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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 25 February 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Vice-President)

(Belgium)

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

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## REQUEST FOR ORAL HEARING

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before we continue the consideration of the situation in the Cameroons under French administration, I wish to give the Council information concerning two petitioners -- Prince Alexandre Douala Manga Bell and Mr. Paul Ngondjeu -- to whom the Council decided to grant hearings.

Prince Alexandre Douala Manga Bell, who wishes to be heard on the situation in general in the Cameroons, has just arrived in New York. He has informed us that he has not yet had an opportunity to study the documents which he must study and he has asked to be heard tomorrow. I suggest to the Council, if it is agreeable to the members, that we should hear him after we finish the questioning period.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Mr. Ngondjeu has asked to be heard in order to protest against the decision taken by a private company to dismiss him. He has sent a telegram to the Secretariat in which he asks that the cost for his travel to New York be paid by the company which dismissed him. Obviously it is not possible for the United Nations to adopt a decision to that effect. Therefore, I suggest that the Secretariat should inform the petitioner accordingly.

It was so decided.

## 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/COM.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.

Economic advancement (continued)

Mr. KELLY (Australia): We are all, I think, aware of the impact on Africa of social processes involving the proletarianization in urban areas of hundreds of thousands of Africans. This condition, which is often voluntarily adopted by Africans, is, of course, undesirable and its growth is by no means an inevitable sociological development.

The questions I am about to put are in part prompted in this connexion by a reading of pages 113 and 114 of the report on the Cameroons under French administration. My first question is this: As access to the means of production by families within the traditional collectivities may offer a scope for the scientific application of co-operative principles on the basis of widely distributed property rights, I should like to ask the special representative whether the Cameroonian Government has given any thought to the elaboration of policies designed to avoid the evils of proletarianization in the Territory. In other words, is the Cameroonian Government positively endeavouring to ensure that Cameroonian peasants and working people remain in possession of personal or co-operative rights to the use or ownership of the means of production? What I have in mind is, of course, the larger and the more general aspects of policy.

*Proletarianization*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of Australia has spoken of the proletarianization of the urban masses of the Cameroons and he has asked me whether the Government of the Cameroons is aware of this problem. I believe that the Government is most conscious of this problem, and one of the concerns of the Government and of the Administration, which is competent beyond the Government in this matter, is to deal with the consequences -- which, in some respects are deplorable -- of the transformation of the Cameroonian peasant to the uprooted proletarian of the cities. In particular, it has sought to maintain as far as possible the people on the land. In some cases, the return to the land of people in the cities is promoted, especially in the case of people who are not employed. Sometimes travel costs are paid for individuals and their families in urban centres to return to their villages. The social welfare agencies and the Labour Department are very much concerned with this problem of the proletarianization in urban centres.

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Special Representative)

The representative of Australia was more specific. He asked me what were the steps taken or contemplated in order to make available to those concerned or to give to them the means of production if they do not have it yet.



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I believe that the peasants already have their instruments of production. The ownership of land is a European concept, but, if the land does not belong to them, they nevertheless occupy it and draw from it the fruits of their labours.

As regards the individuals who live in urban centres, a number of organizations give loans to tradesmen who may wish to establish themselves in business so that they can buy what they need. I have already referred to this activity on the part of the Crédit du Cameroun, in answer, I believe, to a question by the representative of China. The granting of loans to individuals who have a trade but have not the means to be in business on their own is part of the policy which I defined a moment ago and which amounts to avoiding as far as possible the proletarianization of individuals in the urban centres. I believe, moreover, that this problem is tied, to a large extent, to the scope of the work done which has led to the cities a number of people who then tried to establish themselves there permanently.

I wish to point out, however, that the total population of the urban centres of the Cameroons is still very low, since it is less than 250,000 out of a population of more than 3,000,000. The figure of 250,000 is, in fact, a very high estimate. Therefore, I think that this is a problem which does not concern the major portion of the population, but concerns something less than 10 per cent of it.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I wish to thank the special representative for his reply. I was, of course, aware that this process of proletarianization had not proceeded very far in the Cameroons. What I had in mind was the larger process affecting other parts of Africa, a process which in time might seriously engage the attention of the Cameroonian Government.

To pass to my next question, I may observe that, as an Australian, I had noted with interest that in the Territory the principles of the distinctively Australian Torrens Act obtain in the matter of the registration of the titles of individuals and companies to certain lands, and I should like to ask the special representative whether there is any corresponding system for the registration of titles to the use of land in the traditional collectivities.

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

The Torrens Act originated in Australia and is considered to be so perfect that it is used in a number of French Territories, especially in the Cameroons, where it is called "the Registration Regime". It allows a number of individuals, having possession of the land but not ownership, to achieve ownership outright so that they can then negotiate that property -- something which they could not do when they simply had titles to the use of the land under Customary Law. Customary Law provides for various types of holdings, but, by this registration system, the persons concerned, if there is no objection from other parties, can transfer title to the use of land under Customary Law into a title of ownership. Litigation with regard to their property from that moment would no longer lie with the Customary tribunals. Rather, such litigation would go before a Common Law Tribunal. Registration is voluntary, but it is obligatory for non-indigenous persons who acquire a property, and every time the rights of the seller must be carefully defined. This procedure has the advantage of establishing definitively and without contest the rights of an individual to a given plot of land, and thus it contributes to this struggle against proleterianization, to which reference was made by the representative of Australia. It makes ownership rights much more stable and thus establishes the peasants on their land and governs all the transactions with regard to the land and allows them to obtain loans which enable them to develop their land.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I do not wish to trouble unduly the special representative, to whom I am once more indebted, but I was really wondering whether, within the framework of Customary Law, there was any corresponding system for the registration of titles to the use of land in the traditional collectivities.

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

There is indeed a procedure of this kind which is known as "Recognition of the customary right" and it is a procedure which makes it possible to recognize officially, through a deed, the customary or traditional rights exercised upon land by the indigenous members of the traditional collectivity. There is

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a special procedure, introduced by a decree of July 1932, which recognized the Customary Laws and traditional rights, and it provides in particular -- and this is its principal point -- for investigation and wide publicity as regards the request for recognition of land rights; so that those who will receive those rights should justify their claims before a judge. A judgement of the tribunal then notes this right, and that can be appealed before the Chambre d'homologation, either by the State or by individuals. After the transfer has taken place, a record is made and the file becomes an official record, of which a copy is kept by the person concerned, one by the regional office, and another copy is kept elsewhere. Thus, the rights to possession by traditional collectivity are preserved.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I am very glad indeed to hear that these rights under Customary Law are so effectively recognized in the Cameroons; but, apart from the mere registration or recording of these rights, I should like to know -- and I ask the special representative accordingly -- whether these traditional collectivities have adopted any means for fairly and justly distributing rights to the use of land. I realize that this is a question that falls within the competence, I should imagine, of the Cameroonian Government and of the collectivities themselves, but I can conceive of a possible mal-distribution of rights to the use of land within the collectivities. Is there any means for preventing any mal-distribution of the rights to the use of land in the collectivities? Is it a matter simply of popular control, popular or group discussion? Or what is it?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The two procedures which I have just described are legal procedures. There are, however, customary procedures for the granting of land rights. These customary procedures vary according to regions and, within the regions themselves, there are groups with different customs. In certain zones -- and this applies to the greatest part of the Cameroons -- the Chief assigns land to various heads of families; the latter then assign the land to persons under their administration or to members of their family or clan. In other zones, particularly those where industrial crops are grown, ownership of the land has become individual, even though the ownership has not been recognized under the legal procedures which I previously indicated; an individual owns land on which he plants industrial crops and he carries out transactions connected with this land even though he only has the right to use the land. Thus, the land is not divided again by the Chief when there is a change of ownership, or when a new generation takes over the land; rather, it is a question of succession as we know it in European law, even though the land has not been granted under a legal procedure, properly speaking.

As I have already stated, the method most frequently used is that of a distribution of the land by the Chief in accordance with customary procedures. This customary method sometimes creates difficulties, particularly in the areas where there is the most rapid economic development. These difficulties are in the first instance taken before the customary tribunals. If the dispute is not settled by the conciliation tribunal or the customary tribunal, the parties concerned may go before the courts of first or second degree. In other words, the land is granted under customary procedures, and differences in respect to the granting of land are first taken to conciliation tribunals and then to the so-called local law courts.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): My last question is of a very general character and again relates to a matter falling within the competence of the Cameroonian Government itself. I should like to ask the special representative whether, by and large, African wage-earners in the towns and on the plantations retain rights to the use of land for themselves and their families in the collectivities with which the wage-earners were originally associated.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I think that a certain number of particular cases are involved here. In any case, property belongs to the family, to the relatives of the African. A person who goes to the town does not sell his land; he leaves it to someone in his family, who continues to cultivate it. That is the most widely used method.

As I have said, there are special cases in this respect. Workers in Douala -- the majority, if not all, of whom come from the interior parts of the country -- no longer have any ties with their land. They find it waiting for them when they go home, but they are no longer tied to it and do not cultivate it. They live the life of a worker and not the life of a peasant-worker. Some workers on the plantations -- for example, the rubber plantation of Disangue -- have little garden plots of their own; these are not plantations properly speaking. In other areas, such as Mongo, the Africans employed on the banana plantations work a little plantation of their own in their free time. I regret, therefore, that it is difficult to make any generalizations in this field.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): For my part, I do not minimize the difficulties of making any generalizations about land tenure or rights to the use of land in Trust Territories in Africa. I therefore wish to thank the special representative for the light he has thrown on this problem, which goes, I think, to the root of these processes of proletarianization.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My first question relates to the budget of the Territory. In examining the estimates for 1956, we have noted that the expenditure has been reduced by about 1 billion francs. At the same time, we notice that about 50 per cent of this expenditure goes to the payment of salaries of personnel. In this connexion, we note that in addition to this 50 per cent in the ordinary budget -- what is called the operating budget -- part of the sum of 1,522,000,000 francs in the metropolitan budget is spent on the payment of personnel. I should like to know how much of this amount of 1,522,000,000 francs should be charged to personnel serving under the jurisdiction of the Cameroons Government. I do not, of course, expect to receive any precise figures; I am just asking for a general amount.

*Longer*



Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I believe that the representative of Italy is referring to the 1956 budget. That budget provided for operations prior to the adoption of the Statute -- that is, the division of services between the Cameroonian Government and the French Republic did not as yet exist. The sum in question -- that is, the sum of 1.5 billion francs -- was meant to pay the salaries of officials who, because of the general cadre to which they belonged, were paid by the French Government; these officials were magistrates, administrators, gendarmes, labour inspectors, and so forth. After the introduction of the Statute, officials began to be paid not according to their cadre but according to whether they were employed by the French Government or the Cameroonian Government.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I am grateful for that answer, because I was not very clear as to what the situation became after the implementation of the Statute. This division probably does not give a correct idea of how much of the cost of personnel has been charged against the Territory's budget.

My second question in this respect is a minor one. I would invite the special representative's attention to page 304 of the annual report. Under section II, we find an item entitled "Travaux d'infrastructure". We note that in 1956 the amount spent under this item decreased considerably. Indeed, in 1955, the expenditure was 287,000 francs, while in 1956, it was only 2,000. I should like to ask the special representative whether the following interpretation of this decrease is the correct one: the "travaux d'infrastructure" are charged, not to this budget, but to the capital expenditure budget.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): These infrastructure works are provided for in the 1956 budget. The figure of 2 million is mentioned there. Almost all this infrastructure work is no longer carried on the local budget. Rather, it is carried on the special budget of the plan, FIDES and so forth.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I must apologize, because I probably did not use the correct terminology. What I referred to, in any case, was the investment budget. I am still somewhat confused by the terminology in the working paper, where there is this division between the operating budget and the capital investment budget.

My next question also has to do with a minor point of clarification. It refers to the second table on page 344 of the annual report, which gives figures on the production of gold and other minerals in the Territory from 1952 to 1956. As far as gold is concerned, we find that the annual production in 1956 was about fourteen kilos, and in the previous year was a little larger, but not by very much. The maximum production was in 1952, when it reached about eighty kilos. On the next page of the annual report, the total of gold production in the Territory is given as 796,419 kilos. I think this is a misprint. Should that be read as 796 kilos?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): Yes, that figure is 796 kilogrammes.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My next question refers to the production of tobacco in the Territory. In the working paper, document T/L.813, at page 16, we find that the production of tobacco in the Territory dropped considerably in 1956 as against 1955. In connexion with this point, I should like to ask the special representative two questions. First of all, is the tobacco produced in the Territory for local consumption or for export? Secondly, what are the causes of this drop? Was it caused by a bad season or by a lack of interest on the part of the farmers in producing this commodity?




*rural societies*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): There are two types of statistics -- the production of industrial tobacco and the production of local tobacco. The statistics bearing on industrial tobacco produced by the Bastos Society are about the same from one year to the next -- a constant level of production. With regard to tobacco produced by the inhabitants for their personal use or just for local consumption, there has been a drop in the planting of tobacco in the east of the Cameroons. This decrease or drop is attributed to the fact that the persons concerned prefer to plant ground nuts or coffee, which bring in more profit than tobacco.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My last question also relates to a very minor point. On pages 354 to 359, we have a very interesting account of the operation of the petit équipement rural societies, and the amounts spent are shown in one of the columns. I should like to ask the special representative: Do these figures which appear in these tables represent the credit obtained by the societies for completing the operation, or the total cost of the operation?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): These figures cover the participation of the budget in the work done under the system of petit équipement rural. This system is described at length, I believe, in the report, and the Council is familiar with it since it took a special interest in the matter two years ago. This system consists of associating the inhabitants -- or the participation of the inhabitants -- and the budget of the Cameroons to even the budget of the plan. The two are associated in order to effect work of local interests. This contribution is either in the form of labour or sometimes in the form of materials, sometimes in the form of money. A rural community may sometimes take the initiative in undertaking something under the scheme of petit équipement rural, and it provides for the expenditure of a certain amount of money. It may also plan to use a certain amount of labour or of materials. I said that any rural community or any collective group may take the initiative, for the community which starts this system of petit équipement rural, which makes the request for it, may be a co-operative, may be a village or commune or any collectivity. Now, to reply specifically to the representative of Italy: The figures you find here indicate the budgetary participation which comes from above.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): As this is a very important initiative and operation, I think it would be quite in order for the Administering Authority in the future to give, if possible, the amount of the total operation. Owing to the success of this initiative, I think it would be very interesting for the Council to know exactly what the results are.



U KYAW MIN (Burma): My delegation has listened with keen interest to the exchange of questions and answers in the economic field that has preceded my present intervention, and we are gratified to find that, as a result, much valuable and detailed information on the various aspects of the Territory's economy has been brought to light. This additional information, together with that which had already been made available to us in the various documents placed before us, gives us, I think, a fairly accurate picture of the Territory's economy, particularly with regard to the various measures instituted by the authorities, through legislative and administrative action, for the orderly progress of the Territory's economy. However, my delegation considers that the rate of economic progress -- or even economic progress as such -- of a given territory is determined to a large extent by such other factors as the national or ethnic character, the psychological attitudes, and so on, of the people of that territory, as well as by their communal structures and their social aspirations.

I do not propose at this stage to go into an elaborate theoretical exposition of this point. I only wish to stress that in examining the economy of the French Cameroons, its present position and its future prospects the factors which I have mentioned should not be overlooked or even treated lightly, for we feel that adequate knowledge of these matters is necessary if we are more precisely to comprehend and evaluate the condition and prospects of the Territory's economic structure. Since the information in this regard that my delegation possesses is rather scanty, I hope the Council will bear with me if I now proceed to elicit some information in this respect from the special representative and if, in doing so, I ask questions that might appear at first glance to be somewhat far-fetched or abstract.

My first question is as follows. I wonder if the special representative is in a position to tell me what the Cameroonians by nature are like? Are they, as businessmen or as traders, enterprising and hard-working, and have they the sort of business acumen and the experimental attitude which makes one willing to take a certain measure of calculated risk for the possibility of bettering oneself? Or are they, on the other hand, easily content with the lot which a modest effort would yield? In other words do they, comparatively speaking,

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prefer leisure to work? I should be grateful to the special representative if he could furnish me with some information in this regard, with due reference to the religious and ethnic differences existing between the peoples of the North and the South.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The reply to the question put by the representative of Burma is to be found in the geographical consideration of this matter. It is difficult to describe Cameroonians as such. One has to take them in turn and describe their principal characteristics. I will simply mention certain principal zones of the country. First I shall mention an ethnic group in the Cameroons which is especially outstanding in the economic field, namely, the Bamiléké Region. I think the best way to see whether the Cameroonians are inclined to this or to that type of activity is to see what the situation is at the present time, and to see whether they are inclined towards this or that activity or this or that branch of commerce. We find that the Bamiléké, throughout the whole of the South and to some extent in the North also, provide the businessmen who, in each village, carry on the retail trade and do the little jobs as intermediaries in purchasing supplies for the plantations, and so on. This is the sort of work which, in other countries, one sees carried on by extra-African nations. The Bamiléké are the small businessmen and store-keepers. They also conduct the greater part of the export-import trade, and almost all the transport industry. Also, Bamiléké are quite often industrial workers in Douala.

I think I might emphasize the part played by the Bamiléké in this connexion, because their qualities as workers, their endurance and so on are quite outstanding. They are ambitious in their desire to get ahead. I have mentioned business and industry, but not agriculture. The reason for this is that in the Bamiléké country it is the women who do the agricultural work, and they work pretty hard. They are very courageous women. The men, on the other hand, are, as I say, the shop-keepers.

In other zones in the Cameroons we do not find races endowed with such great qualities for small business, and so on. The men in the North are, in general, either shepherds or farmers. The peasants are farmers and the

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Moslems are shepherds. They are not outstanding as businessmen. These mountain farmers in the North work very hard to ensure an adequate crop each year.

I would add that in these zones in the North we are beginning to see a migration movement somewhat similar to the Bamiléké migration movement in the South, and we are finding mountain people around the Chad or in Nigeria. In the South, in the jungle country or the cocoa-raising areas we find small farmers cultivating their own farms, and working as family groups rather than as companies. However, in certain zones in Sanaga we find them struggling for greater profits and a greater yield. This is something new in the situation.

I have, somewhat rapidly and briefly, sketched the main characteristics of the population in several of these zones. I apologize if I have not gone sufficiently into detail, but if the representative of Burma desires additional information I shall do my very best to provide it.

✓ U KYAW MIN (Burma): In order to supplement the information which the special representative has just been kind enough to provide me with in reply to my first question, I should like to seek some further information by putting a second question that is closely related to it. I should like to know what pursuits in life are normally most associated with prestige from a social point of view. For instance, is the acquisition of wealth one of them, or do the people's religious or other beliefs discourage material ones?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that the activities which bring most prestige and which are sought after are those connected with public office. I believe that that is not peculiar to the Cameroons. It is a widespread phenomenon in Africa, and in the Cameroons it is very definitely the case. I think that the first desire of any Cameroonian who has studied is to become an official. Inside the civil service, of course, there is a hierarchy, and prejudices go with it. For instance, it is considered more desirable to be in one particular service than in another.



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Outside of the civil service, I believe that prestige is attached to different activities. It is connected with wealth. There is also the question of birth, and that also is connected with wealth. There is acquired wealth, and also there are religious factors for some people. I do not think I can give an exact scale of values which are fixed and rigid, for it varies from region to region.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I should now like to pass to a few questions of a more specific nature. My first question in this regard relates to hoarding. As we know, in most, if not all, under-developed countries, hoarding is a common phenomenon, and we presume that the French Cameroons is not an exception. I should, therefore, like to receive from the special representative some information on the following points.

I should like, firstly, to know if the Administering Authority has been able to estimate the size of private hoards in the Territory. If so, what percentage of the national income do they comprise?

Secondly, I should like to know in which form these private hoardings are being held.

Thirdly, I should like to know what measures the Administering Authority has taken to release these hoardings by way of providing incentives for investment.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The representative of Burma has asked me the proportion of territory which had in fact been appropriated. I would have to consult statistics for a number of years in order to get the proportion of the territory which has been registered under the registration system or under the other system which I described previously in reply to the representative of Australia. The land which does not fall under these two procedures and which is collectively appropriated or held represents almost the whole of the Cameroons. Indeed, we find ourselves faced here with a practical reality and a juridical fiction. All land not owned belongs to the Territory itself; that is to say, to the

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whole community. The practical reality is that everyone considers himself to be a member of some collectivity and feels that he has a certain right of use or possession over the tribal land. In theory, most of the land in the Cameroons belongs to the Cameroonians themselves. If you take a practical view of it, however, and the idea is that the population itself has its rights, then most of the land in the Cameroons falls under the right of usage of a certain number of communities.

The representative of Burma also asked me the proportion of the national revenue as produced by private holdings. I regret that I cannot reply to that. We have no calculations as to the national revenue, that is, to give such figures as might be the case with a nation which has a more developed economy.

I apologize to the representative of Burma, but I do not recall the third question he put, and I would ask him to repeat it.

✓  
U KYAW MIN (Burma): I believe that, perhaps owing to the interpretation, the special representative did not quite grasp my question. I was primarily concerned with private hoardings, hoardings in the form of gold, precious metals or jewellery, unproductive savings, which is a common phenomenon in most under-developed countries. I believe that it is possible to estimate at least the extent of these hoardings and what proportion or percentage of the national income they comprise. At any rate, since the special representative has asked me to repeat the third part of my question, I shall do so.

I should like to know what measures the Administering Authority has taken to effect the release of these private hoardings by providing incentives for investment.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I apologize for not having better understood the question of the representative of Burma when he first stated it.

I believe in fact that the situation in the Cameroons is not that of a country where a considerable amount of the wealth is hoarded in the form of jewellery or family property or in the form of gold. I think that the Cameroons



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were known, until relatively recent years, to have a consumer's economy. What was produced was consumed as it was produced, and very little hoarding took place; there were very little savings also. The home was not considered as private property by the Cameroonians. They moved very frequently; there exists a kind of nomadism there. Real estate does not mean anything since land is not individually owned and transferable goods do not amount to much. Some working tools or some tools that were used in the home were passed on from father to son.

I know of only two examples of hoarding as referred to by the representative of Burma, and that is concerning cattle hoarding in the North and the wealth belonging to the chiefs in the Bamiléké country. The shepherds in the North consider their animals to be their wealth; they consider them in this way rather than as wealth derived from slaughtering the animals. The shepherds are not particularly interested in the money that they may receive from the sale of the animals or their products.

The second example to which I referred is the wealth of the chiefdoms. This has a more episodic character. In each chiefdom of the Bamiléké country there are certain objects which are of great value in some cases; in other cases they have no value whatsoever. I am thinking of certain statues which were imported from Germany in the last century. They are the property of the chiefdoms and have no real value. They are inherited from one generation to the other. The general situation is, as I have said, that whatever is produced is usually consumed right away, so that the last question of the representative of Burma cannot be answered satisfactorily. There has not been any hoarding. Therefore, the problem of reintroducing hoarded wealth into the economy does not arise. I might add, on the contrary, that there is the problem of encouraging savings. In mentioning this, perhaps I am not replying to the representative of Burma directly, but I am referring to something that interests him. Some of the production of the Cameroons should be set aside as savings.

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Special Representative)

Until recently almost everything that they earned or produced was immediately consumed. But now we note that a part of this is indeed being saved, mostly in order to obtain better housing or to buy modern instruments or tools. I think this is something that may be of interest to the representative of Burma.

*savings*  
U KYAW MIN (Burma): I wish to thank the special representative for that answer. I find that part of my next question has been dealt with partially by the special representative. However, there are a few points which have remained unanswered. My question relates also to savings institutions. I should like to know, for instance, the number of savings institutions in the Territory; secondly, how widespread they are and the accessibility of the indigenous inhabitants, particularly those with lower incomes; and thirdly, the rates of interest that these institutions offer.

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

As I have indicated, the question of savings is a very new idea in the Cameroons. Sometimes they save up money for a specific purchase which they have in mind, especially when they have marriage in mind. They do not have systematic savings. Very often they save up their products and do not eat them right away. We also have the postal-check account, especially in the back country, because it offers a considerable advantage. Then we also have the method of saving by deposits in banks, which is quite recent. The interest varies from 2 to 5 per cent according to the nature of the deposit. Finally, there are different forms of credit furnished by le Crédit du Cameroun, le Crédit mutuel, le Crédit agricole, le Crédit artisanal, and so on. Different forms of loans are based upon a deposit made by the person asking for the loan.

I think that there are several methods of saving which are made available to the inhabitants, according to the objective sought by the savings.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): My next question relates to the Cameroonian *Currency* currency. I should like to know by what assets other than the French franc the Cameroonian currency is backed? Does the law require, for instance, that the Cameroonian currency must be backed by gold or other security deposits in addition to foreign exchange, and if so, could the special representative give me the percentages?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): There is no Cameroonian currency, properly speaking. The Cameroonian franc is the franc CFA, which is the same in all the French African territories, with the exception of the Somali coast. Hence there is no Cameroonian currency and the franc used in the Cameroons is the same franc that is in use in Dakar or in Brazzaville. Indeed it is based on the metropolitan franc.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): Could the special representative kindly clarify whether or not there are any restrictions on the transfer of profits by foreign-based companies and business concerns to their respective home countries. If the answer is in the affirmative, could the special representative tell me the extent to which and the manner in which such control is exercised. I should like to know if there exists in the Territory any law or regulation which requires compulsory reinvestment in the Territory of a certain portion of the profits earned by foreign companies? *foreign exchange regul.*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): There exist restrictions concerning the transfer of currency from other zones to the French zone where the Cameroons is located. There are no restrictions on transfers from the Cameroons to France or to other countries in the French-franc zone. This is done by normal banking transfers. The re-export of company profits is then under the control of l'Office des changes, which verifies the regularity of the process. There is no regulation for reinvestment of a part of profit,

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Special Representative)

but there are heavy deductions as regards profits which are reinvested in the Territory; that is to say that the taxes are lightened on company profits which are invested in the Territory, and this amounts to the same thing. If the profits are taken out, they are subject to heavier taxation than as regards profits reinvested on the spot.

*double taxation*  
U KYAW MIN (Burma): May I now touch briefly on the question of double taxation. I wonder if the special representative is in a position to enlighten me as to whether the Administering Authority, on behalf of the Cameroonian Government, has entered into any bilateral or multilateral agreements with foreign governments whereby the profits earned by foreign companies and commercial enterprises operating in the Territory would be exempted from double taxation in their respective home countries.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The Trusteeship Agreement provides that the Member States of the United Nations should not be discriminated against in the Cameroons. Therefore, there are no bilateral agreements involving the Cameroons. There is no such agreement as referred to by the representative of Burma. Such agreements would violate the Trusteeship Agreement which authorizes equal treatment for all Member States of the United Nations.

*luxury taxation*  
U KYAW MIN (Burma): I should like to know if a system of luxury taxation exists in the Territory. If it exists, could the special representative tell me on what luxury items such taxes are imposed. I should also like to know what qualitative or quantitative restrictions have been imposed other than licensing or imposing heavy duties on the import of luxury goods. I ask these questions because I want to see the extent of the possibility of increasing savings by reducing consumption, especially luxury consumption, of the higher and middle income groups, which in under-developed countries tends to be rather excessive.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I do not think there is any luxury tax on specific items. However, we do have particular taxes on certain items imported into the Territory which amount to a luxury tax. There is a special tax on alcoholic beverages. This tax may also be imposed by communes. All of the fiscal regulations provide for taxes according to the various categories of imports. I am sorry, but I do not have the details of this matter before me. I do not have the ad valorem percentage collected with regard to this or that product. The tax generally is higher if the product is not a necessary or vital one. If it is vital then of course it is not taxed so heavily. Taxes have been imposed on a certain number of products which might compete with products produced in the Territory. Companies which attempt to set up a business in the Territory are granted special exemptions. This is all based upon the economic requirements of the Territory, and especially with a view to its industrialization.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): My next question relates to population growth. Considering that in under-developed countries, where the base of capital formation is slow and the kind of resources and skills necessary for industrial development is limited, the rate of population growth tends to have an inverse correlation to the standard of living, our delegation feels that more information on this subject ought to be solicited from the special representative. I should therefore like to ask him if he is in a position to give me the percentage rates of population growth per annum -- say, for the last ten years or so -- and also, if possible, the estimated percentage rate of growth for the next five years. *poony*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): It is most difficult to make available such statistics in a country like the Cameroons where social registration is a very recent practice. The development of the population is recorded through censuses which are undertaken locally from time to time, so that there may be statistics going back five years for one subdivision of a region and much more recent statistics for another. In view of this, it is most difficult to estimate the percentage growth of the population. An over-all census would be required for this.



(Mr. Deniau,  
Special Representative)

What I can give to the representative of Burma is not real population statistics but some indications. It seems that the population is growing very rapidly in some parts of the Territory and that it is quite stable in other parts. Population growth has been constant in the Bamiléké mountain region. This also applies to the northern mountain region populated by heathens. In other zones in the north, there is no population increase.

In a certain number of areas in the centre of the Cameroons, in the plantation region, it seems that the population is relatively stable. Many young people are moving to the cities. In the east, which was ravaged by disease some years ago, there has been a resumption of the population growth since the disease has been eliminated.

I regret that I cannot be more specific in my reply and that I cannot project the population growth into the future. I think the outlook for the coming years is somewhat in line with what happened in the past -- that is, we will have considerable population growth in the mountains and relative stability in the lower areas.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I thank the special representative for that reply. Of course, I can appreciate the difficulty in providing the statistics which I called for. However, I wonder if the special representative can give me, instead, the annual birth rates and death rates per thousand for the same period.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): There are approximate indications of this in that part of the report relating to health matters. We only have partial statistics. I would find it difficult to give a satisfactory reply here. The figures with respect to death and birth rates have been provided by the Health Service, but we should use them with great caution. For example, to consider only the people who have registered at hospitals and so forth would be insufficient.

U KYAW MIN (Burma): I have one last question. The special representative told the Council in his opening statement that the export of bananas increased from 66,000 tons to 85,000 tons during this year. But we find in the Secretariat working paper on page 15 that the total tonnage of bananas exported for 1956 was 78,910 tons. I would be grateful to the special representative if he could indicate which of the two figures is correct. *bananas*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The figures which I have in my possession indicate that the export tonnage for 1957 was 85,000. Exports for 1956 amounted to 66,000 tons. I do not know where the figure of 78,910 tons comes from. It is probably a tentative estimate. Sometimes we have actual production figures, sometimes we have estimates and sometimes we have customs figures. I do not know exactly from where the figure of 78,910 comes. At any rate, it is not correct. I can make an investigation. I am sure I will find it somewhere.



U KYAW MIN (Burma): I believe that the mistake was mine. The 78,910 tons refers, I believe, to the 1956 production, and not to 1957.

*Commun*  
Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I have only a very small number of questions on a subject which has not, I believe, been touched on in the questioning so far: the subject of civil aviation, which is dealt with on pages 163 and following of the report.

It seems to my delegation that civil aviation is of some importance in the economic development and opening up to new development of a country like the Cameroons. We have noted from the report that aerodrome construction is still going on and that there are now some twenty aerodromes, of which twelve can be used by DC 3, nine by DC 4, and two by bigger aircraft. But what was of interest to us was the eight airstrips which are too small for DC 3's. I should like to ask what type of aircraft -- I am not so much interested in the particular make of aircraft, but what general type -- use these smaller airstrips.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): A number of companies have regular services in the Cameroons, but usually they use large aircraft which cannot use these airstrips. There are smaller companies, or even individuals, which make local trips, such as the Société des Avions Meyer. They have a number of aerodromes in the back country, and they transport such items as meat between various points in the Territory. But the big companies, in addition to the regular service through Douala and such other points also have smaller lines going to Ngaoundéré, Kribi, Foumban, Batouri, etc., to mention only a few. I am only attempting to indicate that a good deal of the back country is served regularly by small aircraft belonging to large companies, such as Air France.

We also have a number of airstrips at the subdivision level which are used by military aircraft or to serve Administration aircraft, for example, when emergencies arise. In such cases as rescue operations, these small airstrips are used.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): We see from page 166 of the report that in 1956 passenger traffic increased considerably; in fact, by something like ten per cent over the previous year. Did this increase continue in 1957? Does it reflect an increasing air-mindedness in the population of the Cameroons generally? Are more people using these services, or are the same people using them more often?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I do not have the figures for passenger traffic in 1957, but I can assure the representative of the United Kingdom that these figures have increased, as have all transportation figures. This indicates development in the economic field and, as the representative of the United Kingdom assumes, also indicates a new interest in air travel on the part of wider sectors of the population. Quite often, for example, Cameroonian businessmen and their families who would not have thought of travelling by air some years ago, now do so, particularly in order to move between the North and the South, as well as for longer trips. I believe, therefore, that this increase reflects, on the one hand, a growing economy and, on the other, more taste for air travel.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): My next question deals with the training of air crew and ground staff. On page 165 of the report it is shown that Cameroonians are in training locally as radio operators, assistant air traffic controllers, etc. and also there are scholarships for them for further training at l'Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile à Orly. Have any of these trainees yet shown themselves ready to take this special course of training at Orly?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I cannot reply to the representative of the United Kingdom on this point. I do not know whether, in 1957, any trainees actually went to take the courses at Orly. I think they have gone, but I do not know whether or not they have returned to the Territory.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): Finally, may I ask the special representative whether any Cameroonians have yet come forward for training as as pilots or air crew?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I believe that there are some radio operators who are Cameroonians, but, as far as I know, there are no Cameroonian pilots or navigators at present.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has reserved his right to ask questions at a subsequent meeting.

*common market*  
Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My question is concerned with the association of the Trust Territory with the European common market. In reply to a question a few days ago, the representative of France stated that the Cameroonians were consulted with regard to the association of the Territory with the European common market because their representatives on the central organs of the French Republic participated in the debates in those bodies when the terms of the Treaty of Rome were considered. However, my delegation would like to know whether the House of Assembly of the Cameroons was consulted as to the association of the Territory with the European common market, or whether the representative institutions of the Cameroons were consulted in any way or allowed to give an opinion with regard to the matter. This is the first part of my question.

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

The second part of my question is as follows. Could the special representative tell us whether the Cameroons will have representatives on the central organs of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, and if so what will be their function and status?

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): The Cameroonian Government was consulted in regard to the association of the Cameroons with the Common Market, and this was done although nothing in the Trusteeship Agreement or the Statute obliged the French Government to do so. I made it clear last time that the Cameroonian Government, through its Minister of Economic Affairs, had participated in discussions concerning the Common Market, both within the Economic Organization for Overseas France and also at a meeting of GATT held in Geneva. Also, deputies from the Cameroons took part in the debate held in the National Assembly on the Common Market.

The Common Market is about to be introduced, as everyone knows, and I am in a position to state that it is the intention of the French Government to ask for representation of the Cameroons, particularly in the central organs of the OEEC, but France is not the only party concerned and discussions will have to be held with the co-signatories.

#### Social and educational advancement

Mr. SALSAMENDI (UNESCO) (interpretation from Spanish): I have honour to present document T/1354 in which Council members will find the comments made by UNESCO upon the annual report on the Cameroons under French administration for 1956. In this document, UNESCO notes that it would be helpful if more information were provided about the general programme of the Educational Bureau and the quantity and type of textbooks which have been published. We should also like to see how the Inspectorate of Education functions at present; in spite of an increase in the number of officials, it would seem that the staff is still insufficient. Under this same heading we emphasize the fact that education is free in the official establishments and that facilities are provided for training teachers.

Mention is also made of the progress achieved in education generally, in primary, secondary and technical education. With regard to the financing of education, a discussion of this is to be found in the next chapter of the document and, as was the case last year, UNESCO feels that it would be better to have a clearer statement on how the territorial budget covers the expenditures. We should like to know the percentage of the total budget of the Territory which is devoted to education.

UNESCO notes a considerable increase in the number of boys and girls attending official private and public schools, but although the number of children attending the schools is satisfactory we feel that there is not a very well balanced distribution. There should be a greater school attendance in the north. The Administering Authority is aware of the importance of this problem and also of the need to overcome the difference in school attendance as between boys and girls. In view of the figures given for the numbers of students per class, UNESCO would like to see included in future reports tables showing the distribution of pupils in the various primary schools.

UNESCO notes in the document that the model school at Pitoa seems to have achieved its objective, and this is felt to be a remarkable achievement especially since the bush schools are also being so well developed.

In regard to secondary education, UNESCO notes that there has been a considerable increase not only in the number of schools but also in the number of classes and pupils. There has also been an increase in the number of students taking supplementary courses and learning to be monitors. On the other hand, we note a reduction compared with 1955 in the number of students training to be teachers, while the number who have completed their baccalauréat has increased.

In the field of technical education the indigenous population has had an opportunity to express its views. UNESCO would like to have more details of the activities carried on and the results achieved at the Douala centre for vocational education. We note that the courses have been extended during the year under examination and the total number of pupils has increased. The rate of increase, however, has not been steady and recently appears to have fallen off somewhat.

Graduates from the Territory continue their higher education in France and the number of scholarships has been increased, but UNESCO would like to know where those students are studying. In document T/1354 a detailed study is made of the problem of teacher training, and we would like to have more precise information on the number of students coming from secondary institutions so that we may be able to calculate more carefully the number of students preparing themselves for careers as teachers. The annual report indicates the existence of refresher courses, seminars, conferences and educational and documentation centres. UNESCO considers all these measures to be excellent and, as is stated in paragraph 31 of our document, UNESCO is ready to do everything it can to assist in the development of the documentation centre by supplying it with documents and technical advice.

The UNESCO report notes that the number of teachers for primary and secondary education has increased, but it is felt in the present circumstances that it would be useful to continue to make every effort further to increase the number of teachers in primary education.



The situation with regard to the qualifications of public and private school teachers does not appear to be so satisfactory.

Paragraph 36 of document T/1354 refers to fundamental education, adult education and popular culture.

Paragraph 37 deals with culture and research. In this respect, UNESCO feels that more indigenous inhabitants should be associated with the development of scientific research and that they should receive special training to that end.

Apparently, the annual report does not contain complete information concerning the libraries in the Territory. We hope that more information will be contained in future reports.

UNESCO believes that notable progress has been made in the field of mass education, particularly with regard to the Press. A number of periodicals have appeared, many of them run by Africans and many published in the vernacular languages. Broadcasting is now an independent service. There are regular broadcasts of educational programmes. In view of the fact that the number of radio receiving sets has risen and in view of the educational value of broadcasting in the Cameroons, UNESCO would be interested in knowing how many of these receiving sets are owned by the indigenous population. We would like to know whether anything is being done to facilitate the importing of low-cost sets and whether such sets are accorded any reduction in customs duties.

Finally, the UNESCO report draws attention to the opening of a pilot information centre at Yaoundé and the increased use of visual information media, particularly educational films.

In conclusion, I should like to repeat that UNESCO is very desirous of co-operating in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Council, I should like to thank the representative of UNESCO for the interesting statement he has just made.



The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. FIELD (United States of America): I was very interested in the comments that the representative of UNESCO has just made on educational conditions in the French Cameroons. His comments touched, in a number of respects, on the first of the two questions that I should like to address to the special representative. I note that education, especially primary education, in the southern part of the French Cameroons is much more widespread than in other parts of the Territory and also more widespread than in most other dependent areas of Africa. According to the figures in the Secretariat working paper, document T/L.813, the percentage of children of school age who were attending school in the South Cameroons in 1956 was 91 per cent -- that is, 260,000 pupils out of a school-age population of 285,000 -- as compared with 86 per cent in the previous year. In the North Cameroons, by contrast, the percentage in 1956 was given as 9.8 per cent -- that is, 16,500 pupils out of a school-age population of 168,000 -- as compared with 6 per cent in the preceding year. Could the special representative comment on the phenomenon of the extremely high figures for school attendance in the South Cameroons, and perhaps give his opinion as to the underlying reasons for it? In this connexion, what are the lower and upper limits of the school-age that is taken into account in these figures? Could the special representative also indicate why, in his view, school attendance in the North Cameroons, although admittedly increasing, is so much lower than in the South Cameroons?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I believe that the reason for the school attendance being much higher in the South of the Territory and the reason for its only beginning in the north of the Territory should be sought in the fact that in the south the missions have been active for a long time -- and they have been active on fertile ground. These are the two factors: on the one hand, there were Christian missions -- Catholic or Protestant -- and, on the other hand, they have dealt with a population which was anxious to be educated. In the north, these two factors

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were not present: on the one hand, the missions reached that area only recently, and, on the other hand, the attitude of the population was such that until recently it did not ask for additional education but, on the contrary, was reluctant to have the young children educated.

School age was defined recently by a law of the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons at the end of 1957. It makes it possible to maintain in primary schools children up to the age of thirteen or fourteen. Previously, the school age was between six and twelve. It was felt that six years of schooling was the normal curriculum. I believe that the recent development of the North Cameroons will continue. The obstacle which I mentioned -- that is, the reluctance of the population of the North to have its children educated -- has disappeared, and now we see in the North that people generally wish to have their children go to school.

However, it was most difficult in a North Cameroonian school to have the children of rich people, of notables, of chiefs, attend school. It was very difficult to have the school-age population not consist entirely of children of widows, of poor people and of orphans in general. This situation has changed recently. Now you see children coming to school from all sectors of the population. This is a new trend in the North. The only obstacles now are budgetary limitations and the difficulty of recruiting competent teachers. The population of the North does not dislike, but it does not like, teachers coming from the South. Teachers must be recruited where they are available, and the teaching staff cannot be recruited exclusively on a geographical basis. Nevertheless, it is necessary that the teachers in the North should work together with the teachers from the South in order to satisfy the population to some extent.

I believe that the difference in school attendance as between the North and the South will gradually diminish.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): I have one further question, which deals with labour conditions in the Territory. In connexion with the Labour Code and, under that, with the right to strike, could the special representative describe in some detail the arbitral procedure instituted by the Decree of 20 May 1955? *strike*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The Decree of 20 May 1955 has changed the procedure for the settlement of collective labour conflicts. It provides for a process of arbitration prior to the exercise of the right to strike. Disputes are submitted to the Labour Inspector, who attempts conciliation. If he fails the dispute goes before an expert, who draws up a report and makes recommendations concerning the subject matter of the dispute. If his recommendations are opposed by those concerned, then the dispute goes before a special body, the Council for Arbitration, which is composed of the President of the Appeals Court and two assessors. The parties concerned may appeal the decision of this body also. The matter might finally go before the Superior Court of Arbitration. The right to strike, properly speaking, becomes effective when the conciliation procedures have been exhausted. In practice the phasing of the different arbitration and conciliation attempts makes it possible to avoid the actual use of the strike weapon. Most frequently conciliation becomes possible between the time when the conflict erupts and the time when a strike would actually take place.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): I should like to raise one subsidiary point in connexion with that reply. Could the special representative give an estimate, based on past experience since this Decree went into effect, of how long generally this process takes? I realize, of course, that it might vary in individual cases, but, as a general thing, about how long would it take? *L*

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I do not remember any such dispute which went through all the various arbitration stages -- that is to say, up to the Superior Court of Arbitration, which comprises the Vice-President of the Administration Court in France, and so on. In practice, either there has been a partial strike before all the procedural stages have been

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gone through, or an agreement has been reached during the arbitral procedure. I cannot say how long all the appeals and so on would take if every last appeal was made use of. The last case in which many stages were reached took up something like three weeks or a month.

*housing* Mr. YANG (China): My first question in the social field relates to actions taken to provide better housing. When the Council, at its nineteenth session, considered this matter of improving housing and providing better housing it was favourably impressed by the energy with which the Administering Authority was acting to improve rural housing, and at that time it recommended that the Administering Authority and the competent local authorities should pursue and intensify their efforts concerning the improvement of housing, which it considered as one of the essential factors in the social betterment of the rural population. In his opening statement, the special representative informed the Council that:

"The Société Immobilière du Cameroun and the Crédit du Cameroun have continued their activities in the improvement of housing, and something like 150 million francs were lent for construction purposes." (T/PV.863, page 33-35)

In the working paper (T/L.813) prepared by the Secretariat, it is indicated among other things, in paragraph 73, that:

"During the 1955-1956 financial year the Crédit du Cameroun granted 448 loans totalling 205,641,000 francs, compared with thirty loans totalling 35,470,000 francs in 1955."

I should like to know from the special representative if the figure of 150 million francs to which he made reference in his opening statement represented the total amount of loans granted during the year 1957. If so, could he kindly tell me what accounts for the sharp reduction in the total amount of loans for the year 1957 as compared with 205,641,000 francs for the year 1956?

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

These two figures do not pertain to the same type of activity. The figure which is found in the Working Paper in paragraph 78 pertains to the total number of loans granted by the Crédit du Cameroun for the building of new housing, especially in rural areas. The figure of 150 million, which I gave myself, pertains to the materials which were made available by the African co-operatives for building by private persons. The figures do not cover the same subject. I do not have the figures for 1957 of the total amount of loans granted by the Crédit du Cameroun. I believe that the figure is higher than 205 million francs. I think there has been an increase here. I am sorry that I do not have the exact figure.

Mr. YANG (China): I appreciate the clarification, and in case it is at all possible for the special representative to indicate to me at one of our future meetings the total amount of loans granted for the year 1957, I would be most appreciative. *loans*

The special representative, in his opening statement, made reference to the collective agreements between employers and the workers' unions which, when concluded, will define labour conditions in various branches of activity. I wonder if the special representative could throw some further light on this point.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The representative of China has asked me to give him some supplementary information concerning collective agreements.

These collective agreements are agreements concluded between employers and workers' unions so as to establish a contract covering all the working conditions such as salaries, conditions of work and the internal security of a given enterprise. This contract is concluded between the representative organizations of both parties and then becomes applicable to any worker or employee who later enters the business. This form of regulation of work seems to us to be the best one; and that is what the labour inspection services are looking for. In other words, above and beyond the regulations relating to a guaranteed minimum wage or regulations imposing certain working conditions on



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certain businesses, our Labour Services feel that it is preferable to have a general agreement between workers and employers in a given field. Finally, these collective agreements can be extended, that is to say, after an agreement between an employers' union and a workers' union on salaries at the Territorial level, such an agreement can be transformed into an agreement governing all enterprises in the Territory. At this time, these collective agreements are more than just contracts; they become veritable regulations; that is to say, by negotiating collective agreements, there is established, not by legislators but by the persons involved, applicable regulations which apply to any individual in a certain number of fields.

*Labour*  
Mr. YANG (China): In his opening statement, the special representative told the Council that on 13 November 1957 a meeting of the Advisory Labour Committee was held under the presidency of the Labour Minister, in which representatives of all the trade unions in the Cameroons participated. The special representative further told the Council that as a result of that meeting an increase in the guaranteed minimum wage was achieved. He also made mention of the decree of 24 June 1957, issued by the Labour Minister, which, among other things, would modify the distribution of seats reserved for trade unions in the Advisory Labour Committee, thus increasing the representation of the workers. I would very much appreciate further information on this decree of 24 June 1957. My delegation is very much interested in the fact that this decree would modify the distribution of seats reserved for trade unions in the Advisory Labour Committee. I would appreciate some clarification as regards how the representation of workers is being increased.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): First of all, I wish to make a clarification regarding a previous question put by the representative of China. I have now found the figure asked of me by the representative of China, which covers the 448 loans granted and the 205 million francs made as loans for housing during 1955-56. The figures for the year 1956-57 which correspond are: 828 loans and 306 million francs; thus there is a large increase in this field. The average unit of loans has decreased in such a way as to take care of a greater number of rural borrowers.

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Special Representative)

I now wish to reply to the second question of the representative of China. The meeting of the Advisory Labour Committee to which I referred in my opening statement was presided over by the Labour Minister of the Trusteeship State. I pointed this out because this was the first time that this body, which includes representatives of workers and of employers, was presided over by the responsible Minister of the Cameroonian Government. The work of the Advisory Labour Committee has made it possible to bring about an agreement on an increase in the guaranteed minimum wage; thus, this answers the representative of China: this increase has been put into force. The minimum guaranteed as regards salaries has been fixed according to areas; these minimums have been increased in all areas, particularly in those where they were the lowest.

The representative of China has stressed the decree of 24 June 1957, issued by the Labour Minister, which has increased the number of seats granted to the trade unions.

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Special Representative)

Indeed the Minister felt that it was appropriate. The Minister felt that he should increase the representation of trade unions whose activities during the year had been intensified. These activities had achieved more results and were more representative. The appointment of representatives of labour to the Advisory Labour Committee is not always determined by the membership. The Decree states that the representative character of a trade union is determined by the chief of the Territory. I might point out that the labour code preceded the Statute. Now the Minister of Labour determines the representative character of the trade union. The person who determines the representative character will consider all factors, and that includes the dues-paying membership, the independence of the trade union and the scope of its activities; which means that the Labour Minister will have considerable discretion based upon the activities of the trade union during the year under consideration.

An additional seat was given to the CGKP, and another seat was given to the Union des syndicats autonomes du Cameroun, because some delegates from the enterprises have shown that these two trade unions achieved results which were superior to those of the previous year. Those trade unions whose representation had not been increased have not contested the new allocation of seats. They did not object to the exercise of judgement by the Labour Minister.

Mr. YANG (China): First of all, I should like to express my appreciation to the special representative for the additional information he gave me in connexion with the question which I put to him earlier. I also appreciate the full and detailed information in connexion with the question which I just put to him.

*health* In the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.813) paragraph 80, on page 22, indicates that the total medical personnel in 1956 numbered 3,717, of whom 242 were non-indigenous, as against 4,578 in 1955 -- there is a typographical error here, it should be 1955, not 1954 -- of whom 249 were non-indigenous. Of course, it will be noted here that there is a decrease in the total number of medical personnel for the year 1956 as compared with the total number for the year 1955. I would very much appreciate some clarification from the special representative as regards this decrease in the

(Mr. Yang, China)

total number of medical personnel for the year 1956. Of course, I noted from the 1956 annual report the information furnished by the Administering Authority to the effect that the number of African doctors would continue to decrease in future years as a result of the closing of the African School of Medicine at Dakar. But I am at a loss to understand why the closing of the African School of Medicine at Dakar would affect the total number of medical personnel at present. I should have thought that that fact might affect the total number of medical personnel in the future, but I do not quite understand why it would affect the existing total number of medical personnel. As I said, I would appreciate some clarification from the special representative as regards this decrease in the total number of medical personnel for the year 1956.

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

I have before me the figures for medical personnel in 1956. These are the figures given in the working paper. But I do not have the figures before me and I would like to verify the 1955 figures, because I am surprised, just as the representative of China was, at this decrease, which seems rather spectacular and which I do not think reflects reality. I believe that there has been an increase rather than a decrease. Therefore, I would ask the representative of China to allow me to verify the report for 1955 in order to see whether in fact the figures concern the same category of personnel or whether some other category has been mixed in with these figures. I have in mind whether private doctors have been included, or something like that. Would the representative of China allow me to give this information somewhat later?

Mr. YANG (China): I would be only too happy to receive that information at one of our future meetings. I should like to refer again to the working paper (T/L.813). Paragraph 84, on page 23, states that during the year 1956, 8,210,366 consultations were given by the hospital establishments to 2,717,832 Africans, compared with 7,821,939 consultations and 2,576,512 patients in 1955; and 75,592 indigenous and 1,766 non-indigenous patients were hospitalized for 2,930,062 and 22,839 days respectively.

(Mr. Yang, China)

The special representative told the Council the following in his opening statement:

"Activity in the field of health services has been making great progress. This can be seen by the number of days spent in hospitals, by the million and a half such days of hospitalization and something like 2,300,000 medical consultations..." (T/PV.863, p. 33-35)



(Mr. Yang, China)

I should like to know from the special representative what accounts for the disparity between the number of hospitalizations and the number of consultations as given by him in his opening statement as compared with the numbers given in the Secretariat paper. Once again I should like to indicate to him the disparity between the figure given in the Secretariat paper as regards the total number of consultations for the year 1956 of 8,210,366 and the figure he gave of 2,300,000 medical consultations.

As regards hospitalizations, the figure in the Secretariat paper is 2,950,062. But according to the special representative it is 1.5 million. These are the statistics. He will understand that this is the only means by which the members of the Council can appreciate the progress or lack of progress in this field. Can the special representative clarify this disparity for me?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The figures which I mentioned in my introductory statement concerned nine months of the year and not twelve months. However, proportionately they seem very different from those given for the twelve months of the year 1956 in this working paper.

As far as the number of days of hospitalization is concerned, I gave the figure of 1.5 million for nine months of 1957. The number of days <sup>of</sup> hospitalization given by the working paper is 2,900,000 I believe. The figures which I have with regard to the first nine months of 1956 also amount to about 1.5 million.

I fear that if I make a comparison between the table which I have before me for the first nine months of 1957 and the figures of the working paper for 1956, I would be compelled to make some calculations. I think it would be preferable for me to reply to this question of the representative of China at the next meeting. Otherwise, I might make a mistake. I might confuse the consultations, the days of hospitalization and the number of individual patients. There are before me about ten columns and I think it would be better if I undertook this calculation privately. I will inform you of the results at the next meeting. I believe there is no conflict between the figures I quoted and those in the working paper and that the figures do not cover the same statistical categories.

*come budget*

Mr. YANG (China): With your permission, Mr. President, I should like to put one or two questions in the educational field.

Paragraph 88 of document T/L.813 states that the operating budget for public education in 1956 was 858 million francs as against 875,540,000 in 1955. Evidently there was some decrease in the money spent on public education for the year 1956, although it is a small one. I would appreciate some clarification from the special representative as to the reason for this decrease.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I think that the figures are more or less equivalent. There is no particular reason for a decrease of about 20 million francs except that a considerable number of European personnel had been made available to the Minister in France and had been replaced by African personnel who received less compensation. As you know, European personnel have to have home leave, travel pay and so on. I think that is the reason why there was a slight decrease.

Mr. YANG (China): I thank the special representative for that clarification.

Paragraph 89 of the same document makes mention of expenditures totalling 267 million francs which were authorized in 1956 under the Development Plan (FIDES). I should like to know from the special representative how much was actually spent that year because that figure was authorized for the year 1956. Was that sum included in the total sum represented in the figure of 858 million francs, which was indicated in paragraph 88 of T/L.813?

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): No, this is not the same budget. The credits of FIDES are credits for development, for construction, and the amount indicated in paragraph 89 is authorized for development. However, I have no information. I think the figure should be about 270 million francs. It is customary that the services which receive amounts under the plan usually spend them. The appropriations are usually completely exhausted.

Mr. YANG (China): I thank the special representative for that clarification.

I have one question in connexion with technical education. Paragraph 93 of the same Secretariat paper states that in 1956 the total enrolment in the twelve public technical establishments was 2,241, compared with 1,417 in 1955. According to the figures in connexion with technical education for the year 1955 as indicated in paragraph 296 of document A/3595, which is the Council's report to the twelfth session of the Assembly, the total enrolment in the 28 public schools providing technical education was 1,417, as compared with 1,112 in 1954. What accounts for the decrease in the number of technical schools? In 1955, as indicated in paragraph 296, the number was twenty-eight. But in 1956, as indicated in the Secretariat paper, the number of public technical educational establishments was twelve. There was a decrease of sixteen public technical educational establishments.

*to Clm. Sec.*

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

I do not know exactly what is covered here. Perhaps I did not quite follow the representative of China. Sometimes these training centres are manual centres, etc.; at other times they are left out of the calculation. It depends on how broad the definition is. For example, in one calculation we may not have taken into account the home economics centres while, on other occasions, such courses may have been included in the calculations. The total of such establishments which were counted may well have been the same. However, I can assure the representative of China that there has been no closing of any technical education school during that period.

↓  
Mr. YANG (China): I appreciate the assurance of the special representative regarding the number of technical education centres, but I do draw a distinction between the private and public technical education establishments. The reason why I asked the question was that during the nineteenth session of the Council we were informed that there were twenty-eight public technical education establishments while we were told that there were only twelve in the year 1956. As regards the private schools for the year 1955, we were told that there were twenty; but for the year 1956 there were twenty-four. Apparently there has been an increase of four in the number of private technical schools while, as regards the public technical schools there has been a decrease of sixteen. That was the reason why I asked this question.

*school staff*  
*Cameroon*  
I have one further question in the educational field. During the nineteenth session of the Council the Administering Authority stated that in the course of 1956, the Cameroonization of the primary school staff had been practically completed and that, in consequence, the former principals of schools would be released for duty as inspectors and supervisors. At its previous session the Council was very much concerned regarding the number of inspectors and supervisors vis-à-vis the large number of educational establishments. Therefore, I would appreciate the latest information in connexion with the actual number of inspectors and supervisors.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): First of all I should like to return to the question of technical education as regards the number of public establishments. I can assure the representative of China that there has been no decrease in the number of establishments for technical education as between the two years. On the contrary, in 1956 there were 4,013 students of technical education, while in 1955 there were only 2,448; that is, without counting the private establishments. Those were counted in the total figure given in the table. There is no conflict between the figures; there is only a different calculation in the two documents. There has been no decrease in the number of establishments.

As regards the last question of the representative of China, I had the opportunity last year to speak at length about the training of teachers, for indeed I had myself encountered some difficulty in terminology. The title of instituteur is reserved for those who have passed the baccalauréat. There are other teachers who have not that kind of diploma. This year, particularly as regards the question of inspection, which was mentioned by the representative of China, there are six inspectorates in the Cameroons. Each inspectorate includes one individual who has two, or three, or four assistants. However, we spoke of only three inspectors because in 1956 only three had the diploma which accompanies the status of inspector. Others active in the field were temporary appointees; they were teachers who were acting as inspectors without actually possessing the title. Since then, a fourth inspector of primary education has been assigned. He is a Cameroonian and is the first African to obtain a certificate which qualifies him as an inspector in the field of primary education. He is the highest ranking African in this field in French Africa. He is now an inspector in Abdoulaye. I wish to emphasize this because this is the case of a man who passed the baccalauréat examination at the age of thirty-two. Some years later he passed his licence examination, and a year ago he became an inspector. He was a trainee at Mousgoy for a year. He had the advantage of the post-war scholarships and, by his own hard work, reached the highest rank in the civil service in the Cameroons and is the highest ranking Cameroonian educator.



(Mr. Deniau,  
Special Representative)

The other posts of inspectors are held, as I pointed out, by teachers who formerly were principals of schools and are accustomed to responsibility. They have several assistants. There are also some school principals who are acting as inspectors.

*broader* Mr. YANG (China): My last question concerns an observation made by UNESCO, and the representative of UNESCO referred to the matter this afternoon in his remarks augmenting the written observations of UNESCO presented to the Council. This matter is in connexion with the broadcasting service. I took note of the views expressed by UNESCO, and I should like to take this opportunity of asking the special representative whether anything is being done to facilitate the import of low cost radio receiving sets and, if so, whether such sets are given any reduction in customs duties.

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

Receiving sets are furnished to the population under special conditions when these sets are to be used to listen to literacy courses. When a certain number of individuals have indicated an interest in following these courses and in submitting their work to the education department for correction, credit facilities are granted by the Crédit du Cameroun for the purchase of radio receiving sets.

I do not think that any special conditions are granted with reference to customs duties. The special conditions relate to the purchase of the receiving sets.

I would indicate that the large majority of radio receiving sets in the Cameroons are in the hands of Cameroonians. Furthermore, I do not think that the figure given by UNESCO -- which is the official figure for the number of declared radio receiving sets -- gives a complete picture of the number of such sets actually owned in the Cameroons. Indeed, I believe that a very large majority of the radio receiving sets are not declared, because to declare them would entail a necessity to pay taxes. The tax on radio receiving sets is actually very small, but it does exist and, therefore, the majority of receiving sets are probably not declared by the Cameroonians. That is why I think, on the one hand, that the number of receiving sets in the Cameroons is actually very much larger than indicated and, on the other hand, that the very great majority of the sets are in the hands of Cameroonians.

Mr. YANG (China): As I have said, my delegation is very much interested in broadcasting as an independent service in the Territory, and we very much appreciate the efforts made by the Administering Authority in this regard. We note that in 1956, 10 million francs was spent on equipment. Could the special representative give us an estimate of the number of radio receiving sets in the possession of the indigenous population of the Cameroons?

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

As I have already indicated, the only official information which we have is the number of receiving sets that have been declared. Now, the number of sets

(Mr. Deniau, Special Representative)

declared is very much smaller than the number of sets actually in use. Thus, the estimate which I shall give the representative of China is an absolutely personal one and is not based on any official statistics. I would imagine that only about one-third or one-fourth of the sets in use have been declared.

Mr. YANG (China): I should like to assure the special representative that all his answers to my questions have helped us very much to understand and appreciate the efforts made to promote the progress of the indigenous population.

Mr. MITRA (India): In the light of the information given in answer to questions put by the representative of China, I have only one or two questions to put to the special representative.

*health* My first question relates to medical personnel. As the special representative is aware, my delegation is very much interested in the training of Cameroonian personnel, particularly in those fields where the number of qualified Cameroonians is rather small. I should therefore like to know the exact number of doctors of indigenous origin -- whether holders of State diplomas or local doctors -- who worked in the health services in 1957 as compared to 1956.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): The number of Cameroonian doctors with State diplomas who are now in the Cameroons is six. The number of Cameroonian doctors now being trained in France for the State diploma is between sixty and seventy. There was no great increase in this respect in 1956 or 1957. The Cameroonians now being trained in France to be doctors will, we believe, begin to return to the Territory in several years; the first few will come back in 1958, but the large majority will begin to come back in 1960.

Mr. MITRA (India): In the same connexion, I would draw the special representative's attention to a table on page 213 of the annual report which gives the number of doctors en formation dans la métropole. I noticed that four doctors were due to return in 1957, and that four are due to return in 1958,

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twelve in 1959, twelve in 1960 and twenty-seven in 1961. The total is fifty-nine up to 1961. I think that this table corresponds more or less to the figures I have been given. The only question that I have is the following: If four came back in 1957, then the number of doctors will probably increase at a quite rapid rate, but this rate will not be great enough to make an appreciable effect on the total number of doctors working in the health services. Is any special effort being made to increase the number of medical scholarships in order to enable more trained Cameroonian personnel to take those jobs which, obviously, they do not hold at the moment?

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

The number of doctors now working in the health services of the Cameroons is seventy-four. I would add that to the figures given in the 1956 annual report there must be added the number of Cameroonians who have since begun their medical studies; this number is about seven or eight. The health services of the Cameroons will thus be able either to replace all the European doctors by Cameroonian doctors or to double their staff by keeping all the European doctors and also employing the Cameroonian doctors. It will be up to the Cameroonian Government to decide whether it should merely replace the European doctors by Cameroonian doctors or should increase the staff by employing all or some of the Cameroonian doctors.

*alcoholism*

Mr. MITRA (India): I would now turn to the question of alcoholism. My delegation is glad to note that the amount of liquor imported into the Cameroons appears to have decreased considerably in 1956 as compared to the amount imported in 1955. To supplement this information, could the special representative be so kind as to inform us as to what was the local production of alcoholic liquor, in quantity and value -- and, particularly, of beer -- in 1956 and, if he can tell us this, in 1957? I would also be grateful if he could inform me whether the Administering Authority intends to increase import duties on alcohol, as these are exclusively within the competence of the Administering Authority.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I will have to look up the figure for beer for 1957; I have it somewhere, under the heading "Economic Progress".

I cannot give the figure for the production of native alcohol. We do not keep statistics on that.

With regard to beer, I might say that local production is increasing.

As to the third point, the tax on imported alcohol: This is in the hands not of the Administering Authority but of the Cameroonian authorities. Because of its international status, the Cameroons does not have customs duties, but, as to the fiscal taxes collected on imports, all of this is entirely in the hands of the Cameroons -- the Assembly, and all that sort of thing. This tax has been greatly increased in the past few years; alcohol is being taxed more and more. There has therefore been a drop in the consumption of alcohol imported into the Territory.

I should also like to point out that, in addition to the production of beer, the Cameroons produces soft drinks -- fruit drinks and so forth. These are also being consumed more and more.

With regard to the alcohol problem, the progress achieved in the past three years has been very remarkable. We have a constant drop in the amount of alcohol imported.

Mr. MITRA (India): I thank the special representative, but I am not quite sure that I heard him correctly. I gathered that he said that there are no customs duties, properly speaking, in the Cameroons. But article 14 of the Statute of the Cameroons specifically talks about the customs system and the general



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regulation of customs matters as being within the competence of the central organs of the French Republic. Are we therefore speaking of something which does not exist? I am a bit confused about this.

Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): The question of the representative of India does indeed concern one of the peculiarities of the Statute, which was noted, incidentally, at the time when it was discussed -- namely, that, if the customs system was referred to in article 14, it was simply to show that it was not within the competence of the Cameroonian authorities to modify the existing situation, that is, the situation that there are no customs. That is, of course, a curious matter. But it meant that the regulations in this field did not come within the competence of the Cameroonian authorities. This matter comes under the Trusteeship Agreement, and therefore within the purview of the Administering Authority.

Mr. MITRA (India): I note that the special representative also answered me previously by saying that there was a very great increase in the production of beer. The reason I was referring to this is that, if the amount imported is reduced and the local production is increased, then the total amount of alcoholic consumption is not reduced. However, perhaps we could have some figures on that at a later date.

I shall now pass to the question of education. For some time now, it has been suggested in this Council that the Administering Authority consider the possibility of establishing a university in the Territory of the Cameroons. The very excellent report by UNESCO which we have before us, and which was referred to by the representative of UNESCO, stresses the same possibility. I also note that, due to financial considerations, the number of scholarship holders in France, according to the opening statement of the special representative, has remained the same. I also note from other figures about scholarships that there is a very large number of Cameroonians who wish to gain the advantages of higher education. Could the special representative therefore be so kind as to inform my delegation whether any draft plan has been drawn up for the creation of a university in the French Cameroons? Such a draft plan would at least give an idea of the expenses involved

*scholarship  
univ.*

(Mr. Mitra, India)

and would enable the members of the Council to comment on the rather short paragraph in the annual report in which the whole question of higher education is dealt with. I might mention that it is the shortest and probably the most abrupt paragraph in the whole report, consisting of about eight lines.

*all* Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I will give the figure for beer products -- 120,000 hectolitres. There has been an increase in the total production of beer. I do not think that we should say that local alcohol consumption is replacing the alcohol consumed after importation. I think they are drinking beer just for refreshment, as it were, rather than in a search for alcohol.

As to the problem of the university, I should like to point out that this is a problem falling within the competence of the Cameroonian authorities alone. They have been fully informed of the various recommendations issued by the Trusteeship Council in this field. They are fully aware of the fact that the Council would like to see a university set up in the Cameroons. Before leaving the Cameroons, and because I expected that a question such as this would be put to me -- since the Council has expressed concern about this matter -- I informed myself as to the intentions of the authorities there. The reply was that the establishment of a university in the Cameroons was not excluded, but that, in view of the very high cost of a university building, with libraries and laboratories and so forth, as well as the cost of professors' salaries -- especially if you are going to have real professors -- one could not envisage the establishment of a university in the Cameroons before primary education had effectively allowed us to educate the whole population. The formula used by the Minister in this field was that it would be better to build a building by beginning with the foundation. A university cannot therefore be considered as a current or pressing problem.

To be complete, however, I will add that the party to which this Minister belonged indicated at a recent congress that it might be appropriate to establish a university in the Cameroons.

To sum up: The Cameroonian Government -- and here I speak of the former Government, because I do not know what position will be taken in this field by

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the new Cameroonian Government -- felt that it was desirable to establish a university in the Cameroons but that it was impossible to do so in the very near future.

Mr. MITRA (India): I am aware that the primary responsibility in this matter rests with the local Government. But I am sure that the Administering Authority, with its far greater experience in such matters -- and its far greater experience in general -- could perhaps draw up a plan of some sort which would give us, and also the local Government, an idea of what the financial considerations are.

I only wish to mention that, although I agree that primary education is of great importance, I am glad to note that the level of primary education is not so very low -- and this has been emphasized on many occasions by the special representative himself. Perhaps, then, it may be time to think of having at least a plan ~~about the university~~. I do not wish to labour the point; I mentioned it because it has been talked about a number of times.

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now turn to the question of schools in the Northern Region, a matter which has already been touched upon by the United States representative. We note that only 9.8 per cent of the school-age population in the Northern Cameroons was actually going to school in 1956 as compared with 6 per cent in 1955. We also notice that on page 245 of the annual report it is said that it is the shortage of teachers from the North which does not permit an increase in the number of schools. However, I gather that previously, in April 1957, the special representative said that the difficulties about using teachers from the South in the North had been ironed out. I therefore do not quite understand why this difficulty has arisen again, because we were assured last year that it had been ironed out already. Could the special representative perhaps throw some light on this?

Mr. DEMIAU (Special Representative) (interpretation from French): I do not remember exactly what language I used last year, but this difficulty has not disappeared. It was overcome to the extent that, despite the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the population of the North for teachers from the South, teachers from the South had nevertheless been sent North. What I was attempting to say was that this reluctance of the Northern people to have southern teachers was diminishing. That is what I pointed out, and it was not at all a change in the position. It merely meant that the opposition was less virulent, so that it was felt possible to disregard it to some degree.

In replying to a question put to me by the representative of China I said that, in spite of everything, it was essential not to recruit teachers for the North exclusively in the South, but to mix teachers from both the North and the South in the schools of the Northern Cameroons. That was the best formula, and I just pointed it out to the representative of China. I wish to point out also that this difficulty about recruiting teachers -- it is only one of the difficulties which exist -- has not prevented a rapid increase in the school population in the North during the past few years, for it has increased considerably in the last ten years. Progress has been considerable. The problem of teachers exists, but in practice it has been overcome.

Mr. MITRA (India): I am sorry to take up the time of the Council, and I thank the special representative, but I will quote for him the words he used on 3 April 1957. Talking about the same problem, he said:

"One of the problems which we encountered was that these teachers had to be recruited in the South, and, in certain places in the North, the people were rather discontented to see these teachers from the South arriving in the North and asked that at least one European principal should be engaged. Actually, we could not meet this request in most cases, and, in any event, the difficulty was gradually ironed out." (T/PV.766, page 22)

Since the special representative used the past tense, I assumed that the difficulty had been ironed out.

In addition to that, I should like to make the following point. Regarding the increase which is talked of in the number of schools, I find from the UNESCO report that the number of students at both public and private teacher-training schools had declined considerably. This, of course, would be rather tragic because it would mean that the teachers would not be there if the number of schools was increased. I wonder if any special steps are being taken to improve the situation?

Mr. DEMIAU (Special Representative)(interpretation from French): I do not think that the explanation of the drop in the number of students in the teacher-training schools should be sought in any particular measures taken by the Administering Authority. In fact a tendency arose not to keep in these courses other than those students who really planned to take up a teaching career, and that is why there has been a slight drop in this field. Until then the classes included some students who really did not intend to take up teaching as a career, and we felt that we ought to reserve these teacher-training schools for students who did in fact intend to follow the teaching profession as a career.

Mr. MITRA (India): I wish to assure the special representative that I had no idea of even thinking that the decrease was directly due to some measures taken. What I was really trying to get at was whether there was any great incentive being given, monetary or otherwise, to those who wanted to become teachers. This problem of a shortage of teachers is one which is faced in some



(Mr. Mitra, India)

of the richest countries in the world, as may be judged from any newspaper. I am quite aware of that, but I was hoping that perhaps some special steps could be taken in an under-developed area such as the Cameroons since this is a problem which not only affects the present generation but will affect the capacity of the Cameroons to govern itself at some known future date. However, I am perfectly satisfied with the answer the special representative has given me, and I wish to thank him for his very kind and courteous replies to my questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will meet twice tomorrow, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., when it is hoped that we shall be able to finish the questioning in connexion with the present item and to hear a petitioner who has now arrived.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council  
21st Session  
20th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1355  
25 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 trust territory of the Cameroons under French administration. The Council is examining France's 1956 annual report on the territory.

Before resuming the questioning, the Acting President, ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), informed the Council of the arrival in New York of Alexandre Douala Manga Bell, deputy of the Cameroons to the French National Assembly, whose request for a hearing as a petitioner had been granted by the Council at an earlier meeting. The ACTING PRESIDENT proposed, and the Council agreed, to hear the petitioner tomorrow at the conclusion of the questioning of the French special representative.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT further informed the Council that another petitioner, also from the French-administered Cameroons, whose request for a hearing had likewise been granted, had indicated that he wished to speak about his dismissal by the company which had employed him. This second petitioner had, in a later communication just received, requested the Council to ask his former company to pay his travel cost to New York. The ACTING PRESIDENT said that the Council obviously was in no position to make any such request. He suggested that the Council inform the petitioner to that effect. The Acting President's proposal was agreed to by the Council.

The Council then resumed the questioning of Mr. Deniau.

Answering a series of questions by U Kyaw Min (Burma), the special representative described the principal occupations in which Cameroonians of different geographic regions and ethnic and religious backgrounds were most proficient.

Socially, the activities generally considered as reflecting prestige, Mr. DENIAU said, were those connected with public office. Within this circle, certain positions were considered to have more prestige than others, and outside this circle, prestige was usually associated with wealth or birth, and the latter was also connected with wealth, he said.

To another question by the Burmese representative, the special representative said there was no problem of hoarding in the territory. Generally, whatever was produced was usually consumed immediately. There was, however, a problem of creating and encouraging savings.

(more)

Asked about the rate of growth of population and the estimated percentage of growth for the next five years, Mr. DENIAU said it was most difficult to provide population statistics of this nature in a country such as the Cameroons. He could say, however, that the population growth was very rapid in some parts and quite stable in others.

Sir ANDREW COHEN (United Kingdom) was interested in the growth of civil aviation in the territory. He noted that the building of new airdromes was still under way. The report said there were some 20 airdromes in the territory suitable for use by different types of planes. However, it also mentioned the existence of certain airstrips which were too small for use by DC-3's. What type of planes used these airstrips? he asked.

The special representative said there were certain companies which maintained regular service to the back country. These were usually small planes which belonged to large companies such as Air France. Also there were planes belonging to the administrative services which were used for rescue and other operations.

To another question, Mr. DENIAU said, although he had no statistics available for 1957, he could say with certainty that passenger traffic had continued to increase in 1957.

Answering a question by Jose Rolz (Guatemala) concerning the European Common Market, JACQUES KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said the Cameroonian government was consulted on its association of the territory with the Common Market, although nothing in the trusteeship agreement required France to do so. Moreover, the plan was debated in the National Assembly in which Cameroonian deputies were represented.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council  
21st Session  
20th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1355  
25 February 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

NICHOLAS FELD (United States) noted the "extremely high" attendance figure for school children in the south, while in the north the figure was "so much smaller." He asked for an explanation for this discrepancy.

The special representative said this situation was due to the activities of the religious missions, on the one hand, and the desire of the people for education, on the other. In the south, he said, the religious missions had been active for a long time and the people were anxious for education. In the north, however, both these factors were lacking until very recently.

While he was confident that education would continue to expand, Mr. DENIAU said the only factors which would limit its growth were budgetary limitations and unavailability of teachers.

Answering a question by Hsi-kun Yang (China) concerning labor agreements, the special representative explained the practice followed. Collective agreements, he said, were negotiated between employers and workers' unions defining working conditions in a particular enterprise. Such agreements, which covered guaranteed minimum wages and other matters, were then made applicable to a whole branch of economic activity.

Following a meeting of the Advisory Labor Committee in 1957 in which representatives of all the trade unions participated, Mr. DENIAU continued, an increase in the guaranteed minimum wage was achieved. Also, labor was given larger representation on that Committee.

As regards education, another point raised by the Chinese representative, Mr. DENIAU explained that the decline in the operating budget for public education from 858 million francs in 1956 as against 875 million francs in 1955 was due to the replacement of European staff by Cameroonian staff. European staff, he said, received home leave and other allowances.

(more)

Trusteeship Council (PM)  
Take 2

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Expenditures totaling 267 million francs, authorized in 1956 under a development plan, the special representative said, were not included in the 858 million francs for the operating budget. The former amount was used for development costs, he said.

Mr. DENIAU said there had been no decrease in the number of institutions for technical education.

Questioning of the French special representative on social and educational conditions in the French Cameroons will be continued by the Council at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 26 February.

(END OF TAKE 2 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1355)