



UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL²



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ENGLISH

Twenty-first Session

VERBAIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 19 March 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. ARENALES CATALAN

(Guatemala)

- C. Br. f.
attainment of 84 of res. A
outline of comm. 12
Comm. Fr.
Report of the Standing Com.
outline of comm. 12*
- President:
1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration [4c]
 2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration [4d]
 3. Examination of petitions: 214th and 215th reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions [5]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.836 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEM 4c

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.811 and Add.2, 835, 840/Rev.1)(continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Representatives will recall that yesterday the Council left in abeyance the question of an Indian amendment (T/L.840) calling for the insertion of an additional section in the report contained in document T/L.835. The revised form of that Indian amendment is now before the Council in document T/L.840/Rev.1 and I suggest that we should now proceed to vote upon it. In accordance with the usual practice, I shall put to the Council first paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive, which are factual.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I should like to suggest to the representative of India, if I may, that he might wish to amend the text of paragraph 1 so as to provide "for the attainment of those objectives" instead of "for the attainment of that objective". I do so because in the view of the Government of Australia "self-government or independence" are alternative objectives for attainment in terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter.

Mr. NATARAJAN (India): I am ready to go along with the representative of Australia to the extent that I would amplify this by introducing after the words "final objective" the words "namely, self-government or independence" if that would meet his requirements. The sentence would then read "with a view to the attainment by the Territory of the final objective of the Trusteeship System, namely, independence or self-government..." and then the rest of the sentence would remain.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I take it that the representative of India is referring to paragraph 5 of the Indian amendment (T/L.840/Rev.1). Actually, the representative of Australia, as I understand it, was referring to paragraph 1, line 4, of the Indian amendment which reads "and for the attainment of that objective...".

Mr. NATARAJAN (India): Grammatically, "for the attainment of that objective" could mean either "self-government" or "independence". I to see why a plural is necessary.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Does this mean that the representative of India does not accept the suggestion of the representative of Australia?

Mr. NATARAJAN (India): It is mainly a question of grammar, and if you would care to look into the report of last year from which this paragraph has been taken bodily -- and the paragraph that follows -- I fail to see the necessity for any modification.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I shall support the first four paragraphs of the Indian amendment, making it clear for the record that I understand that self-government and independence are alternative goals to be attained.

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of document T/L.840/Rev.1 were adopted without objection.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): As regards paragraph 5 of the Indian amendment, I should like to draw the attention of the representative of India to the following clause of the paragraph: "The Council... requests the Administering Authority to submit... in particular the proposed arrangements for consulting the population of the Territory in regard to their future when Nigeria attains its independence". I wonder whether that clause is really in accordance with the statement in this respect made by the Administering Authority. It is my recollection that the Administering Authority stated that it would consult the population of the Territory before Nigeria became independent. Would it not be preferable, therefore, to change the words "when Nigeria attains its independence" to read: "before Nigeria attains its independence"?

Mr. NATARAJAN (India): In the context of paragraph 5, as we have drafted it, the words "when Nigeria attains its independence" are related to the word "future", and not to the words "consulting the population of the Territory". I do not, therefore, think that it would be appropriate to replace the word "when" by the word "before". I think that the meaning is clear now.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): This difficulty is perhaps caused by the translation into French. I believe that the English text does express the idea which I have in mind.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I am inclined to agree with the representative of Haiti that this is probably a question of translation. In any case, the Secretariat will note the comments which have been made on this point and will see that the French text accords with the English. It does,

(The President)

I might say, seem to me that the English text of the phrase in question could be interpreted in two ways. The representative of India, however, has made clear what interpretation the Council should place on the words in voting on the paragraph.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I think that the text of paragraph 5 as it stands is somewhat obscure. As I read it, the Administering Authority is requested to submit proposals regarding the future of the Trust Territory at an early date, with a view to the Territory's attainment of the final objective of the Trusteeship System, and with a view to the proposed arrangements for consulting the population of the Territory. I should like to ask the representative of India whether that is the way the draft is to be interpreted.

Mr. NATARAJAN (India): If the relevant part of the paragraph is read carefully, it will be seen that the Administering Authority will submit these proposals. That is the basis of the whole recommendation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Does that explanation satisfy the representative of Australia?

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I shall not ask for any further elucidation.

Paragraph 5 of document T/L.840/Rev.1 was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I should like to make two small comments in explanation of my vote.

My vote, of course, does not imply any difference in our position regarding resolutions adopted by the United Nations in the past.

I have been able to vote for paragraph 5, the operative paragraph, of the Indian amendment because I have understood that, in effect, it goes along with what I told the Trusteeship Council at an earlier stage -- namely, that we would submit proposals as soon as we were in a position to do so.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In resolution 1064 (XI), the General Assembly recommended that the Administering Authority:

"take the necessary measures to ensure that the Trust Territory of... the Cameroons under British administration... achieve self-government or independence at an early date".

Thus, the General Assembly once again called attention to the necessity of requesting the Administering Authority to indicate a time-limit for the attainment of independence by the Cameroons under British administration.

As is known, the provisions of that resolution were not implemented, and, therefore, the General Assembly at its twelfth session adopted another resolution (1207 (XII)), in which it again called upon the Administering Authority to implement the provisions of resolutions previously adopted by the Assembly on the attainment of self-government or independence. In resolution 1207 (XII), the General Assembly also requested the Trusteeship Council to report to the Assembly on the implementation of the resolution.

Thus, the Trusteeship Council has before it a direct request from the General Assembly. In this connexion, the Assembly's attention should be called to the fact that, so far, the Administering Authority has not implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolutions on the establishment of a time-limit for the attainment of self-government or independence by the Cameroons under British administration. Moreover, it is necessary to call on the Administering Authority to fulfil the recommendations contained in the General Assembly resolutions so that the people of the Cameroons may know when they will be granted freedom and independence.

(Mr. Bendryshev, UESR)

In the Drafting Committee, a draft resolution was submitted which was designed to implement and carry out the provisions of the General Assembly resolution. The Soviet delegation was prepared to support that draft resolution. However, the Indian amendment which has just been adopted does not even contain a reference to the establishment of a specific target date for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration to reach independence or self-government. It merely proposes to the Administering Authority to submit arrangements for the future of the Territory. However, as to what those arrangements would be or when they would be submitted, that remains completely vague after the explanation which the Council has just heard from the representative of the United Kingdom. We must note that the whole draft resolution was characterized by this vagueness. In that connexion, the Soviet delegation abstained in the vote on paragraph 5 of the Indian amendment.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): In explanation of vote, I should like to say that the delegation of Australia voted in favour of the draft resolution primarily because it was in terms completely acceptable to the Administering Authority, namely, the United Kingdom.

Secondly, I should like to observe that, in voting for the Indian amendment, I construed the words "the final objective", in the last paragraph as implying the existence of two alternative goals, self-government or independence.

Finally, I voted for the amendment because it contained no express reference to the determination of a precise final target date.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): My delegation abstained in the vote on the text which has just been adopted by the Council. We abstained because we consider that this draft does not fully comply with the terms of General Assembly resolutions on this subject.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I now ask members of the Council to turn to document T/L.835, the report of the Drafting Committee on the British Cameroons, and in particular to paragraph 9 of that report, which appears on page 3 of the English text. The Council is to take a decision on the recommendation embodied in that paragraph to the effect that documents T/L.811 and T/L.811/Add.2 should be adopted by the Council as the basic text of the chapter on the Cameroons under British administration. If there are no objections, I shall consider that the Council approves the recommendation embodied in paragraph 9.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before the Council finally adopts the report of the Drafting Committee on the British Cameroons, it will require the comments made by various delegations during the general debate. A draft of these observations has been drawn up by the Secretariat and submitted informally to the delegations concerned, together with a request that they submit any corrections which they may deem necessary. As soon as these corrected observations are again collated by the Secretariat, it will be possible very promptly to prepare this document, so that the Council can vote on this part of its report. For the time being, then, we have disposed of this item.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.813 and Add.1, 838)
(Agenda item 4d)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In Annex I of document T/L.138, we have nineteen draft recommendations which I shall put to the vote seriatim, as is our custom.

Paragraph 1 was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 were adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 5 was adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

Mr. LORANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the Soviet Union voted against paragraph 5 since it gives an incorrect account of the events which took place in the Territory.

Paragraph 6 was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. MITRA (India): My delegation abstained on paragraphs 5 and 6 because we felt that it would have been desirable for the Council to make some suggestions to the Administering Authority regarding some enquiries by independent means, by independent people, into the events which have occurred in the Territory. As this suggestion was not one which found favour with many members of the Council, we abstained on this paragraph.

Paragraph 7 was adopted unanimously.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Before the Council votes on paragraph 8 I should like to call attention to a contradiction which exists in the text. On the one hand, it expresses satisfaction at the efforts made and notes the important results achieved. At the same time, it expresses the hope that more comprehensive information on the results obtained will be made available. It is difficult to reconcile all these ideas, and my delegation considers that it would be reasonable to delete "with satisfaction" from the first line and "important" from the fourth line, and I would ask the President to put those words to a separate vote.

The words "with satisfaction" were adopted by 11 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The word "important" was adopted by 9 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 8 was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 9 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 10 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 11 was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Before paragraph 12 is put to the vote I should like to seek clarification on how it is to be understood. Reference is made to the successful operation of the Stabilization Funds, and it is emphasized that this followed the recent increases in world market prices. It seems to me that the Stabilization Funds were to play an important role during periods of a fall in world market prices, and, as I say, I should like some clarification on this point.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee would wish to reply to the Soviet representative?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I think that in our efforts to condense the various opinions expressed in this Council we sought to emphasize and probably put together two different ideas. One was that many members of the Council noted the successful operation of the Stabilization Funds in previous years, and the other was that the recent increase in world market prices permitted the Territory not to utilize the Stabilization Funds in full. I must admit -- although this is not a formal proposal -- that it might be better to insert only the first part of the paragraph, and to have it read: "The Council notes with interest the successful operation of the Cocoa and Coffee Stabilization Funds". I think that in general I am in agreement with the observations made by the representative of the USSR.

Mr. MITRA (India): I note that that was not a formal proposal, and if it is a suggestion then I would make the additional suggestion to remove the words "with interest" so that we just note the successful operation of the Stabilization Funds.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wish to make a formal request for a separate vote on the second part of paragraph 12, which reads: "following the recent increases in world market prices of these commodities".

Mr. MITRA (India): In that case I would ask for a separate vote on the words "with interest".

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Apparently the words "with interest" do not appear in the French text, but the French text will be brought into conformity with the English text as necessary.

In accordance with the request by the Belgian delegation, the Council will now vote separately on the phrase "following the recent increases in world market prices of these commodities".

The phrase was rejected, there being no votes in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As requested by the Indian representative, we shall now take a separate vote on the phrase "with interest".

The phrase was adopted by 8 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 12, as amended, was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I should like to state why I voted in favour of the retention of the words "with interest". I think that they are entirely in keeping with the rest of the phrase. If it is a successful operation and the Council notes that, it should note it with interest.

Mr. MITRA (India): I should like to indicate why I voted against those words; the reason is because we felt that the successful operation had been on account of the rise in prices, and if the rise in prices was not mentioned, then there was no point in the Council's mentioning its interest in the matter.

Paragraph 13 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 14 was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 15 was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 16 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 17 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 18 was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Paragraph 19 was adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We now take up Annex II of the same report on the French Cameroons entitled "Attainment of self-government or independence". The Council will note that the Drafting Committee did not feel it necessary to include any section relating to points of fact and that here we have only the text of a recommendation. If there are no comments, I shall put this recommendation to a vote, but with the permission of the Council I will first call upon the representative of Belgium.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wanted to propose a small wording change. I do not know if the expression on the first line of this text "the Statute of the Territory" is the absolutely correct one. No doubt it is from the point of view of the Trusteeship Council, but I think it would be desirable to promote in the Cameroons the growth of a national feeling and to replace the words "the Statute of the Territory" by the words "the Statute of the Trust State". The Territory is mentioned as a Trust State in the Statute, and therefore I should like to make a formal motion to replace those words in the first line.

Mr. MITRA (India): The wording of this section was very carefully considered by the Committee of which I had the honour to be a member, and I would suggest that perhaps the omission of the words "of the Territory" would meet the point raised by the Belgian representative. I believe he said that these words were no doubt correct, the words "the Statute of the Territory", from the point of view of the Trusteeship Council. I agree with him. They are correct and since we are primarily dealing with the Trusteeship Council, perhaps we could have kept those words. But if the suggestion is to amend it the other way, then I would move an amendment that we remove the words "of the Territory" from this paragraph.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to assure my colleague from India that I have no formal objection to the term "the Statute of the Territory" which, from the point of view of the Council, is correct. But my amendment was designed to have a psychological effect in the Territory. I think such wording would flatter the Government of the Cameroons and would encourage it on the path of self-government or independence. That is why I made that proposal and I should like to have a vote taken on it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): If there are no objections, I shall put the Indian amendment to the vote first since it is farthest removed from the original text in Annex II. The Indian amendment consists of deleting the words "of the Territory" in line one.

The Indian amendment was adopted by 2 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The representative of Belgium requests that his amendment be put to the vote regardless. I would ask him to draft it in a somewhat different way since he only asks for the introduction of the words "Trust State".

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My amendment would be to add to the word "Statute" the words "of the Trust State".

The Belgian amendment was adopted by 6 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.

The paragraph in Annex II as amended was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I voted in favour of Annex II because this is a simple factual account which contains no formal recommendation.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I voted in favour for precisely the reasons stated by my colleague from Belgium and also for the reason that the resolution was completely acceptable to the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I ask the members of the Council to refer to paragraph 3 of the report of the Drafting Committee in which the Council is asked, as a recommendation of the Drafting Committee, to adopt as a basic text for the chapter on the Cameroons under French Administration the Secretariat Working Paper (document T/L.813, as revised T/L.813/Add.1), in order to take into account such additional information as became available during the examination of the annual report by the Council.

If there is no objection to this recommendation, I shall consider it as adopted.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before the Council finally adopts the report on the French Cameroons, it must, as is the usual procedure, await the observations made by individual members of the Council during the course of the general debate. The Secretariat has submitted these observations to the various members of the Council requesting any necessary corrections. As soon as the corrections are received, the observations will be compiled and the document will be submitted to the Council to be embodied as part of its final report.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): As I had no occasion formally to introduce the report to the Council -- and I think, Mr. President, that you did it very well and admirably -- I would like to take this opportunity to thank once more the representatives of Haiti, India and the United Kingdom, who so brilliantly co-operated with my delegation in preparing the resolutions for the Council.

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French): On behalf of the French delegation I would like to thank the Chairman and all the members of the Drafting Committee, as well as the Secretariat, for the work which they have carried out. I would also like to thank the Trusteeship Council for the adoption of this report. I am convinced that this work will contribute to the development of the Trust State towards the objectives laid down in the Charter and will constitute valuable encouragement for the authorities and the people of the Cameroons.

AGENDA ITEM 5

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS: 214th AND 215th REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.828 and 829)

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, I must draw your attention to the fact that the Soviet delegation does not have the documents relating to this item and therefore it is not in a position to consider them and to vote on them.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): If there are no objections on the part of members of the Council and in view of the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, we will defer consideration of this item until a subsequent meeting of the Council. The Secretariat has informed me that we do not as yet know when the Russian text will be prepared, since the Russian Translation Section is at present facing a very heavy burden of work.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I must draw the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that this is not a question of translation; it is a question of having the Russian text given the same attention as the other texts inasmuch as all the documents contained in that report have already been translated into Russian.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): In answer to the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union, I would like to invite his attention to the fact that the Russian Translation Section has been trying to keep up with the translation of documents into the official languages of the Council. Although Russian is an official language of the United Nations, it is not a working language of this Council. Unfortunately, that section is under heavy pressure at the present time to get the final texts ready, but we shall see if it is possible to have them at hand for the forthcoming meeting at which this matter will be considered.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps the Under-Secretary did not hear what I said before that. I emphasized that this is not a question of translation, since all of these documents have already been translated into Russian. It is a question of publishing the documents.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): It is true that the basic material has already been translated into Russian, but they have not had time to put it together in final form and to get it through the typing pool. But we will see if that can be done in a very brief space of time.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We will defer the consideration of these reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions. The Council has disposed of its agenda for this afternoon. There will be no meeting tomorrow. However, it is difficult for us to indicate whether we can hold a meeting on Friday afternoon. I would ask the members of the Council to follow the Journal closely for the date and hour of the next meeting of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
21st Session
39th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1376
19 March 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued consideration of that part of the report (Doc. T/L.835) of its drafting committee on conditions in the Cameroons under British administration concerned with the question of target dates for the attainment of self-government or independence.

Action on other parts of the drafting committee's report was completed by the Council at its meeting yesterday.

Today, the Council had before it a new text of the remaining section of the report (Doc. T/L.840/Rev.1) proposed by India. This would, among other things, note the statement of the administering authority that it would submit proposals regarding the future of the Cameroons "as soon as possible." The Council would request the administering authority to submit such proposals "at an early date, with a view to the attainment by the territory of the final objective of the trusteeship system and, in particular, the proposed arrangements for consulting the population of the territory in regard to their future when Nigeria attains its independence."

The Council approved the text proposed by India by a vote of 10 to none with four abstentions.

Next, the Council took up the report (Doc. T/L.838) of the drafting committee on conditions in the Cameroons under French administration. The report proposes for the Council's approval a series of 19 separate conclusions and recommendations, as reflecting the opinion of the Council as a whole, regarding the progress made in the territory during the period under review.

By varying votes, the Council approved the recommendations proposed by the drafting committee on political, economic, social and educational conditions in the territory.

The Council commended the administering authority and the Cameroonian government for the development of political, economic and social institutions, and for the progress achieved in all fields during the year under review.

It commended the Cameroonian government and the Legislative Assembly for the "able manner" in which they had exercised the "considerable powers" granted to them under the new statute, which came into effect in 1957. It also said it was "pleased to learn that elements from both the north and the south of the territory have cooperated fruitfully in these institutions."

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council
21st Session
39th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1376
19 March 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

The Council noted that under the statute for the French Cameroons the Legislative Assembly "may request further transfers of powers to the Cameroonian authorities." It said it was convinced that the administering authority "will receive sympathetically any requests for further transfers which the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly might present to it."

The Council commended the "growth of municipal and local government" and hoped the Cameroonian government "will continue the work of strengthening" such government.

As regards the disturbances in the territory, it "deplores the continued recourse to violence in certain parts of the territory, particularly in the Sanaga-Maritime, by a segment of the population, and appeals to the persons concerned to cooperate with the remainder of the population in promoting normal political life in the territory."

In this connection, the Council noted with interest the recent promulgation of the amnesty law. It welcomed the appeal by the new Prime Minister and hoped that "this appeal as well as a liberal application of the amnesty law will contribute to a substantial improvement in the situation."

The Council invited the administering authority and the Cameroonian government "to explore further ways and means of restoring normal conditions in the affected areas."

In the economic field, the Council adopted recommendations on general developments, agriculture and industry. It also approved the recommendations proposed in the social and educational fields.

The Council noted "with satisfaction" the efforts made by the administering authority and the Cameroonian government to develop and diversify the economy and hoped that these efforts would be continued. It hoped Cameroonians would be encouraged to "participate increasingly" in the territory's economic life.

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The Council noted with satisfaction the progress made in the social and medical fields and commended the progress made in the field of education.

As regards the question of target dates for self-government or independence, the Council stated that it considered the "statute for the trust state constitutes an important step toward self-government or independence."

It expressed confidence that appropriate steps to be taken by the administering authority "will further facilitate the realization of the final objectives of the trusteeship system in accordance with the free wishes of the populations concerned, taking into account all alternatives relative to their future status.

In this connection, the Council noted the declaration by the representative of France that the "moment was no doubt near for the Cameroons when the administering authority would establish, in complete agreement with the Cameroonian government, a reasonable time-table which would lead the Cameroons to its emergence from trusteeship."

The Council is nearing the completion of its work for the current session. Still to be considered are the report of its drafting committee on Tanganyika and several other miscellaneous items. The drafting committee on Tanganyika is now completing its report.

The Council will meet again at a date to be announced, either this Friday or early next week.

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(END OF TAKE 2 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1376)