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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 21 February 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

25 FEB 1958

President:

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN

(Guatemala)

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

*annex 2
attainment "
common market 8,
communications 71, 87
cooperatives 16, 82
land 31
pol. parties 6
population 43, 76
rural econ. dev. 92
unif. c. 12*

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.866 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

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 5/L.15, 16, 17 and Add.1 and 2; T/CCM.4 and 5/L.2; T/PET.5/L.416, 417, 430 to 432, 434 to 451)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Deniau, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French Administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Political advancement (continued)

Amnesty
Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I shall not take up much time, since the extensive replies given by the special representative to many questions raised by other delegations have clarified much of what was not clear to us. In particular, at the initiative of the United States representative, we had a detailed consideration from various angles of the important question of the amnesty. However, on this question -- which, as is well known, was considered as particularly important by the General Assembly -- there is one aspect which has remained undiscussed: that is, what is the attitude of the population of the Territory towards this amnesty. Since the amnesty law was passed, two weeks have elapsed. It would be interesting to know whether the Administering Authority has information which would indicate the reaction of the Cameroonian community to the law of 7 February 1958. That reaction should include that of the organizations whose representatives appeared before the Fourth Committee. If it is not too difficult for the special representative to clarify this aspect of the matter, my delegation would be most grateful.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I fear that I cannot reply to the entire satisfaction of the representative of the Soviet Union, inasmuch as he has asked me for the reactions of political groups

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

and sections of opinion with regard to a law which was promulgated on 7 February, that is, after I left the Cameroons, and I really have no information -- in any detail, at least -- as to what those reactions might have been. But what I can say to the Soviet Union is that before the promulgation of the amnesty law the public in the Cameroons was quite divided as to the amnesty because, as the representative of France indicated in his initial statement, the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons, after the assassination of Deputy Wanko, passed a motion demanding the repeal of the amnesty and requesting the French Parliament to postpone any measure of amnesty. That was the motion, and public opinion might indeed have been represented by the various deputies who spoke regarding this matter. We know that there are many shades of opinion among them. As the representative of France has indicated, however, the Government agreed, in spite of this motion and the indignation in the Assembly after the assassination of Deputy Wanko, that the amnesty law should be applied, thus allowing the exiles to return to society. I might say that there is no single position with regard to this matter; opinion is divided; and I regret that I do not know exactly what the situation is since the law was promulgated.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am most grateful to the special representative for his clarification of the question, but I wish to note that he referred to the period before the promulgation of the law. We also know that there were different opinions concerning the amnesty. There was a divergence in the views of the Administering Authority and of the representatives of political parties who spoke in the Fourth Committee. The latter, it seemed to us, were unanimously in favour of the amnesty in spite of the fact that their political opinions differed. I do not wish to comment on this aspect of the matter since we were merely interested in the subsequent reaction after the promulgation of the amnesty law. The General Assembly as well as the Council attributes considerable importance to this question.

We should like to know to what extent the implementation of the amnesty law has brought about a lessening of tension in the Trust Territory. I understand that the special representative was probably unable to get exhaustive information on this question. If, however, he receives such information in the future, we would be most grateful for further clarification at that time.

note I wish now to ask another question which was also referred to by another delegation during this session of the Council. In the reply given by the special representative concerning the parties in existence in the Territory, he pointed out that those parties should be considered rather as groups within the Legislative Assembly. Would it be correct to conclude from this that there are no political parties in the Territory with definite programmes, membership and leadership, in other words, political parties as we understand them in Europe, in America and in Asian countries? I should like to ask the special representative, if he does not find this too difficult, to give further clarification on this question.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I should like to make a correction to what has just been said. In my reply to the first question asked by the representative of the Soviet Union, I pointed out that the differences of opinion existing with regard to the amnesty law which were voiced before the Fourth Committee were not differences between the

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

Administering Authority and the various petitioners, but they were rather differences between the various petitioners themselves. For example, the Groupe d'Action nationale felt that a restricted amnesty was necessary in the immediate future, whereas Moumié Félix stated in the Fourth Committee, in reply to a question by the representative of Ghana, that he did not want an amnesty if it was not accompanied by certain measures which would have represented the complete victory of his party. I wish to give this additional information to indicate that the problem of the amnesty was viewed differently by the petitioners who appeared before the Fourth Committee. They were just as divided on the question of the amnesty as is public opinion in the Cameroons.

With regard to the second question put by the representative of the Soviet Union, I should like to state that there is, in effect, a difference between the parliamentary groups and the political parties. The parliamentary groups consist of a certain number of deputies, whereas political parties are exactly what the name implies, with their own organization and so forth. There are several political parties in the Cameroons with central committees, dues-paying members and so forth. They are represented by deputies in the Assembly, and there is liaison between the parliamentary groups and the political parties.

For example, one of the parties having a party organization is the Bloc démocratique camerounais and the leader is the new Prime Minister, Mr. Ahidjo. The mayor of Yaoundé is also a member of the Bloc démocratique camerounais. Another party mentioned in the annual report is the Union sociale camerounaise which is the expression of the socialist movement. Its president is a deputy in the Assembly from the Mbam Region but he is not registered. Other parties are the Regroupement des indépendants camerounais, the Evolution sociale camerounaise and the Kumsze. I mention the Kumsze last because it is a regional group. A political party is in principle an organization which has a non-regional character although a party could appear to be simply regional. The Kumsze, which is a very vigorous movement, has its president in the Assembly, a minister in the former government structure.

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

I have given these examples in order to indicate to the representative of the Soviet Union that in effect political parties do exist and they have a platform, a central committee and party organization. The political parties are different from the parliamentary groups with which they have liaison.

*Dr. Bebey
Carrey*
Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to thank the special representative for his explanation.

Another matter which has already been touched upon in this Council is the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Dr. Bebey. In reply to a question by

the representative of India, the special representative stated that Dr. Bebey was a fellow traveller of a dissolved party and that he had expressed in the Fourth Committee views which were not his own. I should like to verify whether I understood correctly that his statement in the Fourth Committee was the basis for a search and for his arrest since the paper referred to by the special representative which was uncovered could hardly be the basis for a search.

That paper was discovered after the search. In this connexion, we wish to make it clear that we are not referring to the contents of the paper for we know nothing about the contents. We merely gained the impression that the simple fact of the statement made by the petitioner in the United Nations served as a basis for a search. We should like to have a clarification of this or a confirmation that our conclusion is correct.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I feel I must say that the conclusions of the representative of the Soviet Union are entirely erroneous. I should like to point out that I did not say that Dr. Bebey Eyidi came to the Fourth Committee to defend opinions which were not his own. He did express his opinion and I think he did so quite freely before that Committee. His opinions were very close to those of the dissolved party of the UPC and, indeed, we feel that his statement was more or less supervised by the UPC so that it would be in conformity with its opinions. On the other hand, there is no connexion between the hearing granted to Dr. Bebey Eyidi and his arrest. His arrest took place about a year after his hearing by the Fourth Committee. I stated quite clearly that Dr. Bebey Eyidi's name appeared in a number of documents but the judge at the various stages of the investigation felt that these documents showed the assistance he was giving to the re-establishment of a dissolved party. I indicated that these documents were found in the secretariat of the UPC in Sanaga-Maritime in November 1956 and, when these documents were read, Dr. Bebey Eyidi was arrested. I do not know whether he will be condemned or not; this is a question for the tribunals. But I can state quite categorically to the representative of the Soviet Union that his arrest has no connexion whatsoever with the oral hearing granted him by the Fourth Committee.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In connexion with a question by one delegation, the representative of France kindly promised to give additional information concerning the views of the territorial organs on the time when independence will be achieved. May I ask the representative of France to tell us also, if possible, what is the view of the Administering Authority on this question? I am not, of course, pressing for an immediate reply. If the representative of France feels that it would be more convenient to connect the reply to this question with the reply to the question raised yesterday, I shall be most grateful.

after

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French): I believe that I have already said, with regard to the question of the time-limit and so forth, that this was a question which would come up in due course, that it was one which would be examined jointly by the Cameroonian Government and the French Government and that, consequently, for the moment I was in no position to make a precise statement on it.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from French): I wish to thank the representative of France for the encouraging remarks he just had the pleasure of hearing. I now like to address my last question to the special representative. I want to know how widespread is the idea of unification of the two parts of the Territory and how it would finally reflect on the work of the Cameroonian Government and the legislative organs.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): In reply to this question I believe that I must examine the opinion of the various political groups in the Assembly with regard to the question of reunification. I can say to the representative of the Soviet Union that there is at least one group which has taken a very firm stand against unification, namely, the Mouvement démocratique camerounais whose leader, former Prime Minister Mr. Mbida, said that unification was of no interest to him. There is another group which has taken a very firm stand in favour of unification, namely, the Groupe d'Action nationale, which formerly was the opposition but which has now become part of the governmental majority it would seem. We do not have complete information with regard to this matter as yet. There is a third group which, so far as I know, has never taken a stand and whose attitude would therefore be decisive in this connexion, namely, the Union camerounaise, the group comprising the largest number of members in the Assembly, that is, some thirty members. So far as I know, this group has not yet made a statement of its political views giving any precise indication of its feeling with regard to the problem of unification. The fourth group is the Groupe des paysans indépendants. They have never officially expressed their views with regard to unification but it is well known that a certain number of its members are very definitely in favour of unification. That was the case with Deputy Samuel Wanko who was assassinated; he was a great

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

champion of the idea of unification. This was also the case with a Minister in the Government of Mr. Mbida who spoke about unification to anyone willing to listen and who had some liaison with a chief on the other side of the frontier; I give this indication so as to be very complete. Those are the positions of the various groups in the Assembly.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): May I ask one minor question? Was there any reflection of this question in the declaration which was made by the newly formed Government -- I am referring to the question of the unification of the Cameroons?

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for this question. I have no fresh information concerning the inaugural statement of Prime Minister Ahidjo. I have already indicated to the Council that he mentioned the unification of the Cameroons. Since I promised the Council that I would inform it as soon as possible of all data available to me, I am now in a position to indicate that the Government of Mr. Ahidjo has been formed, that it represents more or less all the political groups in the Cameroons, especially the Groupe d'Action nationale which has two representatives, one of whom is Mr. Assalé who was heard as a petitioner and who is Minister of Finance in the new Government. All the groups in the Assembly are represented with a predominance of the Union camerounaise which is the parliamentary party of Prime Minister Ahidjo.

As soon as I have further information I shall communicate it to the Council.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have no further questions. I wish to thank the special representative and the representative of France for the clarification they have given me in response to my questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As there appear to be no further questions I take it that we have concluded this aspect of our consideration.

Economic advancement

Mr. YANG (China): I consider it my pleasant duty to concern myself once again with matters relating to economic advancement in the Cameroons, but this time the Cameroons under consideration is the Cameroons under French administration.

The Special Representative, in giving this Council -- in his opening statement -- the latest information on the Territory's economic activities for the period under review, touched upon many important features indicative of the nature and the scope of these activities. To those of us who have twice visited the Territory, the details which the special representative has made available to the Council concerning such features are not mere words, empty words devoid of meaning and significance. The postes de paysannats, the secteurs de modernisation, and the harnessing of the violent and turbulent force of the Sanaga falls aiming at the establishment of the Edéa hydroelectric station -- with a contemplated capacity production of 1,250 million kilowatt hours of power per annum -- and such other projects as have been seen on the spot, all these could not mean anything less than solid work, hard work and honest work, of dedicated men, bearing the mark of an imaginative and creative mind befitting a great tradition and a great people.

The questions I am going to put to the special representative are not, in any sense, full-fledged questions. They are rather in the nature of a search for clarification on a number of points which I have noted from a careful reading of the 1956 report and of the special representative's opening statement.

agric credit
Coop
My first question relates to a reference made to the establishment and development of agricultural credit, and I think the subject is closely associated with credit co-operatives. As I am not quite clear as to the procedure or the method employed in connexion with the distribution or administration of the credit, I should be most appreciative if the special representative could give the Council some indication as to that method and the ways and means of distributing this credit.

I would also invite the special representative to give us the latest information regarding the expansion of co-operative activities. I noted the central agency handling and regulating the operation of the whole system -- the system to which the special representative made reference in his opening statement

in connexion with the distribution of those credits -- and I wonder whether that central agency is the Crédit du Cameroun, as was mentioned in his opening statement.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative): There are a number of credit agencies in the Cameroons, but -- as was assumed by the representative of China, who is familiar with Cameroonian affairs through personal experience -- the Crédit du Cameroun is the central agency, the main agency, for agricultural and rural credit. The Crédit du Cameroun grants loans to peasants; that is its particular purpose, the purpose for which it was established. It also grants loans to various types of small industrialists and craftsmen, but its principal business is the granting of loans to peasants, and this it does on a large scale. During the year 1956, loans from the Crédit du Cameroun were granted to 750 peasants, amounting to about 100 million francs.

Now I wish to deal with the other point raised by the representative of China, which referred to the credit co-operatives and the establishment of agricultural credit. These developments are actually a branch of the business carried out by the Crédit du Cameroun -- a new development, which I therefore mentioned in my introductory statement. It is a phenomena which is not only new but which seems to all specialists in the field of agricultural credit to be the form which will be adopted in future establishments, replacing all other forms of credit agencies. The various characteristics of this new method feature two points. On the one hand, loans are not granted to individuals but only to groups organized as co-operatives. Secondly, the loans granted are seldom large and are thus easily repaid, and they are made not in money but in kind. Loans may be in the form of materials and equipment needed, and they may be provided at the beginning of the harvesting period, when such aid is most needed. Another feature is that the various members of the co-operatives are jointly responsible for the repayment of the loans. This method has achieved astonishing success, which was first noted in the region of Bamiléké and then in Sanaga. There must now be between 150 and 250 such co-operative credit establishments, and they are increasing by leaps and bounds. I was able to note this development before leaving the Territory. A certain period was taken as a test period and, though the amounts involved were not very large, it was noted that all the

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

payments were made as they fell due. It was also noted that if any member failed to meet his obligations, other members brought pressure to bear upon him. One individual had his bicycle taken away by his fellow members to force him to repay his share of the loan. Thus the repayments were made in full.

This system has the advantage of being based on natural groupings of the people involved. Their associations are spontaneously formed in the various villages and settlements, for the purpose of achieving improvements in agricultural production.

Finally, repayment of these loans is almost completely covered by insurance.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

All these advantages make it an excellent formula from a purely technical point of view as well as from the point of view of those concerned.

I apologize for having elaborated on this but this deals with a success which has become apparent to us here and it is important to stress it. I might add what I had forgotten to say: we have observed that these easy repayments were due, in particular, to the fact that the output has indeed been improved at these plantations and, therefore, the farmers found no difficulty in collecting the money in order to repay the loans.

Mr. YANG (China): I am very much indebted to the special representative for his full and detailed information on this subject. In his opening statement, he made mention of the sum of about 150 million francs which were distributed during the period under review by these credit co-operatives, I should like to know in this connexion the total sum of capital which was at the disposal of the central agency which, I understand, is the Crédit du Cameroun.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Crédit du Cameroun is a State society; at present their capital is 350 million francs subscribed in great part by the Territory, part by the Caisse centrale de la France -- 135 million francs on the one hand, and 215 million francs on the other hand.

Mr. YANG (China): In his opening statement, the special representative said that the Crédit du Cameroun can lend up to ten times the total subscribed capital. For that reason, I should like to ask him what exactly he meant when he said that the Crédit du Cameroun could lend up to ten times the total subscribed capital; in the first place, what was the total subscribed capital?

I should appreciate it if he could shed some further light on this matter.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I have pointed out -- and I apologize for not having been very precise in my statement -- that the Crédit du Cameroun could lend approximately ten times the amount of the basic capital of a mutual credit establishment: that is, the members of the co-operative, once they form a société de crédit mutuel, through

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

their contributions, establish a fund which is the capital and the amount of the credit which may be extended to all of the members of the society is ten times the amount of that basic capital. This is what I wished to say and, perhaps, I have done it in a way which was somewhat ambiguous; I apologize to the representative of China for this.

✓ Mr. YANG (China): I am very appreciative of the further clarification given to me by the special representative.

While I am on the subject of co-operatives, I should like to refer to the report of the Visiting Mission for 1955 and I have in mind, particularly, paragraph 216. It was my impression that "a permanent eight month's course was started in Yaoundé for training qualified accountants for co-operative societies and for the SAP. In addition, two African trainees are sent each year to study theory and practice at the National Centre of Agriculture Co-operation in France." I should like to know from the special representative whether the Cameroonians are still having this kind of training, both at home and, with reference to this eight month's course and to the opportunities given to them to pursue further study in France.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): These two methods of training are still in force: each year a few Cameroonians go to France to perfect their studies in co-operative matters. Last year, of four co-operative controllers in the co-operative service in the Cameroons, two were Africans.

Crane
Mr. YANG (China): My next question relates to the table which is found in paragraph 55 of the Secretariat paper, T/L.813, in connexion with the tonnage of the principal crops in 1955 and 1956. I hope that the special representative will have this document before him in order to grasp more fully the meaning of my questions.

Cocoa
The first item listed in this table relates to the total tonnage of cocoa produced for the year 1955 as well as for the year 1956. For the year 1955, the total tonnage is 56,450 metric tons; for the year 1956, the total tonnage is 53,850 metric tons. However, in his opening statement, the special representative

(Mr. Yang, China)

told the Council that there was a rise in exports for the year, I believe, of 1957, and here he made mention of the increase of 8,000 tons for that year and he also made mention of the tonnage, about 53,000 tons, exported for that year -- I am a little bit confused with regard to actual tonnage of cocoa for the year 1956 and when he made mention of the increase of 8,000 tons I wonder if he was referring to the total tonnage for the year 1957. I should be most appreciative if the special representative could clarify this point for me.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that there were two series of figures -- the series appearing in the working paper and those which I believe appear in the report, which were the figures which I quoted in my introductory statement. The figures in the working paper are tonnages of production, and those which I cited pertain to exports; there are differences here which vary from product to product. In 1956, there were 45,000 tons of cocoa exported; in 1957, there were 53,000 tons exported. This constitutes an increase of about 8,000 tons. I might add that the production has been on an upturn, similarly, and if I had given the production figure I should probably have given a figure of more than 60,000 which would have been the figure for 1957. In other words, production has also increased in comparison with 1956.

Mr. YANG (China): I appreciate that clarification. Perhaps the special representative would excuse me if I ask him for specific information with regard to the total tonnage of cocoa for the year 1957 because I was a bit confused with reference to the total tonnage of cocoa exported and the total tonnage of cocoa production for the year 1957.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): In 1957 there were more than 53,000 tons exported and, according to estimates, approximately 60,000 tons were produced. In the previous year the amount was less.

coffee
Mr. YANG (China): I now come to the second item, which relates to coffee. We heard from the special representative a rather encouraging statement in connexion with coffee production in the Territory, both present and future.

First of all, I would appreciate some clarification by the special representative with regard to the figure given in the Secretariat paper under the year 1956. That figure is 30,650 metric tons. However, when I read the statement of the special representative at the 764th meeting of this Council, I received the impression that the total tonnage of coffee for the year 1956 was 17,000 tons. I presume that the special representative still remembers the reply he gave to the representative of New Zealand who was attempting to ascertain the actual tonnage of coffee for the year 1956. I have the verbatim record of that meeting before me, and I note that, according to the special representative, the total tonnage of coffee for the year 1956 was 17,000 tons.

Could the special representative explain this disparity with regard to the total tonnages indicated in the Secretariat paper and that which he gave in his reply to the question put to him by the representative of New Zealand at the nineteenth session of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French.): I will have to verify the Secretariat's figures after finding out where they obtained the figures which appear in the Secretariat working paper. I have definitive figures which are the same as those which I quoted to the representative of New Zealand to the effect that during 1956 the total tonnage of coffee was approximately 17,000 tons.

Sometimes we speak of production and sometimes we speak of exports. With regard to coffee statistics, sometimes we refer to robusta coffee, sometimes to arabica and so forth. This lends a note of confusion. Sometimes we refer to the calendar year, sometimes to the legal year, and all of this causes variations in the figures quoted. However, I believe there the correct figure would be about 17,600 tons, and about the same for 1957.

Mr. YANG (China): I should like to thank the special representative once again for the effort he has made to reply to the question which I put to him.

A moment ago I said that the special representative, in his opening statement, gave us a rather encouraging account as regards the future of the coffee industry in the Trust Territory. The special representative said:

"If the exports of coffee have remained approximately at the 1956 level, the considerable increase of areas for planting coffee, particularly in the Bamiléké region, give rise to the hope that in the coming years coffee will assume a primary role in the economy of the Cameroons." (T/PV.863)

I would welcome any further elucidation on this point as regards the future of the coffee industry in the Territory. What are the reasons why the special representative has said that in the coming years coffee will assume a primary role in the economy of the Cameroons?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): We have indeed observed that the number of hectares planted to coffee has increased considerably during recent years, particularly in 1956, in the western area of the Territory. Also, there has been an increase in the number of coffee plantations in the eastern area of the Cameroons, but this is particularly noticeable in the western area and in the Bamiléké region. In the Bamiléké region, where the crop areas have been modernized, we have had very important sales of arabica and robusta which indicated the increase in production. We estimate that in 1957 approximately 1 million arabica plants and 200,000 robusta plants have been distributed. It has been indicated that coffee-growing is spreading in areas where heretofore no coffee crop was planted. The Bamiléké are particularly interested in this development. It was for that reason that I made the statement to the effect that we would soon see a considerable increase in coffee production. I might add that the campaign for this increase is carried on systematically by the secteur de modernisation des cultures d'altitude.

Mr. YANG (China): I am grateful to the special representative for the further information he has supplied on this subject.

Could the special representative tell me what accounts for the decrease in rubber production for the year 1956? I noted from the Secretariat paper that in 1955 the total tonnage was around 4,000, but for the year 1956 it was only 3,550 metric tons.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): I think that with regard to rubber we should speak of a static situation rather than a decrease. The representative of China has mentioned a slight drop in production. This is due, principally, to the fact that what rubber was collected was collected from a single plantation. Production varies according to the climate.

tobacco
Mr. YANG (China): In connexion with these figures, I have one more question to put to the special representative, one which relates to tobacco production.

It seems to me that there is a tremendous decrease in the production of tobacco for the year 1956. Does this mean that the Cameroonians are less interested in smoking than they have been previously? Would the special representative comment on this?

In connexion with tobacco production, I should like to refer the special representative to page 18 of the same document. There we have a different figure in connexion with the total production of cigarettes and tobacco for the year 1955, and also for the year 1956. When I compare these two figures, I really do not know whether my interpretation of the decrease in tobacco production is correct; that is to say, whether the Cameroonians in recent years are less interested in smoking than they were before.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The figures on pages 16 to 18 do not pertain to the same type of situation. On page 16 we have a reference to production, that is, agricultural production. Page 18 refers to industrial production. There we have listed the tonnages which were actually processed and transformed into industrial products, either for export or for consumption at home. These are two different types of statistics.

In regard to tobacco, the figures on the industrial production of tobacco were 780 in 1955 and 805 in 1956. These figures were also about the same in 1957, that is, approximately 800. As to the local production of tobacco, it appears that there was a certain decline in the production of this commodity in the eastern part of the Territory where it had formerly been widely cultivated. It has now been replaced by such products as coffee. I do not know whether this means that the Cameroonians smoke less. I think it may mean that the farmers who used to plant tobacco now prefer to plant other crops.

Regarding industrial production as a whole, it remains constant.

Mr. YANG (China): The reason I asked that question was that I thought that tobacco was produced in the Cameroons solely for local consumption.

My next question relates to the projects -- as they were called by the special representative in his opening statement -- which will have to be established in order to reorganize the agriculture services and the modernization programme. The special representative also mentioned the possibility of merging these two organizations into a programme of unified action. I appreciate the importance of this reorganization work and would therefore welcome some further clarification from the special representative regarding the suggestion made by the Administration as to the reorganization of these services.

modernization of agric. services

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): Actually, I should not have referred to these as projects for future establishment because the decrees passed by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Cameroons have already reorganized the agriculture services and the secteurs de modernisation on the cocoa plantations. The purpose of these decrees was to bring these two services together.

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

The modernization programme was an attempt to use new agricultural and industrial methods. A number of postes de paysannats were set up, as well as insect control stations, and so on. The secteurs de modernisation of the cocoa plantations aroused certain criticisms which were not justified in the opinion of the Administering Authority. This critical attitude was also held by the Cameroonian Assembly at the time when it was called the Territorial Assembly. It is now the Legislative Assembly and it continues in its opinion that the effectiveness of the secteurs de modernisation was insufficient. On the other hand, some held the view that the agriculture services and the secteurs de modernisation duplicated each other's services and should be merged. This is why the Minister of Agriculture undertook this reorganization which placed them under the effective control of the Government, as the direct responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture. In other words, jurisdiction over the postes de paysannats was handed back to the agriculture services.

I have before me various decrees, passed in connexion with these matters, providing for the administration of the secteurs de modernisation. It places the Presidency of the Conseils in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture and the Vice-Presidency in the hands of the Chief Inspector. The members will consist of a deputy for each of the regions concerned. There will be an economic representative, a commissioner, a director of agriculture, a certain number of high officials -- whom I shall not enumerate here -- and ten representatives of rural communities to be designated each year from each region.

This idea of having ten representatives from rural communities -- representatives of the farmers -- is a new idea. Therefore, on the one hand we have the modernization system being returned to the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture and, on the other, the introduction of representatives of the farmers. The secteur de modernisation is a sort of para-public enterprise.

✓ Mr. YANG (China): In his opening statement the special representative referred to the decree of 21 November 1957 the main purpose of which was to modify the financial management of the cocoa secteurs de modernisation and which envisaged the participation of the various communities in that management. He also touched upon the organization of planters' committees. I wonder if the

(Mr. Yang, China)

special representative could give me an idea about the membership of the planters' committees which have been contemplated by the Administering Authority and if he could give me some information about the locations of these committees.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): First of all, I wish to make an observation and that is that the Administering Authority does not contemplate anything in this connexion. I apologize to the representative of China because he has asked me this question in this way. The Administering Authority is no longer responsible for the administration or management of the agriculture services in the Cameroons. It falls entirely under the authority of the Cameroonians themselves. It can no longer introduce any draft laws nor does it have power to change the existing regulations. This is a matter which is entirely under the authority of the Cameroonians. With this reservation, I can transform the question of the representative of China and speak of the way in which the Cameroonian Government operates the organization of the planters' committees, if this will be satisfactory to the representative of China.

The establishment of planters' committees is covered by article 17 of the decree of 21 November 1957 to which the representative of China referred. It is mentioned there that these committees shall include representatives of planters' villages where the agricultural unit is active.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

I am not going to read the entire text which indicates how the committees are chosen, and since this is a very recent text dated 21 November 1957, I cannot tell the representative of China where it has been applied. I can tell him that there are plantations in several different places and the localities where such committees will be constituted are areas where there are now postes de paysannats, and I have list of those which is too long to read here.

Mr. YANG (China): When I asked this question I was fully aware of the fact that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Cameroonian Government, but I was also thinking of the over-riding responsibility on the part of the Administering Authority; I was therefore somehow mixed up, in asking the question, in the way it was asked. However, I appreciate the answers given by the special representative.

Soil Bureau
My next question relates to the soil bureau which was, I understand, reorganized by a law dated 2 January 1958. If I remember correctly, that bureau has been in existence for some time, and I feel that it is a most interesting and useful institution. Last year the special representative mentioned the functions of that soil bureau; and I would appreciate some information from the special representative as to the reasons for that reorganization and whether any kind of survey is being contemplated by that bureau in order to determine, in each natural region of the Cameroons, what a desirable balance would be between the various crops grown there and how large an area should be placed under cultivation -- and I understand that that is the bureau's mandate. In any case I would appreciate some further information as regards the surveys which I mentioned, as to which would be most useful so far as the bureau is concerned in order to fulfil its mandate.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): As indicated by the representative of China, the soil bureau has been in operation since 1950. However, the Minister of Agriculture and the Cameroonian Government felt that it had not been active or effective enough. The objective of the soil bureau as it existed -- and as is reaffirmed much more clearly now -- is to watch over the soil situation in the Territory and see to it that the best use is made of the soil to avoid its impoverishment and to make rational use of it

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

by undertaking conservation and restoration measures so as to conserve and increase the soil capital, to use the very phrase of the Minister himself. This will be done on all levels. Action will be undertaken to protect and increase the agricultural potential of the Cameroons. The technical committee now functioning in the soil bureau is composed of a chief of service for agriculture, livestock-raising and so on, a director of the scientific research institute, the chief of the scientific research section, a representative of the Finance Ministry, a planning commissioner and a finance controller from the agriculture department.

The representative of China asked me the original composition of this bureau. In addition to this technical committee, it sets up a general assembly comprising a number of representatives of unions, ministers, deputies and so on. The soil bureau in its new form is very recent because the law was only passed on 2 January 1958. It has therefore not yet undertaken any special research or surveys in its new form. It will attempt to survey soil conditions in the settled zones of the Cameroons -- they have priority. Then they will undertake certain projects in the periphery of the Bamileké region and certain other zones of the Cameroons which are considered as being susceptible of more rational development.

Mr. YANG (China): I shall look forward to further and fuller information on the activities of that soil bureau. This is a piece of very useful and constructive work.

My next question relates to a reference which the special representative made to the reorganization of agriculture education. My understanding is that that reorganization is at present under study and will result in the establishment of a higher school of agriculture and the opening of agricultural training centres which will take in planters' children who wish to receive further education. I wonder if the special representative could give the Council some information as to the approximate time required for the establishment of such a higher school of agriculture and the opening of agricultural training centres. Incidentally, I would also refer to the most interesting forestry school near Mbalmayo. I do not know whether the reorganization of agriculture education will affect in any way that forestry school.

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Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I have referred to these plans as draft decrees by the Minister of Agriculture, for at the time I left the Cameroons these drafts had not yet been passed by the Council of Ministers. I do not know whether they have been passed since then. These drafts pertained to two projects: one was to raise the present centre de perfectionnement for agriculture to the same level as that of the regional agricultural schools in the metropolitan country, that is, to train on the spot in the Cameroons agricultural technicians; and the school would be active in various branches of the rural economy. These agricultural technicians would have qualifications similar to the so-called enseignement de second degré. Up to now these technicians have had to be sent to France in order to receive their training. With regard to the second draft, it was also under study when I left the Cameroons, it had not yet been introduced, and I cannot tell the representative of China when or whether it will be adopted, particularly since the new Government includes a new Minister of Agriculture and it is possible that the old draft laws will not be endorsed by the new Minister. I do not know what will happen in this connexion.

The Mbalmayo Forestry School was established in 1949. It takes students between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one who have the certificat d'études primaires and they receive technical and practical training which is sufficient to enable them either to become local officials in the forestry field or to act as prospectors or topographers in private enterprise. The Mbalmayo Forestry School will not be affected by these draft laws. It is considered to be functioning in an entirely satisfactory manner.

/Mr. YANG (China): Last year

Mr. YANG (China): Last year, the Council, in examining the economic conditions of this Trust Territory, spent much time in eliciting from the special representative information in connexion with the operation of the Cocoa Stabilization Fund, and it was the impression of the Council that that Fund was in debt for about 1,000 million francs at that period. We are very happy to know this year that, due to the increase in the price of cocoa as well as the increase in the value of the currency, as has been mentioned by the special representative, the Fund is able to derive certain income. I should like to know from the special representative the amount of the income the Cocoa Stabilization Fund could derive from the profit gained from the rise in the cocoa price during the year under review. When we touched upon the subject last year none of us was under the impression that the Fund would be able to derive certain benefits from the selling of cocoa.

Cocoa Stabilization Fund

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French):
As I said in my opening statement,

"The Cocoa Stabilization Fund which was in debt for about one thousand million francs to the National Stabilization Fund has derived substantial income and I think that it will soon be in a position to repay part of its debt." (T/PV.863, p. 28-30)

The accounts have not as yet been drawn up because the cocoa company is not completely organized, but it was felt when I left the Cameroons that the Cocoa Stabilization Fund had received about 700 million francs because of the rise in cocoa prices.

Mr. YANG (China): When the special representative spoke on this subject, he made reference to the exchange reform of 10 August 1957 and he also made mention of the collapse of value of the currency. I do not quite get the implications of his statement on this point and I would be most appreciative if he could throw some light on these two points to which he made reference in his opening statement. The first is the exchange reform and the second, the reference to the collapse of the value of the currency.

Currency

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

I apologize to the representative of China but I do not recall having used such a term. I think I spoke of the monetary reform of 20 August and I spoke of the increase in the price of cocoa, but I do not recall having made a distinction between the monetary reform and the collapse of the value of the currency as mentioned by the representative of China. Perhaps the representative of China would tell me exactly where this appears in the record, for as I listen to this sentence I do not understand it myself.

Mr. YANG (China): I should like to refer the special representative to page 28-30 of document T/PV.863. Among other things, the special representative said:

"This was made possible"--- he was referring to the income derived from the increase in the price of cocoa -- "by an increase in the price of cocoa, also by an increase in the value of the currency as a result of the exchange reform of 10 August 1957." -- Just a moment ago I heard him say that it was 20 August. -- "The Management Committee, in effect, felt that it would be in the interests of the producer to reinforce the action of the Stabilization Fund so that the value of the currency would not collapse again."

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

I now recall the passage referred to by the representative of China and I thank him for reading it to me again. This of course is the operation pertaining to the monetary situation of 10 August -- it was 10 August and not 20 August -- which was called the "Opération Gaillard" by the Press. It reorganized the monetary situation and resulted in the authorization of the payment of 20 per cent for exports of products to countries outside the franc zone. This affected cocoa, to a large extent, since much of it was exported outside the franc zone, and it led to an increase in the price of cocoa paid to the Cameroonians.

Mr. YANG (China): I thank the special representative for the further clarification on this point. I have perhaps one or two small questions to put to the special representative under this section dealing with economic advancement.

I noted from the information furnished by the special representative in his opening statement that

"...in October 1958 there will be about 208 tanks which will enable the factory" -- he was referring to Enelcam -- "to go into full production, about 45,000 tons of aluminium per year. In 1957 8,000 tons of aluminium were produced." (T/FV.863, p. 31)

I should like to know from the special representative how many tanks actually were in operation during the year 1957 which were responsible for the production of 8,000 tons of aluminium.

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

I do not have the information concerning the number of tanks operating in 1957. I simply know that the plant was not operating at full production. I will try to find this information for the representative of China.

Mr. YANG (China): I am very sorry to cause this inconvenience to the special representative. I think he and I could easily get together in order for me to get an idea of the actual number of tanks used for the production of 8,000 tons of aluminium for the year 1957.

I now come to my last question and as I said it is a minor point. It relates to the population situation in the Bamiléké region. I understand some sort of study is being undertaken by the authorities in order to resettle some of the Bamiléké in the periphery of that region. I wonder if the special representative is in a position to give me an idea as to when that study would be completed.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): This study has been completed; it was undertaken by representatives of all the services in the Bamileké region, as well as ethnologists. The implementation of this plan to resettle the Bamileké people in the periphery of their region is under way. A certain number of works provided for in this plan have already been accomplished; a great deal of tracks and roads have been built enabling the Bamileké people to go from their region into the periphery. It is not a small project; it is a very big one because, after a certain number of years, if everything goes according to plan, we shall have resettled in the Noun Plain about 20,000 persons and in other areas from 20,000 to 25,000 persons. Thus, it will be seen that this is a very important plan involving a great number of people and all that has to be done to get them resettled on various plains.

A great deal of work, however, has already been accomplished, especially with regard to building roads and tracks.

Mr. YANG (China): I have no further questions to pose to the special representative. It remains for me to thank him once again for the full and detailed answers he has given to my questions.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French): I am in a position to reply to the question asked a moment ago by the representative of China. The work in Edéa began in 1955 and the first foundation was laid in 1955. Ten tanks began operating at that time.

Mr. YANG (China): I just wish to express my appreciation for the further information given to me by the representative of France.

development of the economy
Mr. MITRA (India): I feel very nervous of asking too many questions after the very detailed and knowledgeable questioning by my distinguished colleague before me, but my country is naturally very interested in the economic under-development of under-developed territories, partly because we ourselves are an under-developed territory.

The first question I would wish to ask the special representative refers to the future development of the economy of the Cameroons. According to

(Mr. Mitra, India)

article 11, section 14 of the Statute of the Cameroons, the Cameroonian Government is responsible for

"the organization and development of the economy of the Trust State of the Cameroons".

However, according to article 14 of the same Statute, the following matters are exclusively within the competence of the central organs of the French Republic:

"the currency and foreign exchange systems, the organization and management of credit, any financial assistance to be granted, foreign trade, the customs system, the general regulation of customs matters and the laws and regulations relating to mineral resources."

Now, Mr. President, even with my rudimentary knowledge of economics, I still feel that it would be somewhat difficult for anyone to organize or develop an economy without having any say in matters pertaining to foreign trade, currency, foreign exchange, customs and mineral resources. It would therefore interest my delegation to know exactly what functions, if any, the Cameroonian Government has left in the economic field. My impression is that the only field of economy left to the Cameroonian Government to control is the field of agriculture, and even that is somewhat limited by the control of foreign trade as much of the agriculture in the Cameroons -- cultivation of coffee, cocoa, bananas etc. -- consists of fields in which foreign trade plays a very important role.

I would therefore ask why there is such a limitation on the economic competence of the Cameroon Government and how does the Administering Authority hope to improve this situation.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): If a certain number of matters in fact are outside the competence of the Government of the Cameroons, including foreign trade, nevertheless the internal economy of the Territory comes fully within the competence of the local Government. I should like to tell the representative of India that the economic and social development plan, for instance, is debated by the Legislative Assembly -- although metropolitan credits are involved upon proposals which in the past came from the Administering Authority and which now come from the Cameroonian Government.

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

In practice the Cameroonian Governments, so far as economic matters are concerned, has a very important role to play since it promotes not only the various services connected with branches of production but also is concerned with the operation of various stabilization funds which function on the basis of decrees of the Cameroonian Government and not the French Government. The Cameroonian Government is also master of the plan. There is a commissariat which comes under the Prime Minister and which is responsible for the plan. It does not come, incidentally, under the Minister of National Economy.

The Cameroonian Government, in consultation with the French Government, participates in matters concerning foreign trade for, as I said, foreign trade is connected with the development of production in the Territory. I mention this in passing. Recently the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Cameroons was present at a conference in Rio de Janeiro -- accompanied by a Cameroonian citizen -- and, a few months ago he was present at a meeting of GATT in Geneva. Furthermore, a vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Cameroons was present at the Conference on Cocoa in Nigeria. I cite this from memory to indicate to the representative of India that in fact the role of the Cameroonian Government in economic matters is very large, primary in fact, and that the role of the French Government is secondary. It is responsible for all the external trade but that is dependent upon internal production and on the Cameroonian Government.

Mr. MITRA (India): I thank the special representative and I shall not labour the point; though I naturally have my own views on the matter.

In connexion with my earlier question, I would once again refer to article 14 of the Statute which vests authority regarding laws and regulations relating to mineral resources in the central organs of the French Republic. However, article 27 states

"Mining licences relating to exploration and exploitation shall be issued by the Prime Minister ..."

Is there no contradiction in this or is it that the regulations and laws are made by the organs of State of the French Republic and then put into effect by the Prime Minister of the Cameroons?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The matter of mineral resources gave rise to a warm exchange in the Cameroonian Assembly when the statute was debated. The Assembly wanted these resources to remain under the jurisdiction of the Cameroonian Government, but the French Government adopted a draft which differed from the wording it had originally proposed and from that favoured by the Cameroonian Assembly. This had the effect of placing the mineral resources under the control of the French Parliament but leaving all decisions and details of administration under the Cameroonian Government. The two fields were not, in fact, contradictory but complementary. The Cameroonians wanted to be the masters of their own subsoil and in control of the issuance of licences, while the French Government wanted to ensure that the regulation of mineral resources in the Cameroonian should not differ fundamentally from those in other territories within the franc zone -- such as Morocco -- and thus discourage prospecting companies from undertaking operations in the Cameroons because of uncertainty as to the conditions to be found there. I have mentioned Morocco because the SEREPCA Company, which prospected for oil in the Cameroons, also operated in Morocco and brought in its technicians, its materiel and its whole organization from Morocco. Therefore, the solution adopted was satisfactory both to the Cameroonian Government and to the Government of France, which was thinking in terms of the franc zone. This was the best solution possible, under the conditions, for the use of the Cameroonian subsoil.

Mr. MITRA (India): I thank the special representative. I should now like to turn to the question of aluminium.

My delegation is fully aware of the great need for industrialization in under-developed areas, as I have just said. I must congratulate the Administering Authority for its initiative in this matter and its great accomplishments. However, my delegation feels that if industries are to be established in a Trust Territory, the benefit from such industrialization should be received by the people of the Territory. Now, I am informed that the production of aluminium in the ALUCAM plant last year was 8,000 tons. The price of aluminium per ton in the world market last year was about \$2,000. In other words, the aluminium produced was worth about \$16.8 million. My figures are open to correction. Could the special representative kindly inform me if any corporation tax is paid by the ALUCAM Company? If so, how much? Is there any export duty on the aluminium? If so, how much?

Aluminium

(Mr. Mitra, India)

What I really want to obtain is an idea of the actual financial benefit to the Cameroonian people of an industry on their soil, of which 10 per cent is owned by the Territory, and which by October 1958 will be producing 45,000 tons of aluminium which, according to present prices, will be worth \$94.5 million, (US) I should like to have an idea of the financial benefits to the Territory from this industry, in the form of taxes -- corporation taxes, customs duties, whatever it is.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of India has asked a question of a very special character, with regard to the various taxes collected on aluminium production. I am afraid I do not have this information with me now but will have to do some research. I must apologise for this, but the matter is a very technical one. Aluminium is taxed in different ways at different stages, and I shall try to secure the information. I hope the representative of India will excuse me for my inability to answer immediately.

Mr. MITRA (India): I thank the special representative. I should be, personally, very grateful for these figures, and if he would also be kind as to provide similar figures about the rubber industry, thus avoiding another question from me. I believe the rubber industry also is owned by one plantation, which is not indigenous. I would also ask for similar figures regarding the tin industry, which is similarly in the hands of one corporation which is not indigenous.

radioactive minerals
My next question relates to page 146 of the annual report, where I notice that permission has been granted to the atomic energy authority of France to prospect 150,000 square kilometres of the Territory to look for radioactive minerals. First, I should like to know if any radioactive minerals have actually been found in this area. I ask this question because tungsten appears to have been found in certain areas of the Territory, and according to some geologists uranium and thorium may be found in the vicinity of tungsten.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): So far as I know, no uranium has yet been found in the Cameroons, though there has been prospecting for it. Cameroonians were sent to France to attend courses in prospecting for uranium, so that trained men would be able to undertake such prospecting. However, I do not think any results have been yet achieved in this field.

Mr. MITRA (India): In connexion with the question which the special representative so kindly answered just now, may I know if the Territorial Assembly agreed to the granting of the concession referred to? I note that, according to page 144 of the report, the Territorial Assembly is to give its opinion to the High Commissioner, but no mention is made of whether the High Commissioner must accept the opinion or is free to reject it.

I should also like to know, if possible, the terms of this concession. If radioactive material is found, what material benefits will accrue to the Cameroonian Territory and its Government?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from France): The situation to which the report refers is one which preceded the adoption of the Statute. This was a general concession for prospecting, an authorization of the type known as "A". That is, it was an authorization covering an area exceeding a certain number of square kilometres, being in fact for 150,000 square kilometres. Under the then existing legislation, an authorization of the type "A" was granted by a decree after consultation with the Territorial Assembly. It was not granted by the High Commissioner, for he was merely an intermediary and the authorization was granted by the Minister for Overseas France with the agreement of the Territorial Assembly. I might add that since that time the Statute has been adopted and the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government are in control of such matters. They are free to revoke or to maintain such authorizations, for they now make the decisions in this field. They have not revoked the authorization granted; on the contrary, everyone is interested in having such prospecting continued.

(Mr. Deniau, Special
Representative)

In addition to the information I have already given to the representative of India, I might say that the prospecting for radioactive minerals so far has included a cartographic and geological study of the regions of Mbéré and Haut Lom. The conclusions arrived at are that minerals are rare and there is no unusual radioactivity.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

I also note that the area covered was 2,300 square kilometres; the personnel used were three Europeans and sixty-nine Cameroonians and the programme for this year concerns the area of Poli. Hence, it is the centre and the east of the Cameroons.

In reply to the last question of the representative of India, I wish to say that if uranium should be found it will no longer be a question of an authorization for prospecting but it will be a question of authorization to operate mines and this will be up to the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Cameroons.

For the moment, we are dealing with prospecting and not with exploitation.

Mr. MITRA (India): I do not wish to hold people up but, in connexion with this matter, I should like to ask a very final question.

If I understand this correctly, according to the Statute and according to what I read in the report, if there is a disagreement between the chief of the Territory -- that is, I presume, the High Commissioner -- and the Assembly on a question of mineral permissions for search of type "A", which is the type I am talking about, then a decision can be taken by the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Assembly of the French Union. This is what I read on page 144.

I gather that the permission thus far accorded is only for investigation as to whether there are radioactive minerals or not. What I should like to know is whether this is one-sided: in other words, the Cameroonian Government or the Territory is not, by the concession which it has given, automatically obliged at some future date, if some material is found, to permit the people who have found the material to exploit, or are these people being paid some money to look for this material. I mean, I find that, normally, when concessions are given for an investigation of a certain mineral, they are accompanied by some clauses about the exploitation subsequently; this is the normal practice and I should be glad to know if this is not the case.

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

I suppose that in case deposits were to be found there would be a sort of option on the part of the Company which made the discovery; however, I do not have before me the text of the licence or permit which was given. I shall have to look it up and obtain the exact wording. However, I believe that the problem which is of interest to India is that the Legislative Assembly and the Cameroonian Government are not bound by texts prior to their establishment; they are only bound for the future. The decision would depend solely upon the Cameroonian Government and, if an option is provided in any field whatsoever, an option is not a definitive obligation and one has to have the consent of the executive branch. I am sorry that I cannot give the exact text of the permit which was given; I might find it among my documentation. Perhaps I shall be unable to locate it, but I shall certainly try to find it.

Mr. MITRA (India): I am perfectly satisfied with this reply and I am very grateful indeed to the special representative for having been so kind and considerate to me and my questions. I have no further questions.

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

Mr. TRON (United States): My delegation feels that it has been extremely well served with information in the economic field, both from the very comprehensive documentation in the annual report, and from the answers already given to the questions.

We have, therefore, only two very minor questions to ask the special representative.

We noted that the annual report states that Cameroonians now participate in the banana-export trade. Can the special representative tell us in what way they do so participate? It had been our impression that this was largely a European field.

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative)(interpretation from French): At this time, so far as I know, there are three companies which export bananas. In one of these three companies there is Cameroonian participation, but the participation of Cameroonians in the export of bananas is in fact much more extensive in so far as marketing is concerned; that is, in the operations which precede export. A great number of co-operatives are entirely indigenous. They bring the bananas as far as the export points. There is indeed participation by Cameroonians in one of the export companies, but I believe they are in a minority there. I do not have the exact information on that.

Mr. TRON (United States): My second question calls for a statement on the part of the special representative. There is a railroad which runs from Douala to Yaoundé. Has the presence of this railroad militated against the improvement of the road between the two cities?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The question put by the representative of the United States concerns the intentions of members of the Chamber of Commerce or the Legislative Assembly when they vote credits for the construction of roads and so forth. Thus this is a personal evaluation which he is asking of me. I shall answer yes without reservations. I think, in fact, that the existence of the railroad between Douala and Yaoundé was one of the reasons why no road for the use of heavy traffic has been built between these two cities. There is such a road between Douala and Edéa, one of the best roads in the Cameroons, if not one of the best in all Africa. It cost several billion francs but it does not extend beyond Edéa. It is well known in the Cameroons that all of the attempts which have been made to improve this road have met difficulties of a technical nature and the presence of the railroad was certainly the principal difficulty.

Mr. TRON (United States): I only wish to thank the special representative for his answers to these questions which I have put to him as well as for his answers to previous questions concerning matters in which we were interested.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): My first question concerns the financing of road development. In paragraph 63 of the summary prepared by the Secretariat (document T/L.815) there is a description of the Fonds d'investissement routier du Cameroun. I would ask first if the special representative could direct me to the section of the report which gives the manner in which the dues fixed by the Territorial Assembly are levied, unless it is possible for him to explain briefly how these dues are levied.

My second question is whether since 1956 this raising of an extra-budgetary fund has been shown to be a successful operation and -- the third part of the

(Mr. Thorp, New Zealand)

question -- whether what is described as the annual minimum amount has been exceeded, that is, has the Fund exceeded 170 million francs?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): On 8 June 1956 there was established in the Cameroons an extra-budgetary fund for road-improvement equipment. Its purpose is to build local roads and to improve the existing roads. The financing of this fund -- and this is the question which was put to me by the representative of New Zealand -- was determined in this way by the Territorial Assembly: dues of four francs per litre of gasoline. Then there is a tax on vehicles which use a fuel other than gasoline. Finally there is a contribution from the territorial budget -- now it is the Cameroonian budget -- which amounts to 40 per cent of the total amount of road fines. I believe that the figure of 170 million francs CFA mentioned here is correct. It was, in fact, exceeded in 1957, if my memory is correct. I regret that I do not have the exact figure for 1957. It should be somewhat higher.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): The special representative has very kindly provided all of the information in which I was directly interested. Again, working from document T/L.813, and I regret that I have not examined closely enough the records of last year to check on this question raised in paragraph 60 about ore prospecting, the English text explains that the operations seem to have shown the existence of a closed deposit of a certain amount of oil. These figures do not mean very much to me, as they stand, nor do I quite follow the expression "seem to have shown". Could the special representative explain in practical terms whether the deposit -- if it does in fact exist -- is a commercially exploitable one or is this merely the first indications of what could become commercially exploitable.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The formula used here reproduces the dubitative formula of the report and this also reflects the wording used by the prospecting company. Absolute certainty has not been reached. In prospecting for oil it seems that there are many failures for each success. According to the last data which I have it seems that there

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

exist several strata but that the deposit itself is not sufficient to warrant extensive exploitation. We thought that there were some important deposits of gas but as the present time systematic exploitation is not contemplated as the deposit is not large enough. However, I see for 1958 the company proposes to continue, in spite of everything, its trial drilling.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I thank the special representative for that explanation which represents a great improvement in my understanding of the statement as reproduced in the document. I had no idea whether this was a lot of or a little potential oil.

coco The special representative explained to the Council, in response to a question from the representative of China, the effects of the exchange reform of 10 August 1957 in terms of the cocoa producers. I wonder if he would be good enough to explain whether this reform had any other significant effects in improving the economy of the Territory outside the field of cocoa production.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): This reform has had a certain number of repercussions, all of which have not yet been recorded. To describe it briefly, it amounted to giving a special grant to exporters and it amounted also to taxing exports. These grants made it possible for the producers to get a better price and the export tax will have some effect on the import prices. However, the increase in prices will be less significant than the benefits derived by the Cameroons from the fact that a grant is given to those who are exporting local produce. I believe that the main beneficial effects of this new regulation will be those which I have described and I think they will facilitate exports. I do not think there will be other benefits on the economic life of the Territory which I can mention specifically.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I have no further questions, and I should like to thank the special representative very cordially for his replies to my questions.

Mr. TOMFH (Syria): Paragraph 44 of the Secretariat working paper (T/L.813) states:

"The economy of the Cameroons under French administration depends essentially on agriculture, ... and the majority of the population is employed in these economic activities..."--
that is, agriculture, cattle farming and the working of the forests.
Is it at all possible to have a breakdown of the number of Cameroonians engaged in industrial work? If this number can be found in the annual report, I would be grateful to the special representative if he could indicate that.

*Industrial
population*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I will undertake some research, but I think certain data, as requested by the representative of Syria, can be found in connexion with salaried workers which appears on page 384 of the annual report. The number of salaried workers can be found there divided up into general administration and according to the different services. I see an indication that there are 15,000 employed in industry and 14,000 working in public construction work. Other figures are given for commerce, transportation and mines. I think that this gives some indication of the information desired by the representative of Syria.

Cocoa Finance

Mr. TOMEH (Syria): I am very grateful for this explanation. Paragraph 46 of the Secretariat working paper (T/L.913) states that:

"At its nineteenth session, the Trusteeship Council noted that the fall in the world market of cocoa, coffee and cotton had led the Administering Authority to take certain measures of financial stringency. It considered that, because of the importance of those products to the economy of the Territory, the situation called for continued vigilance in order to ensure the development of a balanced and diversified economy." Would the special representative be kind enough to comment on this or to explain whether any plans have been put forward in accordance with this recommendation of the Trusteeship Council?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): This recommendation of the Trusteeship Council pointed precisely in the direction in which studies had been carried on by the Administering Authority which, in 1956, was responsible for the economy of the Cameroons. I may recall that a major sector of the economy of the Cameroons now no longer falls within the purview of the Administering Authority; but I can tell the representative of Syria that the plan d'équipement which is now in force and the new plan which is now under study are based on the necessity for maintaining prices and of diversifying the crops. I might recall to the representative of Syria that the Administering Authority has made major efforts -- which have been successful in recent years -- with regard to the latter point, that is, the diversification of crops. The cultivation of rice, cotton, groundnuts and coffee is very recent in the Cameroons and is the result of the recent plan. On the other hand the introduction of the caisse de stabilisation -- the stabilization fund -- was in response to the concern of the Trusteeship Council and is intended to introduce greater stability in the producers' remuneration. The plan d'équipement to which I referred and which is now being developed puts stress upon the problem of productivity and diversification of crops. Half of the appropriations under this plan will serve to improve agricultural small-scale production.

Mr. TCMEH (Syria): Paragraph 47 of the Secretariat document (T/L.813) mentions that "African participation in commerce and industry, although increasing, was still relatively small". Would the special representative be in a position to inform us as to the proportion of commerce and industry which is now in the hands of the indigenous African population, or can we find those figures in the annual report of the Administering Authority?

*African
particip.
in econ.
of the Terr.*

Mr. PENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I think it is impossible in a country like the Cameroons to have any racial discrimination and we do not furnish separate statistics except on the special request of the Council. We only make such a distinction because we have been asked to draw a distinction between the participation of Africans in commerce and industry in each of the fields. However, I will give a few indications to the representative of Syria. I would like to add that these recommendations date from last year and economic life is not subject to great ups and downs in a field as delicate and long-term as that of economic life.

The participation of Africans in commerce and industry takes place in the department of agriculture and the department of commerce, where there are presidents, vice-presidents and members who are Africans as well as Europeans on the lists of active members.

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

This participation also takes place in the export-import trade. I have a list here giving a great number of Cameroonians, mostly from the Bamiléké region. Transportation is almost completely in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants. The processing of cocoa is usually carried out by Cameroonians who sell it to buyers for the big companies.

In the field of agriculture, I have indicated that most of the handling and marketing of bananas and cocoa is in the hands of Cameroonians. This is also becoming more and more the case with coffee.

With regard to industry, some small industries are operated by Cameroonians, but most of the industrial companies in the Cameroons now have appealed to the metropolitan country for capital, although there is some Cameroonian participation. Some employees, such as technicians, are Cameroonians, and some shareholders in the companies are Cameroonians.

Cameroon
Mr. TOMEH (Syria): I wish to thank the special representative for his explanation.

My next question deals with paragraph 48 of the same document. It states that:

"At its nineteenth session, the Council requested the Administering Authority, if the Territory should become associated with the European Common Market, to inform it of the application of the Rome Agreements to the Territory...". (T/L.813, p. 13)

To the best of my recollection, I am not aware of either the special representative or the representative of France having made a statement to that effect. In case they did, I apologize. In case they did not, may I ask for a clarification.


Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I might tell the representative of Syria, as I have stated before in the Council, that discussion of this subject is premature since the treaty in question is only beginning to enter into effect. It would be premature to give information concerning the treaty.

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

However, in reply to the point which is indirectly raised concerning the Common Market, I wish to say that the Cameroonians have been associated with the negotiations and have participated in them although the Administering Authority was not compelled to include them in the negotiations under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Statute. I have before me a letter from the Prime Minister of the Cameroons at that time, Mr. Mbida written in reply to a letter addressed to him by the French Government, in which he noted that the overseas territories were free to resort to measures which would protect their national economy, and said that in view of this it seemed to him that the treaty could only have the most favourable consequences for the economic development of the Cameroons and could only strengthen the ties between France and the Western world. On the other hand, the Minister of Economic Affairs of the previous Cameroonian Government participated in the discussions when the international conference of GATT met at Geneva. He was one of the thirty-seven national representatives participating in the conference and he made statements which were recorded in the Cameroonian Press on his return from these negotiations concerning the Common Market.

Finally, there is an inter-ministerial committee made up of French Ministers and African Ministers, including the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Cameroons, which discusses questions pertaining to the Common Market. It met recently but it will be later this year that the terms of the application of the Common Market to the Cameroons will be discussed.

Mr. TONEH (Syria): Finally, Mr. President, may I try your patience and that of the special representative with another question on the Société de recherches et d'exploitation de pétrole au Cameroun. Just in case oil is found in a commercial quantity to be exploited, does the present agreement for the exploration of oil limit the amount of revenues or benefits to accrue to the Cameroonian Government or the Cameroonian population indirectly and what is this proportion? Or is it not limited at this stage of the exploration?



Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I think that the problem has not yet arisen. I am in the same position now as I was a while ago when replying to the representative of India -- I do not have before me a copy of the text of the prospecting permit. But I think there is an option on the exploitation of the petroleum if any is found. However, I do not think that permit is binding on the Cameroonian executive for the future. I believe that the proportion of income has not been determined since that stage has not yet been reached.

Mr. TOMEH (Syria): I wish to thank the special representative and the representative of France for their kind replies.

Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In the economic field, my delegation would like to ask the special representative to give us some information with regard to the control exercised by the committee of FIDES on the fund dedicated to capital investment in the Territory and, in this regard, I should like to know, first, how does the FIDES committee's control operate or how is it exercised and where is the headquarters of this committee.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The Executive Board of FIDES is in Paris. It exercises control in two ways: first, at the time of the drawing up of the plan, there is an exchange between the Executive Board of FIDES and the Assembly of the Cameroons -- the procedures are described in the annual report; and secondly, during the implementation there is financial control in the Territory on behalf of FIDES. The Executive Board sees to it that the appropriations made under the plan are applied to the operations as planned.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): Are we then to understand that a delegation of the Executive Board of FIDES is permanently established in the Territory? ✓

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): No, it seems that I did not make myself clear. Financial control is exercised in the Cameroons, and has always been exercised. There is a controller who represents the Minister of Finance. He is not the representative of the Minister of Overseas France. This may not seem very important to the Council, but it is very important for an understanding of the situation. The financial control of the Territory is concerned with the various expenditures of the different departments. It seems to me that the requests for funds are consistent with existing rules, and are consistent with the budgetary provisions. So far as FIDES is concerned, it leaves financial control to the Cameroonians themselves. The financial control of the Territory lies entirely in the hands of the Cameroonian Government which, incidentally, through a special convention, entrusted the control to the same official -- a high official of the metropolitan country, under the Minister of Finance of France. He is now in charge of financial inspection in the Territory and supervises all the commitments made. In other words, there is no delegation of the FIDES Committee in the Territory. There is merely a person who is a financial expert, whose work is to study the requests for appropriations to see that they are consistent with the established programme.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): This means, as I understand it, that the financial control exercised over investments from FIDES funds is similar to the control exercised over other investments, whether capital or other budgetary investments which are made under the provisions of the Territorial budget. That is, we are to understand that all control is exercised through a single office.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): This is not an arrangement based on any law or regulation, but the understanding of the Guatemalan representative is correct. In practice, it is the same office -- the office of the financial controller -- which actually supervises all investments.

10 year plan
Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My second question refers to the ten-year plan. According to the provisions of the law of 30 April 1946, a ten-year plan was inaugurated for the period 1947-1957. This ten-year plan has reached its conclusion. I would ask the special representative to tell us what was the general result of the plan on the Territory's economy, and what is the Administration's impression of the results of the plan?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The question put by the representative of Guatemala touches upon a problem which, in the view of economic and financial specialists of the Cameroons, is the major economic problem of our time. What conclusions are to be drawn from the implementation of the ten-year plan, it is asked, with a view to defining the objectives of yet another plan which is likely to be begun next year? Major studies have been conducted on this question, and I shall make this available to the representative of Guatemala if he so wishes. The results of the first two plans have been studied -- that is, the whole ten-year effort -- and an endeavour has been made to estimate the effect upon the economy of the Territory. I cannot sum this study up in a few words, for it is presented in a very large document, but I can say that the main purpose of this document is to describe all the work completed under the plan, and I shall give a few brief examples if this is desired. Of major enterprises, I would mention that the road to Edéa-Douala is completed and is now one of the best roads. The works at a place which links the north and the south are almost completed. The east-west road has been begun, and another road will be completed in a month. The Cameroons now has, altogether, 12,000 kilometres of roads, most of which are hard-surfaced and are open to traffic. The development of roads has had the effect of increasing motor traffic in the Territory. In general, the major work of infrastructure development is completed.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

Aerodromes have also been developed, and air traffic is beginning to play a role in the Territory. There is considerable trans-shipment of goods, and railroads have been developed.

I cannot deal in detail with the results achieved in agriculture, but we have already spoken repeatedly of the diversification of production which has taken place in recent years, and for which investments under the plan are mainly responsible.

Investments during this ten-year period amounted to more than 80,000 million CFA francs, which means 42,000 million for the public sector, 15,000 million for the semi-public sector, and 24,000 million for the private sector.

The projects under the third plan will be characterized by the fact that the allocations for agriculture will amount to about 50 per cent, and about 30 per cent for infrastructure development. The scope of the second plan will be about the same as that of the second phase of the ten-year plan.

To sum up, it is felt that the first period of five years has led mainly to the development of infrastructure -- that is, railroads, roads, bridges and aerodromes. The second period of five years was devoted mainly to the development of agricultural enterprise and the social structure. The next period will stress particularly rural equipment, since sufficient attention has been devoted to the infrastructure for the time being. In the studies which have thus far been made regarding the objectives of the third plan, it has been pointed out that special attention must be devoted to the north and chiefly to rural public works, such as the development of hydraulic resources in the north.

(Mr. Deniau,
Special Representative)

There will also be development of rice and cotton cultivation, conservation of the soil, sorghum cultivation and so forth.

I believe I have been lengthy in my explanation but the question of the representative of Guatemala was one which pertains to these vital matters in the development of the economy.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I am very grateful to the special representative for this very useful information which he has been kind enough to provide. I would venture to suggest that, perhaps, in the next annual report, sufficient data might be given with regard to the results of the ten-year plan so that the Council could study it and draw its own conclusions.

My question was also addressed, however, in order to discover whether satisfaction was felt as to the results of the ten-year plan and whether the efforts made and the sums invested really led to the results expected.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is quite certain that the development of the Cameroons in ten years has been made possible through this plan and in that regard the results achieved are certainly commensurate with the investments made, for now the Cameroons have roads, railroads, aerodromes, bridges -- in other words there is a solid and permanent infrastructure. It is equally certain that the implementation of the plan was subject to criticism in the metropolitan country as well as in the Territorial Assembly. In particular, the question of modernization has given rise to considerable criticism.

As I said in replying to a previous question, it is also true that many people have been surprised to see that large expenditures were devoted to major works such as the road of Douala-Edéa. This was criticized because it was considered extravagant by some.

I feel, however, that the Cameroons which, for ten years, lived on its own resources but had not been developed on its own resources, would not have the various conditions which would make it possible to engage in modern economic activities -- as we hope they will in the next three years -- without this plan. For this reason I think we can say that the plan was most beneficial.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): With regard to rural economic development in particular, my delegation would be very grateful if the special representative could tell us whether the evaluation of the achievement of the ten-year plan in this field was favourable, whether the plan really lived up to expectations.

*rural
econ
dev.*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): As I have just said, certain aspects of this plan for the improvement of rural production has been criticized, and I stress this because it was on this point that most Cameroonian criticism was concentrated; I am not speaking of criticism in the metropolitan country. The metropolitan country financed the plan but most of the criticism by the Cameroonians pertained to the modernization of the rural economy. An increase in production has been noted, although there was criticism in that connexion too. It was sometimes felt that the enormous sums expended were out of proportion to the results achieved. The study of the ten-year plan which I am referring to is in part devoted to this problem. It is due, I believe, to the fact that short-term results could not be expected. In our operation, the purpose of which was to develop cultivation methods which were very archaic, I do not think that there can be, each year, proportionate effects of such a long-term enterprise.

I believe that one must invest much in order to obtain commensurate profits later and in the field of cocoa production this is exactly what happened. The effort made since the second period of the ten-year plan is, I believe, now beginning to bear fruit. There is an increase in the cocoa output; for instance, in the Sanaga region where there are a large number of indigenous plantations, the output has sometimes increased by six times. I would also mention that cocoa, which sometimes amounted to 50 per cent of all exports a few years ago, now only amounts to 35 per cent of the total due to the diversification introduced into the economy.

In conclusion, I would say that indeed the sums invested in this field were considerable but that all the results of this investment are not yet apparent. At least this is the view of the specialists who have studied the results of the first ten-year plan.

FIDES fund

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I should like to know whether there is any proportion of the FIDES funds invested in the Territory which is recoverable. Is there a proportion which the Territory must reimburse to the common fund of FIDES?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): There is a provision which calls for the participation of the population of the Territory in the plan to a proportion which is very low and really only theoretical. I do not have the figures but could find them if the representative of Guatemala so desires. Their participation is not much in proportion to the total amount of the investment. The bulk is not reimbursable. I might add that the Territory was also called upon to apply for certain loans for development. These loans must be repaid but the terms are very favourable.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French): I wish to add an additional clarification to that given by the special representative. I wish to recall that, as the representative of Guatemala knows, there are several sections of FIDES. There is a general section of FIDES which deals especially with investments connected with prospecting, scientific research and so forth, and which is entirely financed out of the metropolitan budget. Then there is the section called the overseas section of FIDES which represents a considerably larger amount and which originally was financed to the extent of 55 per cent by the metropolitan budget and 45 per cent from the resources of the Territories concerned. In fact, of the 45 per cent which was to be supplied by the budgets of the Territory, a major part was lent by the Caisse de la France d'outre-mer. It was possible for the Territory to borrow from the Caisse centrale the contribution which it had to make to this part of the FIDES plan. This proportion has been altered considerably in view of the worsening of the financial situation in general of the under-developed countries, which means that the contribution has been reduced gradually. In fact almost everything comes now from the metropolitan budget in one form or another.

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

In the report, incidentally, there should be found the figures which show the contributions of the Territory for the year 1957. Ninety per cent of the financing of the plan was shouldered by the budget of the central part of the country, either directly through subsidies or through the Caisse centrale

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): now like to ask the special representative to be kind enough to tell us: Cameroons is provided with foreign exchange, so as to make purchases: it have available to it exchange in proportion to its exports or is all of this handled by the French Treasury?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The mechanics of the currency controls are described in the annual reports. The Cameroons pays all of its foreign exchange into a fund which is controlled by the metropolitan country which receives all of the currency of the franc zone and then this currency is distributed among the participants to the extent to which it is needed. Thus, there is no special fund in the Cameroons but there is a distribution which is made by the metropolitan country.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My question was intended to establish whether the requests for foreign exchange made by the Cameroons were met. Did the Cameroons obtain all of the foreign exchange that it wanted so as to be able to import merchandise from abroad?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): For two years now, in fact, and in the proportion which I might be able to determine, the Cameroons have been in deficit in so far as its economic relations with the franc zone are concerned, as well as in so far as its relations with the non-franc zones are concerned. In other words, the metropolitan country has been responsible for the maintenance of the balance of payments. I think that three or four years ago the Cameroons were in the black, in so far as balance of payments was concerned; it received more foreign currency than it was spending. However, for several years now the situation has been reversed and the metropolitan country has been filling the gap.

Mr. Rolz Bennett
Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I now come to a question relating to the industrialization of the Territory, particularly the timber resources. I should like to know, first of all, how timber is exported from the Territory; is it processed through a sawmill before it is exported or is it exported as it is, just as the trees are felled? Is there any establishment in the Territory for the processing of lumber, or to prepare plywood?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I have before me the statistics which would indicate this. In 1957, the following tonnages of timber were exported: 80,000 tons of bulk shipments; 19,000 tons of cut wood, in boards or in sawn wood. The population is interested in the processing of wood; we have sawmills.

Incidentally, when I spoke about industries in the region I forgot to say that the wood processing industry was largely in the hands of indigenous inhabitants. To cite a prominent example, I might mention that the former Minister of Finance, who is again in the new Cabinet, owned an important sawmill and one of the deputies who was assassinated last year in Sanaga-Maritime -- I apologize for these references, for I am speaking of people who have already been mentioned -- was also engaged in the lumber business and he also had a sawmill. Therefore, in this respect, certainly the indigenous population is not kept out.

plywood
Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to submit the final part of my question. Could the special representative tell us whether there is any interest in the Territory for the establishment of an industry for the manufacture of plywood?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I apologize but I cannot reply to this very specific point regarding plywood; perhaps I shall find some information among my notes as to the way in which plywood has or has not been produced in 1957. However, I am not in a position to reply to the representative of Guatemala; I regret very much that I cannot reply to his question at this time.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should be very grateful to the special representative if he would be able to find time enough to look up this information which I should like to have.

Guatemala, in past years, has expressed interest in agricultural production in the hands of the Cameroonians. Banana plantations figure in prominent place among those in local hands. We should like to know, in the first place, whether the yield of these plantations has improved and, if so, what measures were taken to bring about this improvement. Secondly, my delegation should like to know whether there has been an increase in Cameroonian production of bananas for export.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that I can reply in the affirmative on these two points. The output of banana plantations has increased considerably, due particularly to the various insecticides which were used; this improvement of the output has been observed during 1957. At this time, two-thirds of the banana production which is devoted to exports comes from indigenous plantations and this was one of the results of the considerable improvements which were achieved in the indigenous production of the country.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation had noted on previous occasions that the banana exports included a high percentage of exports coming from nine Cameroonian plantations. I am pleased to see that the percentage coming from indigenous plantations has increased and I should be grateful if the special representative at a later occasion could give us specific data with regard to the figures implied by this increase. *banana*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that I have these figures and that exports now, coming from indigenous plantations, amount to about two-thirds of the total. I could, perhaps, give the specific figures to the representative of Guatemala, but I think that this is the order of magnitude.

communication

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My final question refers to roads in the Territory.

We have observed on previous occasions that one of the difficulties in establishing a road network in the Territory is the building of bridges. Could the special representative comment upon the progress achieved in the building of bridges for the most important roads in the Territory?

Mr. DENIAU (Special representative) (interpretation from French): It is quite true that the building of bridges is one of the most important problems involved in the improvement of the road network. When the building of a large bridge is involved, technical methods are also of considerable importance. Bridge-building is proceeding under the plan which calls for the building of a certain number of bridges. Some bridges have been built under the plan, including the largest bridge in Africa.

As regards the road network which serves the country's villages, a major effort has been made through the petit équipement rural which co-ordinates the efforts of the population of the entire nation. It concentrates its efforts on local development. Thus, small bridges have been built throughout the Cameroons under the petit équipement rural. This has been made possible, in part, by the investments under the plan. This has been described in the report. In practice, the funds came out of the local budget and the labour was contributed by the population. I have observed this very often, particularly in the Bamileké country. Those concerned begin by building very primitive roads. They do so spontaneously. They then go to the Administrative Officer and show him that a beginning has already been made and they would like to build some bridges. They say that all that is needed is equipment, and it is then difficult for the Administrative Officer to refuse. The people say that they are willing to contribute their labour to such projects. As a result, equipment is furnished. This is particularly true in the Bamileké country.

Therefore, the development of the Territory and the building of bridges is achieved through the plan, that is, through the financing of FIDES for the major construction, and on the other hand there is the petit équipement rural, which is the active participation of the population, so far as the building of secondary roads is concerned.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I should like to express my gratitude for the very satisfactory replies given to me by the representative of France and the special representative. I have no more questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to announce that the Drafting Committee on Ruanda-Urundi will meet Tuesday morning at 10.30 in Conference Room 7. The Standing Committee on Administrative Unions will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Conference Room 8.

The Council will not meet on Monday. We will meet again on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
21st Session
19th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1354
21 February 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued the questioning of Xavier Deniau, the French special representative, on conditions in the French-administered trust territory of the Cameroons. The Council is examining the 1956 annual report on the territory submitted by the administering authority.

I. I. LOBANOV (USSR) asked what was the attitude of the population toward the amnesty law passed on 7 February.

The special representative said the law was passed after he had left the territory. He was therefore not in a position to explain fully the stand taken by the political parties. Before the promulgation of the law, he said, public opinion was quite divided as to the amnesty. Following the assassination of a young Deputy, the Cameroons Legislative Assembly passed a motion requesting the abrogation of the amnesty. Despite this circumstance, the Cameroonian Government finally agreed to the view of the French Government and the amnesty law was passed, thus allowing those exiled to return to the territory and to take part in the territory's development.

Referring to the arrest of Dr. Bebey Eyidi, who was the editor of a local newspaper, Mr. LOBANOV believed that he had heard the special representative say that Dr. Bebey was a fellow-traveler of the dissolved Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC). Mr. LOBANOV asked whether Dr. Bebey's arrest was due to his statement before the General Assembly's Fourth Committee.

Mr. DENIAU said the Soviet representative's conclusions were "entirely erroneous." He had not said that Dr. Bebey spoke before the Fourth Committee to defend opinions which were not his own; he had said that Dr. Bebey's opinions were very close to those of the dissolved UPC. There was no connection, however, between Dr. Bebey's arrest and his statement before the United Nations. The arrest had taken place about a year after Dr. Bebey's appearance before the Fourth Committee.

Following a search of the UPC's secretariat in Sanaga-Maritime in November 1956, the special representative said, documents were found which revealed the aid Dr. Bebey was giving to the reestablishment of the UPC. This was the reason for his arrest, and why his case was before the judiciary.

The Soviet representative then asked whether the administering authority had a timetable for the independence of the Cameroons.

(more)

JACQUES KOSECZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said the question would come up in due course. The question would in time be examined by the Cameroonian Government and the French Government.

Turning to economic conditions in the Cameroons, Mr. DENIAU, in response to a question by HSI-KUN YANG (China), described the success of the credit arrangements for improving agricultural output.

The special representative also spoke of cocoa and coffee production; the modifications made in November 1957 in the financial management of the cocoa modernization units and participation of the various communities in their management; the programs of the Soil Bureau; and the planned reorganization of agricultural education, which envisaged the establishment of an advanced school of agriculture and the opening of agricultural training centers.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council
21st Session
19th Meeting (PM)

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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

A.K. MITRA (India) noted that under the new statute, competence in such economic matters as currency and foreign exchange, foreign trade, customs and mineral resources was reserved to the central organs of France. It appeared from this, he said, that the only field of the economy left to the Cameroonian Government was agriculture and even this was limited by the requirements of foreign trade. He asked why there was such a limitation on the competences transferred to the Cameroons in the economic field?

The special representative said that, although a certain number of matters were outside the competence of the Cameroons, the "entire internal economy" came under its competence. In practice, he said, the Cameroonian government had an "important role" to play in the territory's economy.

The representative of India then asked whether any radioactive minerals had been found.

Mr. DENIAU said prospecting for uranium was being undertaken but none had yet been found.

The representative of India asked what benefit would accrue to the territory if uranium were found.

The special representative said the concession for prospecting uranium was granted before the new statute came into force. Under the laws then prevailing, the concession was granted with the approval of what was then the Territorial Assembly. Since then, the new statute had come into effect, and the Legislative Assembly was now free to revoke or maintain that concession.

Mr. DENIAU added that, in the event uranium deposits should be found in the territory, the granting of an authorization to exploit them would be within the competence of the Cameroonian government. He observed that he was not acquainted with the terms of this particular agreement.

(more)

RENE A. TRON (United States) asked to what extent the Cameroonians participated in the banana trade. He noted that the companies which handled the export of bananas were operated by non-indigenous persons.

The special representative said there were three companies which exported bananas, and Cameroonians participated in at least one of them. In practice, however, their participation was "much more extensive," particularly in the various phases of operations preceding the actual export of the bananas.

GEORGES TOMEH (Syria) recalled that last year the Council had noted that African participation in commerce and industry, although increasing, was still relatively small, and had expressed hope that such participation would increase. He asked for further information on this matter.

The special representative said that there was no racial discrimination in the Cameroons and no distinction as to race was made in the compilation of statistics. Moreover, there was not likely to be any great fluctuations in the figures in the period of a year. He could say, however, that Cameroonians participated in such fields as the Chambers of Commerce and of Agriculture, the export and import trade, transportation, processing of cocoa and the handling and marketing of bananas.

Answering a question by Jose Rolz (Guatemala), the special representative explained the territory's ten-year plan of economic development. The main emphasis of the plan for its first five years, he said, was on basic development projects; the second five years on equipment for agricultural enterprises and social services. The plan for the next five years, he said, would stress rural equipment.

The investments made under the plan, he said, were considerable and, while not all of the results were yet apparent, many of the investments were already beginning to bear fruit.

The questioning of the French special representative on conditions in the Cameroons will be continued by the Council at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 25 February.

(END OF TAKE 2 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1354)