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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)
(continued)**

[Item 13]*

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.319, A/C.4/L.320, A/C.4/L.322, A/C.4/L.323/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.324, A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) (*concluded*)

1. Mr. TRIANTAPHYLLAKOS (Greece) regretted that he had had to abstain from voting on the revised draft resolution A/C.4/L.323/Rev.1. The Trusteeship Agreement for Somaliland, which was much the most complete, was the only one which provided a time-limit for the Trust Territory's attainment of independence. The Italian Administration had thus far fulfilled its commitments to such an extent that the recommendations in the draft resolution were superfluous.

2. Mr. CREPAULT (Canada) reminded the Committee of the preliminary comments his delegation had made at the 389th meeting; he would now make some additional remarks in the light of the discussion which had followed and of the votes which his delegation had cast on the draft resolutions adopted.

3. He had abstained on draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 concerning the revision of the Questionnaire, although he had entertained serious doubts about the usefulness of the proposal and had originally intended to vote against it. After the adoption of the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1), however, which in his view were just and equitable, he had not wished to stand in the way of those delegations which were so anxious to attempt the revision and which thought such revision possible, in spite of a previous failure of the Trusteeship Council to do so.

4. With regard to draft resolution A/C.4/L.323/Rev.1, his delegation was in full agreement with the paragraph of the proposal which noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Italian Administration in Somaliland. His delegation was also in agreement with the substance of the objectives set forth in the other paragraphs of the proposal, objectives which presented a standard of achievement with which no one could quarrel. His delegation, however, regretted the use of certain expressions such as "full legislative powers"

and "administrative autonomy", in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 2 of the original text (A/C.4/L.323). The standard of achievement to which he had referred sounded also somewhat unrealistic when envisaged in the light of the present stage of development in Somaliland. For those reasons his delegation had had to abstain on the draft resolution on Somaliland.

5. In conclusion, the Canadian delegation, which had not taken part in the general debate on the Trusteeship Council's report, took that opportunity to congratulate the Council for its praiseworthy and courageous work. The Canadian delegation had the highest respect for the efforts of the Trusteeship Council to carry out its assignments objectively and efficiently.

6. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands) explained that he had been unable to vote for draft resolution A/C.4/L.320 because he did not believe that the time required for attaining self-government or independence could be decided beforehand. He had been able to vote for draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 after the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) had been adopted. In connexion with draft resolution A/C.4/L.324, he had some doubts about the practical usefulness of the recommendations it contained, but he had nevertheless voted for it, as it merely asked that the matter should be studied.

7. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) explained why he had voted against draft resolution A/C.4/L.323/Rev.1. He would have abstained had not the establishment of a body vested with full legislative powers been mooted, as it had been in the original draft, and especially had the draft not been amended, in particular to request the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration to give in its annual report precise information on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution by the Administering Authority, a provision he deemed insulting to Italy.

8. Mr. PIGNON (France) said that he would have been glad to vote for draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, especially after its sponsors had wisely revised it, but had had to abstain because the amendments introduced had not been acceptable to his delegation.

9. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) regretted that he had had to abstain on draft resolution A/C.4/L.322, although he had hoped to be able to support it, since the Yugoslav amendment to operative paragraph 3 radically altered the nature of the provisions.

10. Mr. NAJAR (Israel) observed that his delegation had not construed draft resolution A/C.4/L.323/Rev.1 as insulting to the Administering Authority. Israel had a high esteem for Italy, with which it had very friendly relations, and he disagreed with the Belgian delegation's interpretation of the draft resolution, especially as regarded the scope and meaning of the recommendations made therein.

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

HEARING OF PETITIONERS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

11. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, at its 318th meeting, the Fourth Committee had granted a hearing to the Union des Populations du Cameroun and to the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise. The representative of the latter organization, Mr. Bissek, had made a statement to the Committee at its 388th meeting, and the Committee would now hear the representative of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, Mr. Um Nyobé, who had just arrived. He asked members of the Committee to make their comments and to put questions to the two petitioners immediately after Mr. Um Nyobé's statement.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Um Nyobé, representative of the Union des Populations du Cameroun, and Mr. Bissek, representative of the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise, took places at the Committee table.

12. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) thanked the Fourth Committee for having once again allowed the Union des Populations du Cameroun to address the United Nations on the Cameroonian national problem.

13. Despite the Fourth Committee's wish to acquaint itself with all the conflicting opinions to be found in the Trust Territory, the French authorities had done everything in their power to prevent the UPC from being heard by the General Assembly. He described the difficulties which he had had to overcome to get to New York, with the result that he was appearing at a time when the Fourth Committee was on the point of completing its work, whereas other petitioners from the Cameroons, who had left long after him, had already been in New York several weeks. Such restrictions threatened to impair the right of petition for the nationals of Trust Territories. It would be wise, therefore, for the General Assembly to seek some means of guaranteeing the opponents of colonial policies free access to the United Nations, so that they could express the aspirations felt by themselves and by the masses which they represented.

14. He recalled the terms of resolution 655 (VII), adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1952, following the statements that he and Senator Okala had made to the Fourth Committee at the seventh session (309th to 312th meetings). That resolution, in which the General Assembly requested the Trusteeship Council to continue its investigations in the Cameroons, had been satisfactory to both the UPC and to those who felt that the Administering Authority had not had time to reply to the UPC representative's statement. Since the matter had been referred to the Trusteeship Council, the UPC could no longer be reproached for by-passing that body and submitting its request for a hearing to the General Assembly. Moreover, after the statements made on behalf of the French delegation by Mr. Douala-Manga-Bell in the Fourth Committee (311th meeting) at the seventh session of the General Assembly, the excuse could not be made that the question had not been given sufficient study and it ought to be possible to settle it at the current session.

15. On Mr. Um Nyobé's return to the Cameroons, he had started a vast information campaign to inform the people of the result of the Fourth Committee's work. He had held eighty-three public meetings, which

had been attended by tens of thousands. The immense majority of the Cameroonian people in both Trust Territories had welcomed enthusiastically the Fourth Committee's decision, approved by the General Assembly. However, the French administration, which had refused to give the slightest publicity to the United Nations resolution, had taken all sorts of steps to prevent his carrying out his duty towards his fellow-countrymen. Thus, he had been banned from all public places on the pretext that in publicizing the work of the United Nations in connexion with the Trust Territory of the Cameroons, he was pursuing an "anti-French" policy. Nor had there been intimidation alone: on several occasions his very life had been threatened. The threats had been brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities, who had never lifted a finger to prevent their being carried out. An attempt had in fact been made to carry out the most recent threat, by arming a band of hirelings at Foumban to murder the General-Secretary of the UPC and his friends. The attack had failed, but Mr. Um Nyobé had been wounded, as the scars which he still carried on his head bore witness. The hirelings in question had been moved to carry out the attack by being told that Mr. Um Nyobé wanted to bring the Americans to the Cameroons to fight the French and drive out the Sultan. The irresponsible hirelings did not of course prefer the French to the Americans, but, on account of tradition, they wished to retain their Sultan. However, the lying accusation had not helped Mr. Um Nyobé to obtain a United States visa any more rapidly for his visit to New York. The lesson to be learnt from the case was that the Cameroonian masses would not tolerate attacks upon the UPC. He called upon Mr. Ninine, a member of the present French delegation, who, although he was now against the UPC movement, had benefited from the assistance of UPC committees in the Bamoun region during his electoral campaign, to bear witness to that fact.

16. Despite intimidation and acts of provocation, the people of the Cameroons had continued to demonstrate their enthusiasm for the General Assembly's resolution, and several petitioners had asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the text of the statement made by Mr. Um Nyobé before the Fourth Committee at its 309th meeting (A/C.4/226/Add.1). It had not been possible to meet those requests because the document was out of print. The UPC had therefore brought out a pamphlet entitled *Ce que veut le peuple Camerounais (What the Cameroonian people want)*, in order to make available to the people of the Cameroons under French administration the text of the UPC representative's statement and also the observations of members of the Fourth Committee and of the French representative. The pamphlet, 10,000 copies of which had been printed, had probably been seized at the Douala customs by the French authorities, as had most UPC publications.

17. The goodwill of the Cameroonian masses for the United Nations and their awareness of the problem of the unification and independence of their country had greatly increased since 1952. There were two further factors which ought to have guided the Trusteeship Council and enabled it to submit a report on the Cameroons, in accordance with resolution 655 (VII), to the eighth session of the General Assembly; namely, the reports of the Administering Authorities and the reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952.

18. In its observations (T/1074) on the Visiting Mission's report on the Cameroons under British administration (T/1042), the United Kingdom representative had described the changes which had taken place in the political life of the Cameroons under British administration after the split between the Cameroonian representatives in the Nigerian assemblies and the national party of Nigeria, (the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons); he had concluded that since the people of the Cameroons were applying themselves to the forthcoming elections and revision of the Nigerian Constitution, the unification question tended to fade into the background. Mr. Um Nyobé protested against that conclusion. During his last two visits to the Cameroons under British administration, when he had taken part in preparatory meetings for the forthcoming elections, he had seen that the programme of the Kamerun National Congress, which supported unification, commanded the support of the vast majority of the people of the Territory. Those elected members who had remained loyal to the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons no longer even ventured to appear in public, because their programme had been repudiated by the masses and by the most influential chiefs. The Kamerun People's Party, which supported the dissident representatives of the national movement, was the organization most hated by the masses in the Cameroons under British administration. He did not accept the arguments advanced in the observations of the United Kingdom Government against the granting of a separate regional status to the Cameroons under British administration, for the political leaders of Eastern Nigeria wanted the Cameroons, should it obtain self-government to be attached to their territory precisely because they regarded it as a rich territory.

19. The French Government regarded the question of unification as purely imaginary. That was why its advocates were subjected to every kind of humiliation by the French authorities. He recalled that at the seventh session he had had occasion to report various facts testifying to the desire of the Cameroonian people for their country's reunification. That desire had now grown so strong that it was really refusing to acknowledge the facts to claim that the people of the Cameroons were not interested in the matter. The report of the French Government¹ contained nothing but attacks on the UPC; the Government had not seen fit to go properly into any of the questions raised in 1952, in the hope that in that way they would be put off from year to year until, as a result of the difficulties encountered by the representatives of the people of the Cameroons in appealing to the United Nations, their claims would be removed from the Organization's agenda, despite the fact that the Cameroonians would continue to press for a settlement in accordance with the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

20. Mr. Um Nyobé read out paragraphs 92 and 104 of the report of the Visiting Mission on the Cameroons under French administration (T/1043) and pointed out certain inconsistencies between the two. The implication that the protests mentioned in paragraph 104 were due to the fact that the UPC had raised the problem of unification was inconsistent with the statement in paragraph 92 that the protests in the 105 com-

munications received by the Visiting Mission were based on the fact that Mr. Um Nyobé was in no way qualified to speak for the Cameroonian people. It would seem that his opponents would have protested against his appearance before the Fourth Committee even if he had come to defend the French colonial empire. He also recalled in that connexion the statement made by Mr. Peachey, Chairman of the Visiting Mission, to the Fourth Committee at its 309th meeting. He pointed out, incidentally, that it was not to him as an individual that the Fourth Committee had granted a hearing at the previous and at the current sessions but to the Union des Populations du Cameroun. That organization had authorized him, both in 1952 and in 1953, to speak on its behalf and on behalf of all the people of the Cameroons who shared its views on the Territory's problems. In any case, the Visiting Mission had spent too little time in the Cameroons and its contacts with the population had not been free enough to warrant its report being regarded as conclusive. Moreover, the statements made in the report had aroused indignation among those few members of the population who had been informed of them.

21. The UPC therefore maintained its claims regarding the unification of the Territory; however, it declared its readiness to co-operate with the United Nations and with the Administering Authorities, if the latter would agree to accept its co-operation in setting up organs which would promote the speedy unification of the country.

22. With regard to independence, neither the Visiting Mission nor the French Government referred in their reports to the time-limit within which the Cameroons should achieve its independence. He understood their embarrassment, in view of General Assembly resolution 558 (VI), adopted on 18 January 1952. On that point, the UPC maintained the stand it had adopted in the previous year. Moreover, events had proved it in the right. The Sudan had just shown that a country of Black Africa could reach the decisive stage of accession to independence. There again the UPC was willing to lend its assistance to secure concrete progress, and was ready to put forward any proposals which would be in conformity with the interests of the people of the Cameroons.

23. The question of the French Union was a theme which had changed and developed a great deal recently. At the present time, no colonial country was spiritually a member of the French Union; its only supporter, the Saigon Government, had been forced to yield to popular pressure. Thus, in the Congress held at Saigon between 12 and 17 October 1953, the motion submitted in regard to the French Union had said in essence that an independent Viet-Nam could not participate in the French Union as it now existed. Despite the reports published in the Paris newspapers after the visit of Mr. Jaquet, a French Minister, to Indo-China, he himself was sure that it was the opinion which had first been expressed in Saigon which counted.

24. As far as the Cameroons was concerned, it was not now a question of whether the French Union was a good thing or a bad. It was a question of principle. If the Cameroons was bound to the French Union under the Trusteeship Agreement, the Trusteeship System was simply a step backwards. However, he did not think that that was so. He noted that the Visiting Mission had not expressed any opinion on the matter. The French Governments report recapitulated various

¹ See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1952.*

legal arguments which did not withstand logic. The report of the Trusteeship Council on administrative unions (A/2151) noted that the French Constitution had not defined the status of the "associated territories", and the UPC agreed. The result of the legal loophole had been to encourage the incorporation pure and simple of the Cameroons into the French colonial empire. However, such incorporation would have been more difficult if the two representatives of the French Government had not used somewhat unorthodox methods in 1946 to convince the United Nations that the people of the Cameroons had given their support to the draft Trusteeship Agreement. The UPC continued to demand that the Trusteeship Agreement should be amended so that it would no longer be possible to say that the Cameroons was an integral part of French territory.

25. In order to impress the people of the Cameroons, a great deal had been said about the interdependence of peoples. The UPC would accept the term, on condition that it was admitted that the interdependence of peoples must be accompanied by the right of peoples to self-determination. In the opinion of the UPC, interdependence must signify that each people had its own independence and would co-operate with other peoples, rather than remain in unreasonable isolation. There could be no question of interdependence within the framework of colonization or of the assimilation of one people by another.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objections, the statement made by Mr. Um Nyobé would be circulated to members of the Committee.

*It was so decided.*²

27. Mr. McKAY (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to point out that Mr. Um Nyobé's visa application, like all other applications for United States visas made by persons invited to attend United Nations meetings, had been handled according to the procedure prescribed by law. That procedure did require time and it unfortunately sometimes happened that one visa application was handled more rapidly than another.

28. If the time required to deal with Mr. Um Nyobé's visa application and to go through the immigration formalities on that previous morning had caused him any inconvenience, the United States delegation regretted it. He assured the Committee, however, that the United States would continue to make every effort, in conformity with the Headquarters Agreement, to facilitate the access to United Nations Headquarters of persons invited to appear before United Nations bodies.

29. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) reminded the Committee of his previous statement (388th meeting) and, in reply to Mr. Um Nyobé's statement, stressed that a people attained independence through assiduous, methodical and rational work rather than through oral petitions. The terms used in Mr. Um Nyobé's statement gave it the flavour of an ultimatum. The goal to be attained first was the evolution of the people of the Cameroons; the unification of the two Trust Territories would not solve the problem. There was a parallel between the ambitions of some people in the Cameroons and those of Hitler, which had plunged Europe into the Second World War without bringing any benefit to the people he was claiming to defend. The two peoples of the two Ter-

ritories lived in perfect amity. Time-limits should not be set for granting independence, which should come only from the peoples' true evolution. That required a plan, which was in fact being carried out by the two heads of the undertaking, the United Nations and the Administering Authority. At its last extraordinary congress at Douala, in September 1953, the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise had noted that, although evolution had been retarded between 1919 and 1945, and especially under the Laval Government, when the Mandatory Power had still been confused and had feared the return of the Cameroons to Germany, the situation had greatly changed after the establishment of the Trusteeship Agreement, since which time the Cameroons had become a hive of industry. Obviously setting time-limits for the granting of independence was utopian, and after such notice to quit, any Administering Authority would be chary of investing capital in a country from which it was soon to be expelled.

30. The statement of the representative of the Union des Populations du Cameroun was, moreover, completely inconsistent with that association's statutes, article 31 of which specified that the UPC was not a movement against the French nation nor the interests of the French Union. In fact, the UPC was opposing the methods of association, whether integration or assimilation, the means used by the Administering Authority to promote the Territory's emancipation.

31. Mrs. MENON (India) observed that many petitions and requests for oral hearings received by the United Nations from the people of the Cameroons under French administration had stated that the UPC was not an important or representative political party but merely a subversive party without any definite programme. If that were true, she asked Mr. Um Nyobé why he thought assassins had, as he had just stated, been hired for the purpose of killing the General Secretary of that party.

32. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) replied that almost all the messages sent to the United Nations in protest against a UPC representative's being given an oral hearing originated with chiefs who, for the most part, were illiterate and unaware that they had sent petitions to the United Nations. In addition, a great many of the messages had been sent by civil servants who were compelled to send such petitions if they wished to keep their positions and be promoted. Mr. Bissek, for example, was not a free man but a government employee who had been instructed to come to the United Nations and defend the French Government.

33. Mr. Um Nyobé had various photographs which were available to the members of the Fourth Committee and which would give some idea of the enthusiastic demonstrations which had taken place when he had reported in the Cameroons on his mission to the United Nations in 1952. The UPC movement in the Territory had become so widespread that the French authorities were using every means to discourage it. For example, they had prohibited three pamphlets published by the UPC, one of which dealt with unification and another with the incident which had almost cost the life of the General Secretary of the movement. An appeal against the suppression of the second pamphlet had been lodged with the Council of State (*Conseil d'Etat*), in France, because the decree of the High Commissioner giving effect to that prohibition had no legal basis. The Ad-

² The complete text of Mr. Um Nyobé statement was circulated as document A/C.4/261.

ministration granted complete freedom to the newspapers which had applauded the attack on Mr. Um Nyobé, but it referred to any pamphlet published by the UPC as provocative and as an appeal to hatred and violence.

34. He would never feel any ill-will towards Cameroonians who came to the United Nations to oppose the emancipation of their country, because the proceedings of the United Nations were a matter of record and every Cameroon representative would be accountable to the people of the Cameroons. That was the case with Senator Okala who when he had gone to the Cameroons during the current year, had not dared to hold a single public meeting. After coming before the Fourth Committee the previous year as a representative of the Parti Socialiste Camerounais, he had been repudiated by the people of the Cameroons and had as a result been forced to form another political party, known as the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise, one of whose members was Mr. Ninine, a member of the French delegation to the Fourth Committee.

35. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) stated that Mr. Um Nyobé was himself a civil servant, of the *Service civil et financier*, on leave. Moreover, Mr. Bissek did not believe that the civil servants of any country were prohibited from belonging to a political party.

36. Mrs. MENON (India) was under the impression that the UPC was being penalized because of its great popularity rather than for its subversive tendencies.

37. Mr. UM NYOBÉ, (Union des Populations du Cameroun) said that that interpretation was correct. At the 410th plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the representative of France had expressed the fear that if a representative of the UPC were granted an oral hearing, the movement's influence in the Territory would be increased. Experience had shown, however, that the party was strong not only because its representatives went to the United Nations, but also because of its programme. In 1952, three representatives of the Cameroons had come before the Fourth Committee; one was a Senator, another a Deputy and the third a man who was said not to represent the people because he was not a member of any assembly. Upon their return to the Territory, however, Mr. Um Nyobé had been the only one to report on his mission in public meetings, when he had travelled throughout the Territory and received the enthusiastic approval of the people. The first meeting which Mr. Douala-Manga-Bell had attempted to hold at Douala had been broken up by the people, who had protested against a representative of the Government coming to speak to them concerning the work of the Fourth Committee of the United Nations. As for Mr. Okala, he had not tried to hold a single meeting.

38. Mrs. MENON (India) asked whether the UPC, which claimed to be a people's party, had put up candidates for election to the Territorial Assembly and whether its candidates had been elected.

39. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) replied in the affirmative. Elections had been held for the second electoral college, i.e. the college of the indigenous inhabitants, in nineteen electoral districts. The results of the elections had been challenged in ten electoral districts. Elections had already been declared void in three of the districts, including the one in which the Vice-President of the UPC had been a candidate. The Administration had thus far refused to

hold new elections, because it was afraid that the UPC candidates would win. The representative of France in one of the United Nations organs had said that legal challenges of the election results had not been concerned with irregularities, but had been due to a desire of the candidates to show their electors that they were familiar with the procedure for legal challenges. Elections had been declared void not only in the electoral district where the Vice-President of the UPC had been a candidate, but also at Douala, in Mr. Ninine's district.

40. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) pointed out that UPC candidates had twice stood in elections for the Territorial Assembly but had been defeated each time. The Evolution Sociale Camerounaise had two elected representatives in the Territorial Assembly; the recently established Coordination des Indépendants Camerounais had one representative; but the UPC had none. It was therefore not true to maintain that the UPC was a popular party in the Territory.

41. Mrs. MENON (India) asked Mr. Bissek what his party's attitude was concerning the question of the unification of the Cameroons.

42. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) explained that his party wished first of all to have the tribes in the Cameroons under French administration united. As he had pointed out in his statement, there were 136 tribes in the Cameroons under French administration, each with its own traditions and its own customs. It was therefore imperative to create union and harmony among those tribes before thinking about uniting them with the tribes of the other Territory.

43. Mrs. MENON (India) wanted a definite reply.

44. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) felt that he had been definite in his reply. He had said that the unification of the two Cameroons should be deferred for the time being because it was not the most urgent matter. Deferment, however, was merely equivalent to postponement.

45. Mrs. MENON (India) pointed out that in his statement Mr. Bissek had recommended administrative reforms. She asked whether there was freedom of movement between the two Cameroons or whether the formalities for passing from one Territory to the other were still very strict.

46. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that communication between the two Territories had been facilitated. For example, the number of customs posts along the border had been reduced from twenty-four to eleven. The two Administrations had decided to introduce greater flexibility into the supervision of goods traffic between the two Territories. As a result, food was moving freely from one Territory to the other. Only imported articles were still subject to customs duties.

47. Mrs. MENON (India) recalled that in paragraph 81 of its report (T/1043), the Visiting Mission had stated that a Lamido in the north had complained that the right to vote had been granted to persons unworthy of exercising it, particularly women and servants. She wanted to know whether in the French Cameroons women were considered unworthy to vote.

48. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) said that the French Administration did not object to the entire population's having the right to vote. In practice, however, voting was very difficult in some areas where the electors had to travel long distances to reach the polling stations. In some cases, mothers of

three children would, if they wished to vote, have to leave their children at home alone and run the risk of returning to find their homes destroyed by elephants. The Administration therefore considered that it was better for the rural population, in its own interest, not to vote, but the reason was not that they were unworthy.

49. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) did not believe that the chiefs in the north were opposed to their people voting, because those chiefs were members of the Territorial Assembly. It was to their advantage for their servants and wives to vote, because they could thus be sure of those votes. The Act of 23 May 1951 provided that a polling station should be provided in every locality with more than 1,500 voters, but it was not to the Administration's advantage to establish polling stations in every locality, because the elections might be favourable to its opponents. However, as the Visiting Mission had been able to observe, the people of the Cameroons had made considerable progress in electoral matters.

50. With regard to female suffrage, the UPC did not feel that it was fair to restrict the right to vote to women with two or more children. Under that rule, a woman knowing how to read and write could not vote if she had no children, whereas an illiterate woman could vote if she had two or more children. That Act, however, could be amended only by the French Parliament, where the Cameroons were represented by only three deputies out of 627. That was why the UPC urged that after unification a legislative assembly of the Cameroons should be established.

51. Mrs. MENON (India) asked whether women had to show their children in order to prove their right to vote, and whether some of the petitions received by the United Nations from the Cameroons under French administration emanated from women's organizations affiliated with the UPC. If that were the case, she wondered whether women showed an interest in the country's political life and what part they took in the movement.

52. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) replied that before being allowed to vote, a woman had to produce a birth certificate showing that she was the mother of two children, either living or dead in the service of France. Women desired to take part in the country's political life. For instance, in the Douala and Yaoundé areas and in the Western Cameroons women had enthusiastically taken part in the elections.

53. Mrs. MENON (India) asked the representative of the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise whether he was aware that certain Member States had placed scholarships at the disposal of the inhabitants of Trust Territories, to enable some of them to study abroad, and whether he thought that Cameroonians would wish to avail themselves of scholarships in India, to study medicine or nursing or prepare for an engineering career.

54. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that the inhabitants of the Cameroons would gratefully and eagerly accept any offer of that nature which might be forthcoming. He added that one student, Etienne Belunga, had already intimated his wish to continue his medical studies abroad.

55. Mrs. MENON (India) thanked the two petitioners, and stated that her Government would give

every consideration to Mr. Bissek's reply to her last question.

56. Mr. L. S. BOKHARI (Pakistan) asked the petitioners whether any inhabitants of the Cameroons were at times persecuted or imprisoned on account of their political opinions. He further inquired whether, in order to have the right to vote, a Cameroonian woman must have children, and if so what the origin was of such a requirement.

57. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) replied to the first question by assuring the Pakistan representative that the local authorities had, on numerous occasions, persecuted the UPC or harassed its members by preventing them, directly or indirectly, from meeting or setting up local offices. The Administering Authority had on several occasions ordered the imprisonment of members or sympathizers of the UPC, and dismissed officials openly affiliated with that body. He explained how the Administration had deemed punishable the setting up of a free school by a local branch of the UPC. On occasions, resorting to more insidious methods, it incited local chiefs to institute proceedings against the UPC, demanding the return of property or damages for alleged loss. The fact that the other parties were neither subjected to similar persecution nor threatened in like manner and could, for instance, freely address petitions to the United Nations provided striking evidence of the discriminatory nature of the treatment suffered by the UPC, which was the only political movement openly demanding the unification of the two Cameroons and the attainment of independence. He added that the Confederation Générale du Travail was likewise persecuted.

58. As to the Pakistan representative's second question, he explained that the electoral law in force in the Cameroons allowed a woman to vote in only three instances: if she had two or more children still living, or dead in the service of France; if she held a school-leaving certificate or was able to prove an equivalent educational standard; and if she belonged to certain categories specified by law. The extension of suffrage to all adult women, as advocated by the UPC, would necessitate an amendment of the electoral law, which could only take place with the consent of the French Parliament.

59. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) explained that the Cameroonians considered that the granting of suffrage to women who had children was a tribute to fertility and an incentive to set up a home. When a marriage was childless, a Cameroonian husband did not hesitate to disclaim his wife in order to marry another.

60. Mr. L. S. BOKHARI (Pakistan) thanked the petitioners. Their replies dispelled certain misgivings which he had felt in regard to a system which seemed to view the right of suffrage as a means of increasing the birth-rate.

61. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked the petitioners for details on the movement, which, in 1939, had advocated the integration of the Cameroons into France.

62. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that in 1939 the population had expressed a unanimous desire to see the Cameroons incorporated into what was then termed the French Empire.

63. Mr. UM NYOBÉ (Union des Populations du Cameroun) stated that the Cameroonian people had enthusiastically responded to the appeal of the Gov-

ernor-General of the Cameroons, had promised to fight alongside the French forces, and had done so courageously. After the war, however, the opinion had soon prevailed in Cameroonian political circles that the International Trusteeship System was a framework more conducive to the development and advancement of the Cameroons than the French Union.

64. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) observed that the desire expressed in 1939 was in no way at variance with the present desire for independence. He asked the representative of the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise what his party thought of the double electoral college.

65. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that the party which he represented considered that the Cameroons population had not yet reached sufficient political maturity and solidarity to be able safely to replace the double electoral college by a single one. His party feared, furthermore, that the hasty fusion of the two electoral colleges might provoke distrust among the European population, discourage investment and even lead to a flight of capital. It consequently advocated the postponement of the establishment of a single electoral college.

66. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia), asked Mr. Bissek whether his party envisaged an ultimate unification of the two Trust Territories within the French Union.

67. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that, in the development of the Cameroons, unification was the stage which would have to come immediately before the attainment of independence. It implied the prior unification of the tribes in each Territory. Other questions which were much more

urgent, especially that of the sale of women, were demanding the immediate attention of the Cameroonians.

68. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked the representative of the Evolution Sociale Camerounaise whether his party was asking for the creation of a common organ for the two Territories.

69. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Sociale Camerounaise) replied that his party, in its desire to facilitate contact between the two Territories, confined itself for the time being to asking that English and French should be taught simultaneously in the Cameroons under French administration and the Cameroons under British administration.

70. Mrs. MENON (India) asked Mr. Bissek whether he did not consider solidarity a more effective and certain means of speeding the advancement of the Cameroonian people than the discord and misunderstanding of which the petitioners gave so distressing a picture before the Committee.

71. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution Social Camerounaise) wished to set the Indian representative's mind at rest. The Cameroonians had naturally modelled their institutions on those of the Administering Authority. The existence of political parties was the basis of the parliamentary system and, furthermore, the parties were divided only on the means and not on the ends.

72. The CHAIRMAN stated that, as no representative signified his wish to ask other questions of the petitioners, the hearing would be declared closed.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.