to say, he must get the approval of the Prime Minister. But I believe that in practice this has been somewhat different occasionally and that, most of the time, the Prime Minister suggests to the High Commissioner that this or the other official ought to be appointed to this or the other post, and I think that very often there is really an out-and-out agreement between the Prime Minister and the High Commissioner before the appointment is made.

*municipal*  
Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I thank the special representative for his most interesting replies, which indicate that there is flexibility which is developing in a way which is most favourable to the development of the Territory.

My next question pertains to the communes, the municipal organization. In the organization of the mixed rural communes, we are told in the annual report that the municipal councils are differently composed. In some circonscriptions, the citizens, under the common law, may become members. Could the special representative tell us who these deputies are and whether some seats in certain districts are reserved, or whether a considerable number of seats is reserved for them in certain districts?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): This is a provision which was introduced into the communal legislation concerning the first mixed rural communes, dating from 1952 -- that is to say, a time when the double electoral college existed in the Territory. We did not wish to transplant the modalities of the double college down to the municipal level. Rather, we



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adopted this compromise formula, which consisted of reserving seats for citizens of common law status -- that is to say, Europeans or those originating from French West Africa, and so forth -- to have seats reserved for them in the municipal councils, but the elections to these seats should be done by the whole of the electoral body, that is to say, by all the citizens registered in the first or second college.

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In practice such reserved seats existed only in the case of urban or district councils where there were a number of citizens of common law status -- just one or two seats out of a total of fifteen or twenty. This was a provision which was not renewed later when we set up a whole series of such rural communes in the Bamileké region. As I say, it was put into force only in the first mixed rural commune.

*Chief*  
Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I thank the special representative for that reply, and I conclude from it that the provision in question is one that is almost obsolete and which will not last.

My second question pertains to the presence of chiefs in the municipal rural councils. I gather that a certain number of seats in those councils -- one-third or one-quarter -- are reserved for chiefs who are elected by their peers. Am I right in assuming that as far as the elections are concerned the chiefs are not members of the electoral body, and that a special electoral body is organized -- in other words, that they are an entity apart? Do these chiefs have certain privileges only so far as concerns their eligibility -- their right to be elected -- or are they treated as voters or individuals to be elected on the same footing as others?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): In the communes for which these provisions exist -- and I would point out that there are notable regional differences -- the first degree chiefs form a separate electoral college apart from the mass of voters, and they can be elected only by that restricted electoral college.

*Council of notables*  
Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My last question pertains to the councils of notables. The annual report tell us on page 50 that the council of notables is considered as representing an intermediate stage in the development of the municipal rural council. Apparently it is to disappear when those municipal rural councils begin to function. On the other hand, it is stated on the same page of the report that in the areas where mixed communes have been introduced the councils of notables have lost their importance. Thus, they seem still to exist. If this is so, I should like to know what will be their role in future, since it does seem that the functions which they were normally charged

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with fulfilling -- namely, studying financial, economic and social questions, providing information on the resources and needs of the circonscriptions and expressing the wishes of the population -- have passed to the municipal councils. I would like the special representative to give the Council some explanation of the continuance of these councils of notables in the mixed communes, and to say what are the reasons for which, in each of these zones, the councils of notables are still in existence.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is true that in those zones where there are rural communes -- that is to say, throughout the whole of the south of the Cameroons -- the councils of notables have lost a great deal of their importance. However, they may continue to have some importance because they exist on a regional scale whereas the regional communes exist only on the subdivision level. It rarely happens that the chief of a region in the south consults a council of notables, but sometimes there are tribal problems which come up and then such contact is made. In the north, where we do not have these rural communes and where there are only two mixed urban councils, the councils of notables have become even more important than they were previously. They are frequently convened for the purpose of giving their opinion and their consent in connexion with regional affairs.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to put a few questions to the special representative, and in advance I wish, on behalf of my delegation, to pay tribute to him for his tact and patience, which have made the Council's task easier.

My first group of questions deals with the civil service. In the special representative's opening statement mention was made of the law of 1957 governing the civil service in the Cameroons. Could he tell us whether the appointment of Cameroonian civil servants is subject, in one way or another, to the previous approval of the High Commissioner?

*Shaf*

Mr. DINEAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):

The question put to me by the representative of Haiti in fact concerns two different problems. The first problem relates to the law of 20 December 1957 which provided for the separation of the Cameroonian civil service from that of metropolitan France. The second problem is that of the appointment of Cameroonian civil servants. Actually, I did not deal with this point in my opening statement, but the law of 20 December 1957 was not a statute for the Cameroonian civil service. It was only a first step towards the introduction of such a statute -- the step which separated the Cameroonian civil service from the metropolitan civil service in the matter of the method of remuneration of the civil servants which became independent and no longer linked to the method of remuneration provided by French law. I say that this was a first step because, when this law was voted, the Government undertook to submit, within an appropriately brief period, the draft of another law on the appointment and recruitment of Cameroonian civil servants which would complete the separation of the Cameroonian civil service from the metropolitan civil service. But in the law to which I have referred there were no provisions concerning the civil service in general.

As for the second problem, the High Commissioner has the right to pass upon the appointment of officials of the Cameroonian Government service by virtue of his powers which are defined in article 48 of the statute, where we read:

"Accordingly, all Cameroons legislation and regulations and the administrative instruments of the Cameroonian Government shall be communicated to the High Commissioner before their promulgation by the Prime Minister, their publication or their entry into effect." (T/1314, p.16)

The appointment of an official, whoever he may be, is an administrative act and, as such, must therefore be submitted to the High Commissioner. In practice, the High Commissioner has not availed himself of this power. It is a power which he may exercise but which, in agreement with the Cameroonian Government, he has not exercised. He does not insist upon being informed of individual administrative actions -- that is to say, of decisions with regard to appointments.

Thus we have a situation, in practice, where the application of the statute is more liberal than its letter. We have already had several instances of this kind in connexion with the practical application of the statute. Thus the Cameroons alone has the initiative and is responsible for the application of its decisions with regard to personnel.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): By virtue of the Decree of 16 April 1957 setting forth the Statute of the Cameroons, the Administration reserved to itself certain sovereign powers. Does the Administration consider this domaine as being exclusively reserved to itself -- in other words, whether the Cameroons Government has no right to look into the nomination or designation of officials of its civil service.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Cameroons Government in principle has no right of review of the appointment of the personnel in the service of the French Republic. Here again we have a practice which may be somewhat different from the theory. In fact, when it is decided to send an official to the Cameroons, the Government takes note of it and sometimes objects to the actual appointment of the official. It has also happened that the Cameroons Government has made known not only to the High Commissioner but also to the Metropolitan authorities its views or feelings on the expediency of maintaining in the Cameroons officials who were in the service which came directly under the French Republic. But this is a practice, it is not a right.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask for some clarification as to the future organization. In reply to a question put by the representative of Guatemala, the special representative told us that the public security forces were mainly comprised of Cameroonianians. Could the special representative tell us whether the Administration is training these forces so that they will be able to be responsible for the security of the Territory when it is fully independent.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Cameroons forces, as distinct from the forces of the French army, are the Cameroonian guards. These guards come under the High Commissioner and are responsible for the maintenance of order. Then there are also forces which come directly under the Cameroons Government. There is no special training of these two forces. The police forces are municipal forces which are used in the major urban centres. It is difficult for me to give a precise reply to the



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question of the representative of Haiti, because no official decision has yet been taken by the French Government or by the Government of the Cameroons as regards the future of these forces. I might tell the representative of Haiti that in practice a certain number of men of the Cameroons forces have received special training courses within the guards. They are also trained within the forces controlled by the Cameroons Government.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Am I to understand that at the present time there are no Cameroonian officers or non-commissioned officers in these forces?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): At this time there are no Cameroonian officers in the Cameroons forces. We wish to correct this situation by introducing special courses for certain non-commissioned officers who have distinguished themselves or who are promotion material.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to put a few questions concerning the amnesty law. I regret that I do not have the text of the amnesty law before me. From the summary analysis given at our last meeting by the representative of France, I believe that this amnesty covers offences committed in the Territory during the month of May 1955 up to 2 January 1956. Could the special representative tell us whether this law covers all political offences which occurred in the Territory during that period or whether the law lists the offences which will be covered? Could he also tell us whether the leaders of the former UPC can benefit from the provisions of the amnesty law? I speak of those leaders who are in exile or who are in the maquis.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The law covers offences committed during the events of May 1955 or during the incidents which preceded them, and the offences committed during or in connexion with the electoral campaign before 2 January 1956. They are covered by the

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law on freedom of the press. Now that is a limitation. In order to have the benefit of the amnesty, the offence must fall into one of three categories: it must have been committed in May 1955, it must have been committed in connexion with the labour conflict or the electoral campaign, or it must have been connected with the violation of the law on the press. In other words, all political offences are not covered.

As regards the leaders of the UFC, a special examination of each case will be necessary, and such an examination will be made in each case. After the movement was dissolved, some members remained in the Cameroons and others left for the British Cameroons. Some leaders of the UFC may benefit from the amnesty law, while others may not. To cite an example, I believe that Kingue Abel, who is now in Egypt and who was sentenced to twenty years at forced labour -- his was the highest penalty -- for complicity in an assassination, will not receive any benefit of the amnesty law. Another former leader of the UPC who is now a refugee in Egypt or in the Sudan, Ouandie Ernest, received a sentence for minor offences. He could receive the benefit of the amnesty law if he applied for it.

I apologize to the representative of Haiti, but I cannot give him more precise information on all the leaders of the UPC. I just spoke of political or similar offences, but perhaps this is not the right term. There is no real political offence. They are only mistakes or violations which were committed for political motives. Properly speaking, there are no political offences. On the other hand, the amnesty applies to all those who were sentenced to less than twenty years of forced labour, which covers the majority of offences and even of crimes. These provisions in practice exclude only offences involving assassinations.

UPC  
Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Since we are talking about the UPC now and since the Administration holds them responsible for disturbances there, could the special representative tell us whether, as far he knows, there exists any acts or official texts of the UPC which call for violence to be committed?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French):  
First of all, I wish to clarify a point. It is not the Administering Authority which holds the UPC responsible for the disturbances which are taking place in the Cameroons; it is public opinion, all of public opinion in the Cameroons. I do not have before me -- but if the representative of Haiti is interested I could show them to him -- the declarations of the responsible personalities of the Government of the Cameroons concerning the causes and the origin of the disturbances. I could mention Mr. M'Bida, the previous Prime Minister, and Mr. Ahidjo, the present Prime Minister, who have spoken on the causes of the disturbances. You will see that there is general agreement on the part of Cameroonian public opinion and on the part of its representatives. There is a considerable mass of documents originating from the UPC which call for violence, incite to violence. If the President feels that the Council has the time to have these texts read, I could read some of the documents which were seized at the time when the Secretariat of the UPC was closed down in November 1957 in Sanaga Maritime. This was found on couriers who were travelling back and forth between the French and British Cameroons. The texts are very clear-cut. There is constant incitement to murder and assassination. I might add that the UPC had even created a special organization which it called the CNO, the National Committee on Organization, which is responsible for attempts against individuals, for violent acts. The role of the UPC is defined by a whole collection of circulars which circulate within the subdivisions of the organization. All this is evidence which I am quite prepared to make available to the representative of Haiti if he so desires.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Could the special representative tell us whether the Administration envisages abrogating the dissolution of the UPC, whether it will do away with the dissolution of the UPC?

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French): I believe

that I have already replied to the question of the representative of Haiti when I said that there was no doubt about it, that the UPC has been dissolved and there is no question of cancelling the decree. If individuals who were in the UPC at one time wish to form another party and if the party has a programme which is in keeping with the laws of the Cameroons, there is no reason why that new party would not be tolerated.

Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): The population in the

Cameroons is disturbed. Could the special representative tell us what, in his *peace & sec* opinion, are the reasons for this disturbance? What measures does the Administration envisage to restore calm?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The

representative of Haiti has asked me for a personal opinion on the causes of these disturbances and I shall give it to him, but of course its value will be relative.

I believe that the cause of these disturbances is the desire of a certain group of individuals to seize power, and this can be seen quite clearly. This is not only my personal opinion, it is really the idea held by the majority of the Cameroonians. The impression is that these individuals cannot seize power by legal means because the majority of the people of the Cameroons would not follow them, and that these individuals wish to force a decision by means of violence. This can be seen -- and I wish to tell this to the representative of Haiti -- from the documents which we have discovered. For instance, I have before me a text which is signed Ruben Um Nyobe, the former Secretary-General of the UPC. It is dated August 1957. He declares quite clearly that there is no doubt, as far as he is concerned, as to the future of the Cameroons if the present French policy is pursued. As far as he is concerned, the accession of the Eastern Cameroons -- and this is his terminology -- is not to be doubted. He says that the Cameroons are recognized as a State on the one hand, and on the other hand one of the recommendations of the Council noted the opinion of the present Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons concerning the future of their country. Now one can see from the documents of the UPC -- and this can be seen from all their declarations -- that

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they wish to compel France to negotiate with "the true representatives of the Cameroonian people". In fact we are faced with a situation where a certain number of individuals consider that, even if they do not have a majority within their nation and even if they cannot be elected by democratic means, they truly represent the Cameroonian people because they have decided that they alone truly represent the people of the Cameroons. They base themselves on the Marxist theory which says that a minority may be more representative of the opinion of the nation than a majority as long as that minority is what they call "conscious".

I apologize because of the length of my statement. This is an important point. It explains the fanaticism of certain individuals who create disturbances, who assassinate in order to seize power.

*M'Bida* Mr. SYLVAIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I am very grateful to the special representative for his personal opinion on this matter, and I would ask him to believe that my delegation esteems his opinion very highly.

In conclusion, and I really mean conclusion because I think that I have somewhat fatigued the patience of the Council and the special representative, I should like to have some clarification with regard to recent political events in the Cameroons. I speak of the fall of Prime Minister M'Bida and the scope of his statement which the newspaper Le Monde attributes to Mr. M'Bida. According to that interview given by Mr. M'Bida to the Agence France Presse -- he went to Paris to confer about the political situation in the Cameroons -- Mr. M'Bida said, after having accused the new High Commissioner of having gone to the Cameroons to overthrow Mr. M'Bida's Government, that the Minister for Overseas France had cabled the High Commissioner telling him to sign the Decree as required by law. Could the special representative tell us whether the Statute obliges the High Commissioner to sign the Decree of nomination which is presented to him by the Prime Minister?



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

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): This is a question of interpretation of the Statute. It seems that there have been differences of opinion between the High Commissioner of the Cameroons and the Prime Minister. It is difficult for me to take a position in this legal dispute and I apologize for it. The representative of Haiti will understand that as long as the French Government has not made known its position as regards the interpretation of the article in question, it is difficult for me to give my personal interpretation.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I have only a few questions in the political field. The new Statute was discussed in considerable detail last year when it was welcomed by the Council. It would be remarkable if, having been in operation only a few months, it is functioning perfectly in all of its detail. I should, however, like first to enquire from the special representative whether, in the terms of the Statute, the introduction of amendments to the Statute is the prerogative of the Government, that is, of the Government in terms of Cabinet, or could this be done by parties or by individuals?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The case which was brought up by the representative of New Zealand regarding the introduction of an amendment is included in article 59 of the Decree of the Statute which reads as follows:

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons may, by resolution, request the amendment of the present statute. Such amendment shall be carried out in conformity with the procedure which governed the establishment of this Statute" (T/1314, page 20).

That is to say that the initiative for an amendment to the Statute will be taken by the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly, and from the time when the Legislative Assembly has voted a resolution requesting the amendment of the Statute on a precise point, the whole of the procedure to be followed will be the procedure which governed the establishment of this Statute.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

As far as I know, there have been two such proposals for amendments to the Statute. These proposals came from a representative who was called non inscrit; that is to say, he was not in any particular party. This concerned a minor point in the Statute, such as parliamentary immunity.

*Cabinet*  
Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I thank the special representative for his reply. It was the question of who could introduce amendments which I was interested in. My second question concerns the composition of the Cabinet. In the Cabinet which has just fallen there was one person who was not a member of the Legislative Assembly, if I have understood the information correctly. I have of course read the terms of the Statute governing the formation of cabinets. I am left in some doubt as to what limitations, if any, exist to the power of the Prime Minister to include in the Cabinet persons who are not necessarily members of the legislature.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): Article 19 of the Statute says that the Prime Minister shall appoint the Ministers who, together with him, shall constitute the Cameroonian Cabinet. There is no reservation. The Prime Minister may choose as a member of his Cabinet any specialist or any person he sees fit. I can confirm, as was stated by the representative of New Zealand, that one of the members of the Cabinet was not a member of the Legislative Assembly.

*provincial organization*  
Mr. THORP (New Zealand): We have discussed the reasons why the section of the Statute under chapter III, regarding provincial organization, has been deferred for some years. I recall that when we discussed this chapter last year, the special representative drew attention in particular to the final clause of article 35 which states that an unfavourable opinion of the Assembly may not be over-ruled on proposals, and so forth, as described in that final section of article 35. Would I be right in assuming that for the time being, therefore, it will rest solely with the Legislative Assembly to determine to what extent legislation regarding these matters must be applied in the North or, for that matter, in any other area of the Territory?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): In the absence of laws as provided for in article 38, which would have provided for the modalities of the application of the chapter to provincial organization, the Legislative Assembly is absolutely empowered to pass any such measures.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I have a further question about chapter III. Did the postponement of putting into operation chapter III, relating to provinces, require any formal action by the Administering Authority? The special representative explained the way in which the postponement was dealt with by resolution, first of a group of Northern delegates and subsequently by a formal decision of the legislature.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I read a moment ago the text of the motion presented by the president of the groupe de l'Union camerounaise, Mr. Lamine, who asked for a four-year postponement of the implementation of the provisions concerning provincial organization. The reasons stated in that motion are the official reasons for this request for a postponement. I think that what the representative of New Zealand wishes is that I should comment upon this situation. I do not think that I can do so since I am faced with an official position taken by the groupe de l'Union camerounaise and the Legislative Assembly. They have taken a position on provincial organization and it is difficult for me to interpret the motives which I might ascribe to that initiative of the Assembly which postponed the introduction of the provincial organization to a later date. I apologize for this.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I regret that my question may not have been quite clear. It was rather a constitutional problem of the means by which it is possible for the Government of the Cameroons or the Legislature of the Cameroons to suspend putting into effect part of the Statute. My intention was to inquire whether this rests solely with the Government of the Cameroons and requires no intervention whatsoever by the Administering Authority.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): At the time of the discussion of the Statute before the Territorial Assembly on article 38 which reads:

"The details concerning the application of the present chapter shall be determined as necessary by Cameroons legislation.", this was explained as allowing the Cameroonian authorities, the Government of the Assembly to establish or not to establish as they desired, the provincial organization provided for by the Statute. And this is what surprises the representative of New Zealand because in chapter III we have a very particular case where in fact the French Government has included a certain number of provisions concerning provincial organizations in the Statute, but has left it up to the Cameroons to bring this into application or not. This is very obviously a rather unusual case.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I thank the special representative for the reply to that question and assume that in regard to the rest of the Statute the question of suspending by the Cameroonian Government the fulfilment of any of its terms would be handled by some different process. My delegation, of course, shares the Council's desire to know the scope of the disturbances which have continued to erupt at intervals in parts of Sanaga-Maritime, and we are grateful for the information provided by the delegation of France in response to earlier questions. Inevitably the weight of questioning on this subject has a tendency to overshadow the less dramatic but basically more important developments arising from putting into operation the new Statute in the economic, social and political fields. We have noted from the information in the report and from the information given us by the special representative that conditions in the Territory as a whole reveal an impressive rate of progress clearly unhindered by the unfortunate outbreaks in this particular area. There is one aspect of this

(Mr. Thorp, New Zealand)

question on which I would appreciate an expression of judgement from the special representative.

Yesterday in reply to a question, I think from the representative of China the special representative suggested that one incentive for the former adherents to the UPC to continue their search for political ends by violent means lay paradoxically in the fact that the Territory was proceeding at a greater accelerated pace towards autonomy. I should like to inquire what in the judgement of the authorities concerned is the nature of the problem of establishing or maintaining law and order? Is it to bring under control a hard core of dissidents, or does the support received by the former adherents of the UPC fluctuate according to local or national issues, or is there perhaps some other explanation?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I said in my introductory statement that the trouble zone is the subdivision of Eseka, and we should add to this Babimbi. There are also some bandits who have committed crimes in the district of Bafoussam. Now, whether the members of the dissolved UPC are numerous or not in other towns of the Territory, that is difficult for me to say. We can observe, however, in the elections of 23 December 1956 that the proportion of voters was very high throughout the Territory; it was the highest ever to participate in the vote in the Cameroons, except in the Sanaga-Maritime, in the region of Douala and in Margui-Wandala where there is no influence of the UPC. But the UPC may be strong in the first two regions which I mentioned. In the Sanaga-Maritime the UPC has prevented the vote not only through its influence but through violent means. I feel therefore that the influence of the UPC in the whole Territory is rather weak. Their propaganda has not found much response and certainly they do not have many voters behind them. Whether they have sympathizers in this or that town, or in this or that centre, I do not think that I can hazard a guess. I pointed out the other day to the representative of China that in my view the UPC had a major influence in the district of New Bell-Douala. There are other places in which it is influential; I fear, however, to be too specific. I think I must confine myself to general considerations. However, I should like to conclude by recalling to the representative of New Zealand that the UPC has tried three times to have



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an uprising throughout the South of the Cameroons; and despite every effort that they made only a small number of determined people participated in such uprisings. Therefore, I think their influence is limited, and that is indicated by the small number of people who responded to their direction.

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Mr. THORP (New Zealand): The point of my question was that last point which the special representative made. I was interested basically in having an opinion whether the capacity of the UPC to create violence was waning or strengthening, or was expected by the authorities to wane or strengthen in the light of general political developments.

I have no further questions and should like to express my thanks to the special representative, particularly as I seem to have caused him to repeat a certain amount of information which he had already given to the Council.

(Mr. Zadotti, Italy)

*ZADOTTI*

Being the last on the list, I have gradually seen all my questions evaporate because they have been asked by the representatives in the Council. I was entertaining the hope that I would probably have no questions as I was to speak after the Soviet representative.

The questions I do have refer to the Statute. At this point, I should like to draw the attention of the special representative to article 14. In this article, as we know, are "enumerated exhaustively" -- to use the term that is used in the Statute -- all the matters which still remain within the competence of the organs of the French Republic. I do not propose to go through all these enumerations. I should like to draw the attention of the special representative to one point, to the paragraph which begins with the words "the Penal Code". In this paragraph a reference is made to the possibility that the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons "shall, however, have power to simplify and adapt the criminal procedure in order to take local conditions into account;".

*Statute*

The point I have in mind is as follows: as criminal procedure is naturally and I would say legally linked to the Penal Code itself, how is this power defined which the Administering Authority has surrendered to the Cameroonian authorities? Am I correct in understanding that the amendment or the adaptation to local conditions of this criminal procedure would certainly be limited by the statutory provisions of the Penal Code? Or would any adaptation of the criminal procedure eventually influence the provisions of the Penal Code in certain respects?

*Criminal procedure*

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The first of the two interpretations given by the representative of Italy is correct, namely, that the adaptations introduced into the code of criminal procedure cannot go over into the Penal Code itself. I would simply like to say that article 16 states:

"The Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons shall have power to provide correctional or police penalties for violations of Cameroons legislation." (T/1314, page 7)

That is to say that the Legislative Assembly can supplement the Penal Code, but it cannot change the Code. It can modify and simplify criminal procedure,

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decrease the various time periods and change the time limits established. It can also take into account the notion of domicile. In view of this, it is difficult to continue to use French penal procedures which are based largely upon these notions of domicile and so forth. In practice, a certain number of proposals have been introduced to simplify criminal procedure. When I left the Cameroons, these proposals were still in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister; that is to say, they had not been submitted to the Legislative Assembly and were still under study. The idea was mainly to shorten the various time periods and so forth so that sentences could be served faster.

*province*  
Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My second question relates to a question asked by the representative of Guatemala yesterday. It refers to article 31, namely, to the establishment of new provinces in the Territory. I think that the representative of Guatemala secured some clarification of the procedure established in the Statute; that is, that the establishment should follow the same procedure followed in the enactment of the Statute.

Am I correct in interpreting the answer of the special representative in the sense that the establishment of a new province is in fact finally a revision or an amendment of the Statute? In so far as it is an amendment, the same procedure, of course, that was followed for the enactment of the Statute should also be followed in this case.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of Italy has explained the situation perfectly.

*Courts*  
Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I have a final question. I apologize because I will not put this question in the exact terms of the document as I do not have it with me, unfortunately.

In the statement of the special representative I think that at one stage reference was made to the fact that the heads of some courts of the first and second degree in the Territory -- I do not remember the number now -- are Cameroonians. What I should like to ask the special representative is: Do the courts maintain the same character they had before in the sense that the

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Cameroonians have in fact replaced French officials? Or is it the case that some parts of these courts are now handed over to Cameroonians as such and not because of their official capacity?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): In fact, the entire local jurisprudence -- that is, the courts of the first and second degree, the customary courts and the conciliation courts -- now come within the exclusive competence of the Cameroonian authorities. This can be seen from article 11 of the Statute which specifies that "the legislative power is vested in the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons" with certain exceptions. These tribunals or courts are dependent only on the Cameroonian Government, that is, the Minister of Interior. The appointment of the heads of these courts depends on this Minister. Thus far, the heads of these courts were administrative officers of different ranks, depending on the degree of the court. The trend, which I pointed out in my introductory statement, is to appoint Cameroonians to these posts.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My reference was to a paragraph in the opening statement of the special representative, reading as follows:

"... nineteen of the first and second degree courts, which in the past were headed by the Chief Subdivisional Officer, have now come within the purview of Cameroonians ..." (T/PV.863, page 26)

That was the point, but I think that the special representative has answered my questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will meet tomorrow afternoon at 2.30. Since next Monday, 24 February, is a holiday in the United Nations, the Council will hold two meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, 26 and 27 February, in order to keep our work up to date.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.



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Trusteeship Council  
21st Session  
18th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1353  
20 February 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

Before continuing the discussion on the French Cameroons, the Trusteeship Council this afternoon first heard the closing statements of the United Kingdom delegation in the debate, concluded earlier this week, on conditions in the British-administered Cameroons.

J.O. FIELD, the United Kingdom's special representative for the Cameroons, said the United Kingdom representative on the Council would deal with the questions raised by some members in the general debate which related to the recent constitutional developments in the territory. He himself would deal with other points raised in the debate.

Taking up the question of representation at the London conference, the special representative replied to the doubt expressed by one or two delegates as to whether the trust territory was adequately represented. The conference was one of representatives from the whole of Nigeria, of which the Southern Cameroons was a part. Nigeria, excluding the Southern Cameroons, with a population of over 30,000,000, had 30 representatives, while the Southern Cameroons, with a population of 750,000, had five representatives.

Mr. FIELD "emphatically" denied suggestions that certain of the decisions taken at the conference were foisted upon the delegates against their will. "The decisions were freely negotiated around the conference table and nothing was foisted upon anybody," he declared.

As far as the Southern Cameroons was concerned, he pointed out that before the delegates went to the London conference, a local round table conference was held. It was attended not only by the members of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly but by representatives of the chiefs, native authorities and prominent men from each division in the territory, "an even wider body than the House of Assembly." Officials attended only to give advice when it was asked for.

This local conference, the special representative said, "hammered out" what would be asked for at the London conference which was, in the main, granted. "There can therefore be no question but that the latest constitutional advances are in accordance with the wishes of the people," he added.

Mr. FIELD also refuted doubts expressed as to the effectiveness of the Northern Cameroons Consultative Committee as an instrument for marking the identity of the northern part of the trust territory.

Answering the Soviet representative's charge that the administering authority was suppressing civil liberties in the territories, the special representative said the actions in the banning of certain Communist literature "because of the subversive propaganda contained in these publications," and the banning of the Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) and its affiliated organizations, were all taken on the advice of councils on which there was a large representation of the elected representatives of the people. The UPC, he added, had been banned because its activities were believed "to be dangerous to the good government of Nigeria."

Taking up economic matters, Mr. FIELD pointed out that the policy of the Southern Cameroons Government of attracting overseas investors was one "which has the support of the people of the Southern Cameroons." And in the application of this policy, he said, "the greatest care has been made to ensure that grants of land and of other facilities have been made only to established concerns which could show proof of adequate capital and technical skill and which have sound reputations as good employers." Moreover, the terms and conditions of such grants were examined and approved by the Executive Council.

The government, he said, "has no use for investors who are not prepared to make a permanent contribution to the economy of the country." At the same time, it must be careful not to frighten away desirable investors by making demands "that no prudent person could be expected to comply with."

The special representative then dealt with other points raised in the debate, including those relating to the activities of the Cameroons Development Corporation, health services and educational matters.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

Sir ANDREW COHEN (United Kingdom) stressed the great importance of ensuring that developments in the economic, social and educational fields go hand-in-hand with political developments, in accordance with the provisions of the trusteeship system.

As the representative of France had pointed out in the debate, he noted, it would be wrong to overlook the problems still confronting the territory and to believe that all was for the best.

The United Kingdom representative expressed gratification for the words of praise spoken by many delegates for what the United Kingdom was doing, and welcomed the constructive suggestions made.

While the United Kingdom, he said, was proud of the progress made, it fully recognized the problems still to be faced in the fields of road construction, health services, education and in the training of the indigenous people for the civil service. All these tasks, he said, were being "vigorously attacked."

Underlining the "fruitful and cordial cooperation" existing between the people and their officials, Sir ANDREW said that the future development of the territory depended more and more on the people themselves. The United Kingdom, he added, would help them as long as it continued to administer the territory under the trusteeship. After the termination of the trusteeship, the United Kingdom would be willing to give the people all the help it could if such help was desired.

Turning to political and constitutional developments, Sir ANDREW noted that most delegates had spoken in support of the United Kingdom's policies and future problems. The USSR representative, however, seemed to have used all his efforts to "squeeze out of the orange of policy some colonial juice."

The London Conference, he said, was convened not for the purpose of discussing specifically the future of the Cameroons, but to discuss the further constitutional development of Nigeria and the Cameroons. He denied the suggestion that the association of the Cameroons with Nigeria would influence the choice of the people of the Cameroons regarding the future of the trust territory.

Quoting from a statement by the British Secretary of State at the London Conference, Sir ANDREW said there was no question of obliging the Cameroons to remain part of Nigeria contrary to its wishes. Before Nigeria became independent, the

(more)

Secretary of State had said the people of the north and south would be given the opportunity to freely state their wishes as to their future.

He also denied the suggestion that the question of financial aid would be used to put pressure on the Cameroons in deciding on its future status. The statement by the Secretary of State that the "golden key" would not be given to the Cameroons, he explained, meant only that it could not be assumed that financial aid from the United Kingdom would be "unlimited."

The United Kingdom, he said, had given the people of the territory the best opportunity for their political advancement and at the appropriate time they would be able to choose their future status freely and without any pressure.

The President, EMILIO ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala), declared the debate on the British Cameroons concluded. The Council then appointed a drafting committee, composed of Australia, Belgium, India and the USSR, to prepare a report on the territory in the light of the debate.

The Council then returned to the examination of conditions in the French-administered Cameroons and resumed the questioning of Xavier Deniau, the French special representative, on developments in the territory.

KEVIN T. KELLY (Australia) noted that during 1957 the UN Secretariat had received more than 6,000 petitions from the territory. To what extent, he asked, did these petitions reflect opinion in the territory? (According to a Secretariat paper, most of these petitions reflected the demands of the Union des populations du Cameroun, calling for the immediate independence and unification of the two Cameroons under British and French administrations.)

The special representative replied that the majority of the petitions were in the form of mimeographed sheets with blanks left for dates, places and signatures to be filled in. From this it was evident that there was no connection between the number of petitions received by the United Nations and the actual currents of opinion in the territory, he declared.

To another question by the Australian representative, Mr. DENIAU said that there was no doubt that one of the aims of the "bandits" in creating disturbances in a certain area of the territory was to impress the United Nations. Moreover, the granting by the General Assembly of hearings to certain Cameroonians had been interpreted by certain leaders as United Nations moral support to those who were seeking to impose their will on the population by means of violence.



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

The special representative then replied to several questions asked by Alfred Claeys Bounaert (Belgium) and by Edmond Sylvain (Haiti) concerning the provisions and the implementation of the new political statute for the territory. These dealt with such matters as the organization of the Cameroonian Government, the powers retained by the High Commissioner and those transferred to the Prime Minister, the role of native chiefs, appointments for the civil service, and the authority responsible for directing the various security forces in the territory.

To another question by the Haitian representative, Mr. DENIAU said that it was not the administering authority, but public opinion in the territory, which held the UPC responsible for the disturbances in the territory. He could cite numerous documents from the UPC calling for incitement to violence.

Mr. SYLVAIN then asked whether there was any intention to abrogate the decree which dissolved the UPC.

JACQUES KOSZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said the UPC had been dissolved and there was no thought of cancelling that order. However, he could see no objection if the former members of the party wished to reform the party, and if the new organization conformed with the law.

The representative of Haiti then asked the special representative for his personal opinion as to the cause of the disturbances in the territory.

Mr. DENIAU said the disturbances were due to the desire of a certain section of the population to seize power. This was a view which represented not merely his own personal opinion; it was shared by public opinion in the territory. This section of the population, having failed to gain power by legal measures, had resorted to violence to impose their views on the population, he said.

Replying to a question by W.G. Thorp (New Zealand) concerning the influence of the UPC, the special representative said the UPC had on three occasions tried to start an uprising in the Southern Cameroons. Each time, however, only a small number of people had responded.

The questioning of the special representative for the Cameroons will be continued by the Council at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, 21 February.

(END OF TAKE 3 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1353)