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**President: Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).**

*Present:*

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representative of the following specialized agency: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

**Examination of the annual reports of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/788 and T/910) (*continued*)**

[Agenda item 4 (e)]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Watier, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, took his place at the Council table.*

1. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) congratulated the Administering Authority on the steady progress achieved in the Territory in 1949 and 1950. While there were still some deficiencies and shortcomings, it should be realized that in a territory such as the Cameroons under French administration populated by a number of races speaking different languages, each deeply attached to its own traditions, the Administering Authority's task as prescribed by the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement was not an easy one. It was therefore heartening to learn that the Admin-

istering Authority was not content to rest on its laurels but was firmly resolved to devote all its efforts to the gigantic task which remained to be done in meeting the needs and aspirations of the Territory.

2. Where political affairs were concerned, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the inhabitants of the Territory had been given an opportunity of participating in the election of representatives not only to the local Representative Assembly, but also to the National Assembly, the Council of the Republic and the Assembly of the French Union, and thus of familiarizing themselves with the system of representative government. It hoped that the double electorate system would in due course be replaced by universal suffrage. It attached great importance to an extension of the powers of the Representative Assembly and was awaiting the adoption of the relevant legislation with keen interest.

3. It welcomed the increase in the staff of the administrative services and trusted that the Administering Authority would see to it that Europeans were gradually replaced by indigenous inhabitants, especially in senior posts.

4. It regarded the decrease in the number of political parties as of some significance, considering that, at the present stage of the Territory's evolution, a multiplicity of political parties was not conducive to political progress.

5. In the economic field, it was essential for the Administering Authority to stimulate the interest of the indigenous inhabitants in the various agricultural, industrial and commercial activities of the Territory, taking advantage of the technical assistance available through the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

6. With regard to communications, his delegation hoped that the road construction plans prepared by the Administering Authority would soon be carried into effect, since a good system of road communications was one of the prerequisites of progress.

7. It was a matter for satisfaction that revenue had exceeded expenditure since 1946, a fact indicative of financial stability.

8. Where social matters were concerned, wage rates still seemed too low and the number of doctors and hospitals quite inadequate.

9. His delegation fully supported the educational policy of the Administering Authority and appreciated the good results already achieved. The Administering Authority should not, however, spare its efforts and might perhaps consider the introduction of compulsory primary education with a view to the general dissemination of basic elementary education throughout the Territory. The development of secondary and higher education was equally essential, since the future of the Territory depended on the creation of an indigenous élite.

10. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) considered that the progress made in the previous two years was most encouraging.

11. Political progress had perhaps been less marked than educational progress, but the Administering Authority had introduced or considered a number of significant political reforms. His delegation was particularly interested in the introduction in the N'Tem region of a system of village bureaux, which, though partly cultural and educational in their objectives, appeared to pave the way for the development of representative units of local government. His delegation was therefore glad to note that the Administering Authority hoped to extend the system progressively to other regions and urged that intensified efforts should be made to extend and develop the experiment.

12. His delegation had also been glad to note the establishment of five new mixed communes, which had municipal commissions with African majorities. The members of those commissions were, however, appointed and not elected and it was to be hoped that the agreement of the Representative Assembly could be obtained to the introduction of an electoral system. It would also be desirable for the commissions of Duala and Yaoundé to have African majorities.

13. His delegation was much interested in the result of the study which the Administering Authority had undertaken of methods of adapting a municipal system to the institutions in force in the northern part of the country.

14. The United States delegation hoped that a final decision would be reached in 1951 on the reorganization of the *conseils de notables* and on their replacement by regional councils with more extensive powers and an enlarged membership.

15. The Administering Authority was to be commended for the creation of four new administrative regions and the reopening of the N'Kam area. There was every indication that those measures of decen-

tralization and regrouping would stimulate the political development of the Territory.

16. With regard to the extension of the powers of the Representative Assembly, the Council might express the hope that the draft legislation now under consideration would be adopted and implemented in the near future and would provide for substantial legislative powers.

17. The United States delegation was glad to note the substantial increase in the number of registered voters and the Administering Authority's proposal to extend the suffrage to all persons liable to payment of a lump sum by way of income tax or exempted from that tax. The Council might perhaps express the hope that the Administering Authority would pursue its plans in that field, with the introduction of universal suffrage as its objective.

18. His delegation had noted with interest the increases in administrative personnel and the introduction of social and statistical services. The Council might perhaps recommend the Administering Authority to undertake a more comprehensive training programme to qualify Africans for posts of increasing responsibility in the government service.

19. The Territory's economic progress had been highly satisfactory, as was shown by the increase in the volume and value of imports and exports. The Administering Authority had acted wisely in attempting to increase the cultivation of export crops, while ensuring that the production of foodstuffs was sufficient for the domestic needs of the population. Many industries had been established under the ten-year plan and the Administering Authority's policy of associating the indigenous inhabitants in the Territory's industrial development was a happy one.

20. It was, however, agriculture which was destined to play a decisive role in the Territory's economy, as the Territory was essentially an agricultural area. It was therefore not surprising that cleavages of opinion between the Representative Assembly and the Administering Authority should have occurred in that field. With regard to land reform, it was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would succeed in conveying the meaning of the real issues involved to the indigenous population, so that whatever measures were taken would be taken with its full agreement. An effort should also be made to obtain the support of the indigenous inhabitants in the matter of the scheduling of forests, to which, it was disturbing to learn, the Representative Assembly seemed to be opposed. The Council might perhaps make a recommendation to that effect to the Administering Authority.

21. The establishment of the *Bureau des sols* was of particular interest, soil conservation being no less important than the preservation of forest resources.

22. With regard to communications, the Council might congratulate the Administering Authority on the attention it was paying to road construction and express the hope that it would expand its programme in the future.

23. In the social field, the United States delegation was greatly interested by the establishment of a welfare

service to carry out a social welfare programme, mainly for the protection of the family, women and children. It was gratifying to learn that the Representative Assembly had expressed its satisfaction with the work already done by that service; that spirit of understanding and co-operation augured well for the future of the service. The establishment of the housing service was also a promising innovation, since the problem of housing in towns had become more acute as a result of the rapid economic expansion of the Territory and the United States delegation was looking forward with interest to receiving information on the results obtained. Such a programme could only be effective if it provided for the construction of low-cost housing at prices within the reach of the indigenous workers. To give the urban indigenous inhabitants housing which satisfied their needs was the best means of combating the social evils which inevitably accompanied the transition from the tribal system to urban life.

24. The United States delegation noted with satisfaction that the standard of living of indigenous workers had improved, but it felt that wages were still very low. The Council might recommend the Administering Authority to continue studying the matter, periodically to review wage scales, and to see that wage rates increased sufficiently to offset the prevailing inflationary trend.

25. Similarly, with regard to the health service, the United States delegation was glad to note the progress already made, but it felt that the number of physicians was still inadequate and it thought the Council might urge the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts in the matter of training indigenous medical personnel.

26. In the field of education, it was encouraging to note that the number of children attending school had increased considerably and that the allocations for public education had increased rapidly and now amounted to 12 per cent of the total budget of the Territory for 1951, although that proportion was perhaps less impressive than it seemed at first sight in view of the magnitude of the problem. The lack of teachers was a major obstacle in that field, as UNESCO had noted in its observations on the reports for 1949 on the African Trust Territories (T/903). The United States delegation had therefore been glad to hear of the establishment of a teacher training school at Nkongsamba and hoped that the Administering Authority would accelerate its efforts in that field and would take the bold steps which were required to solve the general problem of education in the Territory.

27. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) observed that the Administering Authority's reports showed that there had been sustained progress in the Territory during the past two years.

28. The Trusteeship Council could specifically mention its satisfaction with the extent to which the ten-year plan was being put into effect and in particular the successful steps which had been taken towards industrializing the Territory.

29. Moreover, in conjunction with the results obtained through the implementation of the ten-year plan,

considerable progress had been achieved in the political field—for example, the establishment of village bureaux and judicial reforms—and in the social field—for example, the penitentiary reforms and the establishment of the social welfare and housing services. Chapter XI of the 1950 report<sup>1</sup> showed that the Administering Authority had taken due account of the recommendations and observations addressed to it by the Council.

30. The Administering Authority—which, as so often happened, had been hindered by the traditional attitude of the local population with regard to the status of women and the question of the scheduling of forests—should be able to feel that it could count on the support of the Council in its efforts to persuade the indigenous inhabitants to adopt more enlightened views.

31. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) had reached the conclusion, after a thorough study of the reports and of the replies of the special representative, that the Administering Authority had conscientiously tried to promote the development of the Territory and had achieved praiseworthy results.

32. In the political field, the Council had always been interested in the development of the Representative Assembly. The Council should therefore note with satisfaction that the Administering Authority intended to widen the powers of that body, and should express the hope that the result would be substantially to extend its jurisdiction.

33. With regard to the question of suffrage, there had already been some progress, but it would be well to inaugurate in the Territory a system under which there was a single electoral college giving equal rights to all the inhabitants, without distinction as to race. It would also be well to review the membership of the Representative Assembly, which at present consisted of only twenty-four indigenous inhabitants as against sixteen Europeans, in order that it should conform more closely to the composition of the population of the Territory.

34. With regard to the reorganization of the *conseils de notables*, it was to be hoped that the difficulties mentioned by the special representative could be overcome when the persons concerned had fully realized the merits of the proposed changes, and that the reform could be carried out in the near future.

35. Turning to the question of municipal organizations, the Chinese delegation noted with satisfaction the establishment of five mixed communes having municipal commissions of which a majority of the members were indigenous inhabitants. It hoped that those commissions could be granted wider deliberative powers, and that the system of municipalities could be extended to the northern part of the Territory. Furthermore, the Chinese delegation attached the greatest importance to the establishment of village bureaux, and hoped that that experiment could be extended to other regions.

<sup>1</sup> 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 1950.*

36. In the economic field, the Chinese delegation noted, as the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa (1949), had done in its report,<sup>2</sup> there was great economic activity in the Territory, thanks to the efforts of the Administering Authority. The Administering Authority should, however, encourage the population to play an increasingly important role in the economy of the Territory while it was being prepared for autonomy and independence.

37. In view of the essentially agricultural nature of the Territory's economy, the Administering Authority was to be commended for having considered the possibility of mechanizing the cultivation of rice and groundnuts, and for the fact that the technical and administrative services of the Territory had given attention to the development of food crops. The industrialization of the Territory had been actively promoted during the past two years, hand in hand with the development of agriculture. In that connexion, the Council could perhaps recommend the Administering Authority to expedite the technical training of the indigenous inhabitants and to prepare them to assume the management of the Territory's industrial enterprises.

38. The Chinese delegation, which was greatly concerned with the problem of the diet of the indigenous inhabitants, had noted with satisfaction the attempts of the Administering Authority to promote industrial fishing.

39. The Chinese delegation would like information on land tenure to be included in future reports, and in that connexion it wished to stress that care should be taken that the indigenous people's interests were not affected by the granting of concessions to non-indigenous inhabitants. It would also like information on the forest question and on the prospecting and exploiting of mineral resources. In granting concessions to non-indigenous inhabitants, the greatest care should be taken to safeguard the rights of the indigenous population.

40. In the social field, the Chinese delegation had been glad to note the decidedly progressive nature of those provisions of the prospective labour code of which the Council had been apprised. Moreover, it was encouraging that, according to recent tests, the indigenous workers' output could be greatly increased. As a result of those tests, training centres and trade-training schools had been set up in several towns. The Council would undoubtedly wish that work to be pushed forward vigorously. He hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its studies on wages and living standards.

41. In the educational field, the Administering Authority should endeavour to increase both the number of school pupils and the number of educational institutions of all grades, and should do its utmost to encourage the training of teaching staff.

42. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the information given in the report

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 2, Report on the Cameroons under French administration*, par. 131.

for 1949<sup>3</sup> and that for 1950 was inadequate and far too general in character. The reports gave no specific or concrete data on the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the political and economic life of the Territory and, in particular, did not include a reply to question 25 of the Provisional Questionnaire. In the 1949 report, for example, there was a table relating to administrative staff, but it did not show how many posts were held by indigenous inhabitants and how many by Europeans, and the question was not dealt with at all in the 1950 report. Likewise, the reports contained no information on the subject of racial discrimination, although it was generally known to be practised in the Territory, or on the standard of living of the people; they contained little more than general statements. The special representative had also confined himself to replies of much too general a nature.

43. All the information given in the reports or furnished by the special representative tended to present the situation in the Territory in the most favourable light. It was abundantly evident from the 1949 Visiting Mission's report and from the petitions received that the Administering Authority had not acted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter nor endeavoured to promote the objectives of the Trusteeship System, which aimed at ensuring the economic, social and political advancement of the people and their development towards independence or self-government. The Administering Authority had, in fact, hindered the Territory's development.

44. The indigenous inhabitants were excluded from all effective participation in the Territory's administration; all power was concentrated in the hands of the High Commissioner and the French officials; and all administrative posts, however unimportant, were held by Europeans. Moreover, there was no school for training indigenous inhabitants to assume responsible administrative functions. With respect to the distribution of posts in the general administration, he called attention to the table in the 1950 report, page 53.

45. Judicial authority was also concentrated in the hands of Europeans; in that connexion, he cited the petitions from the *Comité directeur de l'Union des populations du Cameroun* and the *Bureau de l'Union des syndicats confédérés du Cameroun* (T/Pet.5/89 and T/Pet.5/89/Add.1).

46. The Representative Assembly had no real power; its role was purely advisory. In that connexion, he recalled the view expressed in the report of the 1949 Visiting Mission (para. 63). Furthermore, the Assembly's composition showed that the Administering Authority was carrying out a policy of racial discrimination. The overwhelming majority of the indigenous inhabitants was disenfranchised, as shown by the table in the 1950 report, page 189. The distribution of seats in the Assembly gave the 10,252 French voters 16 representatives, whereas the indigenous population numbering some 3 million had only 24 representatives.

47. Moreover, the integration of the Territory into the French Union, which embraced all the French

<sup>3</sup> 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 1949*.

colonies, was contrary to the Articles of the Charter relating to the International Trusteeship System, inasmuch as the Territory was administered simply as a colony. According to its report (para. 73), the 1949 Visiting Mission had received complaints on that subject also.

48. The Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority should set up legislative and executive organs which would be independent of the machinery of the French Union, and that it should take steps to ensure that the indigenous inhabitants were represented in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the Territory.

49. The Administering Authority was taking advantage of the tribal system, which was an obstacle to the indigenous population's political advancement towards self-government or independence, as a means of controlling the population. That fact had been brought to light by the 1949 Visiting Mission's report and by the petition of the *Kumszé* (Traditional Assembly) of the Bamiléké people (T/Pet.5/92).

50. The Council should accordingly urge the Administering Authority to do all it could to further the transition from the tribal system to a system of government based on democratic principles.

51. In the economic field, the Administering Authority had done nothing to promote the advancement of the Territory. Only a small part of its vast resources was utilized, as the 1949 Visiting Mission had pointed out in its report (para. 130); the mining industry in particular had not been developed. The indigenous inhabitants derived no benefit from the resources now being exploited; according to page 48 of the 1949 report, one-fourth of the available land was used for industrial agricultural production for export, which was concentrated in the hands of Europeans. The value of cocoa exports, for example, had risen to 3,997 million francs in 1950, or 48.7 per cent of the total value of exports; that fact was to be found on page 308 of the 1950 report. In addition, notwithstanding the opposition of the indigenous inhabitants, the Administering Authority had established a system of co-operative societies, which the indigenous inhabitants had to join under penalty of a fine. Those societies were controlled by the European companies that were exploiting the Territory.

52. With regard to land alienation, the 1949 Visiting Mission had received numerous petitions protesting against the Administering Authority's policy. He referred particularly to documents T/Pet.5/40-T/Pet.4/28 and T/Pet.5/38; the Mission, for its part, had quoted in its report (para. 149) a passage from petition T/Pet.5/56-T/Pet.4/31, which showed that the indigenous inhabitants were being systematically stripped of their land.

53. The scheduling of forests was another form of land alienation. The Visiting Mission had stated in its report (para.157) that there was considerable discontent owing to the great size of the cutting concessions granted to Europeans. Petitions T/Pet.5/86 and T/Pet.5/85 dealt with the same subject.

54. The Trusteeship Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority should restore to the indigenous inhabitants any lands which had been taken from them in any way and should in future prevent any alienation of lands belonging to the indigenous population.

55. A head tax was still in force. The Council should urge the Administering Authority to replace it by a progressive income tax or, at least, a simple income tax system which took into account the inhabitants' economic position and ability to pay.

56. In the social field, the Administering Authority was pursuing an anti-democratic policy by tolerating racial discrimination and violation of the rights of the indigenous inhabitants. Petitions T/Pet.5/89 and T/Pet.5/89/Add.1 revealed discriminatory practices in the matter of wages and in the treatment of customers in offices and shops. The 1949 Visiting Mission had received many complaints of discrimination in respect of medical facilities and of arbitrary and insulting treatment of indigenous inhabitants by the police (T/Pet.5/54 and T/Pet.5/56-T/Pet.4/31). Other petitions spoke of arbitrary arrests for trade union activities (T/Pet.5/89 and T/Pet.5/89/Add.1) and even of arrests following the dispatch of a telegram of protest to the United Nations (T/Pet.5/83).

57. The Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority should put an end to its anti-democratic policy, under which racial discrimination was tolerated, rights were violated and the interests of the indigenous population ignored.

58. With regard to the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants, Mr. Soldatov drew attention to a petition from the *Confédération française des syndicats chrétiens* (T/Pet.5/71) showing that the standard of living of the indigenous workers was exceptionally low on account of a policy based on the principle that indigenous persons had fewer needs than Europeans. Evidence of that policy could be found in paragraph 244 of the 1949 Visiting Mission's report on the Territory.

59. The Trusteeship Council at its fourth session had urged the Administering Authority to take all possible measures to raise the wage level and to improve the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants in terms of housing, clothing, medical and social services.<sup>4</sup> The Administering Authority had not, however, complied with those recommendations.

60. Likewise, the Administering Authority's reports, the 1949 Visiting Mission's report and the petitions clearly showed that the Administering Authority had made no attempt to improve conditions in the fields of public health and education. The expenditure per inhabitant for public health was ridiculously low. Famine, beggary and the lack of adequate medical facilities were responsible for a high mortality rate among the indigenous inhabitants, particularly among the Foulbé tribe, as admitted in the 1949 report (p. 128). Furthermore, nearly all the indigenous inhabi-

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 22.

tants remained in a state of illiteracy and ignorance; the information supplied by the Administering Authority indicated that only 16 per cent of children of school age were attending school, the great majority of them for two or three years at most. The 1949 report admitted (p. 191) that the great mass of the population was not reached by the schools. The Visiting Mission had pointed out in paragraph 262 of its report on the Territory that the vernacular languages were not taught in the public schools, all the teaching being in French.

61. The Council should therefore urge the Administering Authority to introduce reforms and to that end to increase appropriations for public health and education.

62. Mr. PIGNON (France) assured the Council that the Administering Authority would not fail to take note of the interesting and valuable suggestions which had been made. He shared the opinion of the representatives of New Zealand and China regarding the need for more careful supervision of the granting of concessions, and he agreed with the Australian representative that the status of women should be quickly raised with a view to overcoming as soon as possible the marked disparity between the advancement of men and that of women in Africa. Obviously, however, the first prerequisite was to convince those who were directly concerned.

63. He entirely agreed with the representatives of the United Kingdom, Belgium, the United States and Australia concerning soil conservation and the protection of forests; he pointed out, however, in reply to the remarks of the Belgian representative, that the slowing down in the matter of scheduling forests was due to the desire of the Administering Authority to respect the wishes of the Representative Assembly, but that it had no intention of abandoning the work.

64. In reply to the representative of Thailand, he confirmed that the Administering Authority intended to broaden the powers of the Representative Assembly. He shared the United States representative's opinion on the need to continue the experiment with the *village bureaux* and to increase the number of mixed communes. The same was true of the reform of the *conseils de notables*, referred to by the representative of China, who had very rightly suggested that the powers of the Assembly should be extended with a view to preserving the Territory's individuality within the framework of the French Union.

65. In regard to the observations of UNESCO (T/903), he felt that that organization tended to underestimate what had been done and the results achieved, and that it ought to make a greater effort to understand the difficulties confronting the responsible authorities.

66. The Council was undoubtedly aware of the extensive work which the Administering Authority had done in the Territory in scrupulous fulfilment of its obligations. To be sure, it was easy to criticize from the ideal vantage-point of democratic perfection, particularly if there was no attempt at objectivity. The fact that the Representative Assembly existed enabled the

USSR representative to criticize its composition; but the Administering Authority repudiated the accusation that it was practising a policy of racial discrimination. That was something that was unknown in France. Moreover, there were many coloured Frenchmen in the first electoral college.

67. It should not be forgotten that France had initiated many bold reforms. African peoples had been suddenly called upon to take part in deliberations which concerned not only their own territories but also, in some cases, France itself. In spite of doubts in some quarters concerning the advisability of such reforms, the French Government had persevered, convinced as it was that the best method of training was the exercise of responsibility. Some prudence had, however, been called for, and it had been felt that there should be a few Frenchmen in the Representative Assembly to give the indigenous representatives the benefit of their experience and to instil by their example the concept of public service. The attitude of the indigenous representatives on the important question of the scheduling of forests showed that the still backward population which they represented resented any limitation of their traditional practices, even when in the public interest. The presence of a few more enlightened members was therefore essential.

68. The powers of the Representative Assembly were defined in the decree by which it had been established.

69. On the whole, in spite of the difficulties encountered, the experiment in participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the responsibilities of government had been successful. The development of political life was proceeding calmly and the atmosphere of peace in the Territory was not the result of police domination.

70. In reply to the USSR representative's observations concerning the limited number of indigenous inhabitants in the senior administrative service, Mr. Pignon observed that either relatively unqualified persons could be allowed to enter the public service, or indigenous persons could be asked to reach the same or nearly the same standard as European government employees. Experience had shown that the latter method was the right one. It would be dangerous to allow superficially trained indigenous officials to enter responsible administrative posts while there were others who had been thoroughly trained in Europe. Moreover, the absolute equality of pay laid down by the Lamine-Gueye law presupposed equal qualifications. The obvious corollary of that policy was mass education, which the Administering Authority was developing to such an extent that by 1957 about 200 *baccalauréats* would probably be granted annually. There was, therefore, a firm intention to promote the development of the people of the Cameroons under the best possible conditions for their future.

71. With regard to the political education of the population, primary school children were being taught civics, including the principal rights and duties of citizens and some facts concerning the United Nations; at other levels of instruction, due regard was being given to French traditions of liberty. That was evidence of the honesty of the Administering Authority's intentions. Moreover, the population of the Territory could

acquire political education by participating in political life, through the elections, the assemblies, discussions between representatives and their constituents and through the activity of the trade unions, which were non-political in principle and which had developed in complete freedom.

72. Finally, the legislative elections recently held, in which 503,000 voters of both sexes had participated, had demonstrated the serene moral atmosphere in the Territory and the relative insignificance of the disorderly elements.

*Mr. Watier, special representative of the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, withdrew.*

*The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and was resumed at 4.30 p.m.*

**Examination of the annual reports of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of Tanganyika for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/786, T/786/Add.1, T/804 and T/904) (continued)**

[Agenda item 4 (b)]

REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.176, T/L.176/Corr.1, T/L.187, T/L.194 and T/L.195) (continued)

73. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the summary of the observations made by individual members of the Council during the discussion on Tanganyika and of the comments of the special representative of the Administering Authority (T/L.195).

74. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) requested that the following paragraph should be inserted in section V, "Educational advancement", at the end of the sub-section entitled "General":

"The special representative of the Administering Authority said it could not be denied that much yet remained to be done in the field of educational advancement. As was stated in the annual report for 1950, it was recognized by the Administration that the revised ten-year plan still did not provide a complete answer to the problem, but it did represent a considerable advance and, having due regard to the claims of the other social services on the limited financial resources of the Territory, it offered a realistic picture of what could be achieved within the ten-year period."

75. In the same section, at the end of the sub-section entitled "Expenditure on education", the following text should be inserted:

"The special representative explained that, for a number of reasons, the expenditures incurred on African and non-African education could not be properly compared on a *per capita* basis. Moreover, as stated in the annual reports, the amounts shown as expenditure on non-African education included loans for capital works and the proceeds of the special non-Native education tax."

76. He also requested that, in the same section, at the end of the sub-section entitled "Teachers and teacher-training schools", the following text should be inserted:

"The special representative of the Administering Authority referred to the considerable provisions made in the revised ten-year plan for the expansion of training facilities. As regards the allegations of racial discrimination, he stated that, quite apart from the general question of the factors governing the remuneration of expatriate officials, there could at present be no comparison between the duties and responsibilities of African school teachers and the European members of the Education Department staff."

*It was so decided.*

77. The PRESIDENT proposed the adoption of document T/L.195, as amended, as part of the Council's report on Tanganyika.

*It was so decided.*

78. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt document T/L.194, containing the addition to the outline of conditions in Tanganyika (T/L.176) suggested by the Secretariat following the Council's adoption, at its 366th meeting, of the resolution concerning petitions from that Territory.

*It was so decided.*

79. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft report on Tanganyika as a whole (T/L.176, T/L.176/Corr.1, T/L.187, T/L.194 and T/L.195), as amended at the 366th and at the present meeting.

*The report as a whole was adopted by 10 votes to 1.*

**Examination of the annual reports of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/787, T/787/Corr.1, T/909 and T/909/Add.1)**

[Agenda item 4 (f)]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sutherland, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration, took his place at the Council table.*

80. Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) thought that, of the reports for 1949<sup>5</sup> and for 1950,<sup>6</sup> both of which were before the Council, the 1950 report was particularly interesting because it described the very important political events preceding the application of the new Gold Coast Constitution, which affected the Trust Territory. That new Constitution was very close to the recommendations made by the all-African Committee on Constitutional Reform, which had been presided over by Sir James Henley Coussey. The 1950

<sup>5</sup> See *Report by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the year 1949*, London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1950, Colonial No 259.

<sup>6</sup> See *Report by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the year 1950*.

report indicated some of the steps taken to inform the future electoral college concerning its duties and responsibilities and to explain to the people the novel process of registration and the secret ballot. Those steps had been wholly successful. The Convention People's Party, led by Mr. Kwame Nkrumah, had obtained a resounding victory. The Southern Section of the Territory had received three seats in the Legislative Assembly, two from the two rural constituencies, the third to be filled by a member elected by the Southern Togoland Council; the Council had chosen Mr. F. Y. Asare, now a Ministerial Secretary to the Leader of Government Business. As stated in the report, all the representatives of the Northern Territories and of the Northern Section of Togoland had been chosen by a single electoral college. Of the thirty-four candidates, three had been Northern Togoland, two of whom had been elected.

81. The new Legislative Assembly had held a short session in February, during which it had confirmed nominations to the Executive Council; and a long session in April. The new Constitution had come into force smoothly and successfully. As the Secretary of State for the Colonies had pointed out, it was a particularly significant advance in the history of the two peoples and it gave the people of the Gold Coast a greater responsibility in the management of their own affairs than that exercised by the inhabitants of any other British colonial territory in Africa.

82. There were some remarks on progress in local administration in the 1950 report, but the recommendations approved in principle by the outgoing Assembly were still being examined in detail and would be discussed by the new Assembly during the year. The importance of local administration within the general structure of government was no less than that of the central Government. With regard to regional administration, he regretted that he was unable to inform the Council of any recommendation by the special commissioner appointed to study that question which might affect the Trust Territory.

83. The Territory was now represented on other bodies, in particular the Agricultural Development Corporation, the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board, the Library Advisory Board, the Vernacular Literature Board and the Central Advisory Committees on Education, Students, Health Services and Social Development. A Togolander would also be appointed to serve on the Agricultural Loans Board and on the Scholarships Selection Board. The former Cocoa Marketing Board had been dissolved, but a producer from the Southern Section would be appointed to the new board. The policy of the Administering Authority and of the Gold Coast Government was to see that the Territory was represented on all bodies of that kind which affected its interests. In the Northern Section, the Kusasi Agricultural Development Committee was performing valuable work. It was composed of four of the most progressive Kusasi chiefs, an African trader and three government officials. The number of persons taking part in the Committee scheme had been 159 in 1950 and was 297 in 1951. 155 of whom farmed in the Territory. The Committee supplied farmers with bullocks and agricultural tools, and the farmers sold it

groundnuts at the local price prevailing at the time of the harvest. Additional sums from the sale of that crop when the price had risen were credited to the farmers for the repayment of loans they had contracted. In 1951 those additional sums had been equal to the total paid when the crop had been purchased. It was anticipated that, if the farmers wished to continue marketing their produce through the Committee when they had repaid their loans, that body would develop into a co-operative composed of the farmers themselves. Thus the farmers were able to cultivate more land without impairing its productivity and without incurring additional costs.

84. Turning to the question of educational advancement, he stated that the number of pupils enrolled in primary schools had increased from less than 26,000 in 1949 to over 27,500. The Territory's first secondary school had been opened at Ho in January 1950, and now had 100 pupils. Many other pupils were attending secondary schools outside the Territory. The educational development of the Territory was impeded not by financial considerations, but by the lack of teachers, particularly in the Northern Section. Steps would be taken at an early date to encourage the appointment of teachers in that area; in addition a teachers' training college was to be established at Pusiga. In view of the urgency of the need, however, a system of in-service training would soon be put into effect. District education committees would be set up in the Northern Section, and an assistant director of education was to be appointed, to be stationed at Tamale and to be in charge of the Northern Territories and the Northern Section of the Trust Territory.

85. With regard to primary education, the Minister of Education had reached the conclusion that the Gold Coast Government should not stand in the way of the establishment of senior primary schools, it being understood, of course, that such schools would receive no government grants until they had been officially approved, and that the local authorities would make no grants until their obligations toward the approved schools had been discharged. It had further been decided that junior primary education would be free after a certain date, which had not yet been fixed. That step would oblige the central Government to increase the subsidies granted to educational units such as the missions in the Southern Section. The question of transferring the management of the mission schools to the new local authorities was already under discussion, and it was hoped that no difficulties would arise. The central Government would of course continue to subsidize the schools.

86. He drew attention to a scholarship scheme for the Gold Coast and the Trust Territory instituted by the Cocoa Marketing Board. Under that scheme, scholarships for study in elementary and secondary schools and in universities would be awarded each year, on a competitive basis, to pupils whose parents could prove direct association with the cocoa industry. The plan also provided for scholarships for research and post-graduate study.

87. There had been remarkable progress in mass education in the Southern Section of the Territory. The policy followed had been not only to teach the indigenous inhabitants to read and write, but also to



- stimulate the cultural development of the rural population. Dr. Laubach's system had been adopted as the most suitable for the teaching of the illiterate, and a primer had been published in several of the vernacular languages. That programme, which was constantly gaining in strength, had already brought a knowledge of reading and writing to over 3,000 persons in the Southern Section. Another achievement had been the courses in nutrition and child care which had been given with the aid of specialists and staff from the Medical Department. A conference had been held at Tamale, in December 1950, to draw up plans for a mass education programme in the Northern Territories and in the Northern Section of the Trust Territory, and a branch of the Bureau of Vernacular Literature had been set up in the same town.
88. The question of corporal punishment had continued to be carefully studied. It had been decided that the flogging or whipping of adults would be abolished except in cases of mutiny or incitement to mutiny in the prisons, or gross personal violence to a prison official or another prisoner. No sentence of corporal punishment would be carried out without the approval of the Executive Council. Whipping would, however, be maintained for juvenile offenders.
89. He felt sure that the reports for 1949 and 1950, together with the additional information he had furnished, would show clearly that no effort had been spared to further the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territory. There were still shortages of materials and of skilled personnel, but the Administering Authority and the Gold Coast Government were seeking assiduously for the means to overcome those handicaps.
90. In reply to questions put by Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) furnished the following detailed explanations with regard to the 1950 report.
91. The Territorial Council for the Northern Territories and the Northern Section of the Trust Territory (1950 report, paras. 55 and 152 D) had the same functions as before, but in addition it was now an electoral college for the election of the members of the Legislative Assembly. It considered the more important bills which were to be discussed in that Assembly. Its sixteen members were selected by the various Native Authorities.
92. Up to the present, no indigenous inhabitant of the Territory had been appointed to the administrative service, nor had any indigenous inhabitant been sent to one of the training courses in English universities which were made available to officials of that service (1950 report, para. 72). It had been decided, however, that in the future all persons appointed to the administrative service would be Africans who possessed the necessary qualifications.
93. The further training of personnel of the Native Authorities, referred to in paragraph 74 of the 1950 report, consisted of both in-service training and school training, at government institutions.
94. Approximately 30 to 35 per cent of the population of the Southern Section was affected by the compulsory registration of births and deaths (1950 report, para. 75).
95. With respect to paragraph 97 of the 1950 report, he was unable to say how many inhabitants of the Trust Territory had enlisted in the Gold Coast Regiment and were at present serving with it; that information would be included in the next report.
96. The Legislative Assembly could not of its own accord nominate candidates for appointment to the Executive Council. As was explained in paragraph 108 of the 1950 report, that was the exclusive prerogative of the Governor. The Assembly could only approve or reject the Governor's nominations.
97. In connexion with paragraph 114 of the 1950 report, the special representative stated that of the six members of the Assembly representing commerce and the mines, three represented mining interests, but there were no mines in the Territory; the other three represented commercial interests and each of them was the representative of a firm operating in the Territory. They were, of course, elected for general and not particular representation.
98. Finally, he explained that under the terms of the Order-in-Council referred to in paragraph 106 of the 1950 report, the Governor must consult with the Executive Council in the exercise of all powers conferred upon him and must act in accordance with the advice of the Council. If he did not follow its advice, he must explain why and report to the Secretary of State.
99. In reply to questions from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) gave the following additional information and explanations in connexion with the report for 1950.
100. He read the text laying down the Governor's powers and explained that the Governor consulted the Executive Council on all matters of policy. The only power that was reserved to him was the appointment of officers.
101. At the present time, the main judicial function of administrative officers (1950 report, para. 65) was to hear appeals from the decisions of Native courts; they could remand cases or, in the absence of a magistrate, try cases and also make inquiries into unusual occurrences. In such cases, they could impose penalties.
102. Instruction in the vernacular languages was included in the ten-month training course which officials must take prior to appointment in the Gold Coast (1950 report, para. 72).
103. In connexion with paragraph 108 of the 1950 report, he explained that if the Legislative Assembly, by a two-thirds majority, requested the Governor to revoke the appointment of any representative member of the Executive Council, the Governor would accede to that request. That provision gave the Assembly a measure of control over members of the Executive Council.

104. No Native court had jurisdiction over Europeans in the Territory (1950 report, para. 157); however, the term non-African did not apply to Europeans alone and there was a definition of what constituted an African. The Governor appointed magistrates and could revoke their appointments.

105. Finally, he stated, in connexion with paragraph 162 of the 1950 report, that it was customary in the courts to provide interpreters for persons who did not understand English.

106. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) noted that the representative of the United Kingdom had recently stated, in connexion with other Territories under British administration, that it was the policy of the United Kingdom to keep the judiciary and the executive separate. He expressed the hope that future reports would show that that policy was being carried out in the Trust Territory under discussion as well.

107. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) asked whether, if a proposal of the Executive Council were rejected by the Legislative Assembly, it would theoretically be possible for the Assembly by a two-thirds majority to ask the Governor to revoke the appointment of all the elected members of the Council. In other words, could the Assembly bring about a change of government by a virtual vote of no confidence.

108. Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) observed that that was an academic question. There was no real parliamentary opposition in the Gold Coast, as the term

was understood in sovereign States. At the present time it was probable that, if it rejected a proposal of the Council, the Assembly would merely wish to indicate that it would like the proposal to be reviewed.

109. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), referring to paragraph 170 of the 1950 report, which stated that "putting into fetish" was within the jurisdiction of the Native courts, pointed out that that policy was contrary to the policy of the British Administration in the Cameroons, where witchcraft was specifically excluded from the jurisdiction of the Native courts.

110. Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) explained that "putting into fetish" was different from and more substantial than witchcraft.

111. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) felt that the important and disturbing element was that an accusation could be brought by superstitious persons before superstitious judges against perfectly innocent people and that the evidence of a superstitious witch-doctor might well be accepted by a Native court.

112. Mr. SUTHERLAND (Special representative for Togoland under British administration) replied that cases of that kind were rare. Moreover, the panels of Native courts were fully familiar with customary law. Accusations must be supported by evidence. It was, however, true that the testimony of a witch-doctor would be evidence which the Native court would have to consider.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.