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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 State non-member of the Trusteeship Council: Italy.

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 Ruanda-Urundi for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/784, T/784/Add.1 and T/912) (*concluded*)

[Agenda item 4 (c)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Leroy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, took his place at the Council table.

1. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) thought that continued political, economic, social and educational progress had been made in the Territory. In some respects, however, progress could be more rapid.

2. The reform of the indigenous political structure was to be enacted into law in the near future, and the programme would be implemented immediately thereafter. The United States delegation had noted with satisfaction that the reform held great promise of transforming the indigenous feudal political system into truly representative institutions.

3. His delegation was also greatly interested in the steps the Administering Authority had taken to hold

another election for six councillors for the *centres extra-coutumiers* at Usumbura; it was to be hoped that the elections would prove successful and be a first step towards organizing elections in other *centres extra-coutumiers* in the Territory.

4. The Council of the Vice-Government-General could be developed to an even greater degree both as an advisory body, able to sway decisions, and as a centre for the political education of indigenous leaders. It was therefore to be hoped that the Administering Authority would consider the possibility of increasing the number or the duration of the Council's sessions or of exploring other means of developing the importance of that body.

5. Until such time as the administration of the Territory could be handed over entirely to the indigenous inhabitants, it would seem desirable, and indeed necessary, to make it possible for qualified indigenous inhabitants to fill important administrative posts under the supervision of European officials, so that they could acquire the necessary technical and practical experience. He hoped that subsequent reports would give detailed information on progress in that respect.

6. With regard to the administrative union between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, the report of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions (T/919) might form the basis for the Council's recommendations on that subject.

7. In the economic field, the year 1950 had been favourable. His delegation was happy to note that the ten-year plan contemplated not only the extension of existing economic activities, but also, and especially, the development of new activities. The Council would await details on the ten-year plan, and information on the steps taken to fulfil it, with great interest.

8. It was to be hoped that special emphasis would be placed on increasing indigenous participation in the

Territory's economic life; the Administering Authority was to be congratulated on the steps it had taken to increase the participation of indigenous merchants and artisans in the Territory's commercial activities. It was likewise good to learn that priority was to be given to the development of co-operatives under the ten-year plan. The United States delegation was also deeply interested in the Administering Authority's efforts to bring about a change in the indigenous inhabitants' attitude towards cattle. The success of that undertaking would help to ensure the Territory's food supply and put its agriculture on a sounder basis. The Administering Authority should also be commended for the measures it had taken to avoid famine, such as installation of food warehouses, draining marshes and soil-erosion control; as also for its decision to grant no more concessions to non-indigenous agricultural settlers. The Administering Authority should further be congratulated on having enabled indigenous coffee planters to be represented in the *Office des cafés indigènes du Ruanda-Urundi*; it was to be hoped that it would consider the possibility of giving cotton-growers similar representation in the *Caisse de réserve colonnière*. With regard to the mining industry, his delegation hoped subsequent reports would give more information on the extent of the mining industry's contribution to the Territory's total budget, and on the size of that contribution in relation to the mining companies' profits.

9. One of the greatest problems was the need to raise the workers' standard of living. The Administering Authority should therefore go forward with its plans for raising minimum wage rates so as to keep pace with the rising cost of living, particularly in the larger towns. The United States delegation hoped that detailed information would be made available on studies on the subject. Such studies, as well as reviews of minimum wage rates should be carried out periodically.

10. The United States delegation was watching with great interest the Administration's attempt to break down the feudal ties which at present prevented many indigenous inhabitants from moving to less populated parts of the Territory or to neighbouring territories. The Administering Authority was to be commended for such achievements as the establishment of social service centres for women, the increase in the number of doctors and hospital beds, the programme to increase available water supplies, the disinfection campaigns, the opening of recreation and education centres for the more advanced inhabitants, the introduction of mobile farm units and the promulgation in 1949 of the law providing workers' compensation for accidents and illness. The Council would certainly wish to encourage the Administering Authority to continue along those lines.

11. The United States delegation was glad to note that the Administering Authority had further reduced the use of corporal punishment and that that penalty was now imposed only as a disciplinary measure in penitentiary institutions, with the number of lashes reduced to four. The Council would be particularly interested in any further steps toward the complete abolition of all forms of corporal punishment in the shortest possible time.

12. The housing problem in Ruanda-Urundi, as elsewhere in Africa, was becoming increasingly serious. It was therefore particularly heartening to hear that the Administering Authority had set up an office to solve the housing problem at Usumbura. It was to be hoped that later reports would include details on the steps that office had taken, as also on the possibility of providing similar services where necessary.

13. The United States delegation was happy to note that there had been considerable progress in education. It was, however, concerned about secondary and higher education. The importance of training indigenous teachers could not be over-stressed and the Administration should therefore make every effort to expand its training programme. The Administering Authority's plan to place special emphasis on raising the relative educational level of girls was also worthy of commendation. While the Administration's desire to develop facilities for higher education in the Territory rather than send students abroad to complete their education was understandable, it might be advisable, until such facilities were established, to send a few of the best qualified students abroad. Lastly, the Administration should be commended for the steps it had taken to stimulate adult education, including putting two mobile cinema units into operation, increasing library facilities and opening a radio system.

14. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) thought that, on the whole, the Council should congratulate the Administering Authority on the progress it had made during the past two years; it was inevitable that such progress should still be inadequate in some respects.

15. His delegation was happy to note that plans to reform the indigenous political structure were about to be adopted, and it would follow with interest the development of those plans. He hoped that the new experiment to be made in holding an election of six councillors for the *centres extra-coutumiers* at Usumbura would be successful. The Council of the Vice-Government-General should hold more frequent and longer sessions.

16. In the economic field, his delegation would like to see further progress in the system of co-operatives. He hoped that subsequent reports would show to what extent the indigenous inhabitants benefited from the mining industry. The cattle problem was certainly a serious obstacle to the Territory's economic advancement in view of the difficult food situation. The Administration should be commended for its efforts to make the indigenous inhabitants realize the need to change their views on that point. The indigenous leaders who had visited Belgium might perhaps be induced to use the experience they had gained in such matters to help the population. He was sorry to learn that, in spite of the Administering Authority's efforts to reduce the number of cattle, the number had increased. The Administering Authority might therefore be asked to include detailed information on the development of the situation in its later reports.

17. His delegation was sorry to note that the Administration had failed to remove the discriminatory clauses from the immigration law; the Council should therefore repeat its earlier recommendation¹ on that matter.

18. The Administering Authority should review the wage situation so as to raise indigenous standards of living as much as possible; the Council should likewise repeat its recommendation on that matter.¹ It was to be hoped that the system of penalties for breach of contract would be abolished as soon as possible.

19. The Administering Authority was to be congratulated on abolishing the use of chains in prisons, reducing the period of solitary confinement and tempering the regulations governing corporal punishment. However, the principles of the United Nations required immediate abolition of corporal punishment.

20. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that progress had been made in public health and education. However, greater stress should be laid on the promotion of secondary and higher education and on the training of teachers. Lastly, his delegation hoped to receive more detailed information on the chapel schools which were attended by a large number of school-age children.

21. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was clear from the reports for 1949² and 1950³, and from the special representative's statements, that the Belgian Government's policy with regard to Ruanda-Urundi was not in accordance with its obligations under the Charter. The Administering Authority was attempting to perpetuate the colonial régime in the Territory, in flagrant violation of the Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement, by establishing a so-called administrative union between the Territory and the colony of the Belgian Congo. It appeared from passages in the 1949 and 1950 reports that the Territory's status was defined by the Act of 21 August 1925 and the Royal Decree of 11 January 1926. Those provisions were still in force, although the terms of the Charter concerning the International Trusteeship System required that they should be changed. There were no legislative or administrative bodies not subordinate to the organs created under the union between the Territory and the Belgian Congo. Contrary to what the reports said, the Territory had no budgetary independence, since the budget had to be approved by the Belgian Government and could only enter into force by order of the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo, who delegated the necessary powers to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi.

22. In the political field, the indigenous inhabitants played no part whatsoever in the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Territory, and the Administering Authority had taken no steps to introduce a system of self-government founded on democratic principles. Mr. Soldatov referred in that connexion to pages 15 and 16 of the 1950 report. Contrary to the Administering Authority's assertions, the Decree of 5 July 1948 had made no appreciable difference to the

Territory's judicial structure since, according to the information on page 36 of the 1950 report, the judicial power was also in the hands of Belgian officials, who governed the indigenous inhabitants through the Bamis, notables and tribal chiefs. It could also be seen from page 30 of the 1950 report that indigenous inhabitants held only minor positions in the Administration. Thus, the Administering Authority supported the tribal system, although it obstructed the progressive evolution of the indigenous inhabitants towards self-government and independence.

23. The USSR delegation therefore believed that there should be set up in Ruanda-Urundi legislative and executive bodies independent of any organs created under the administrative union between the Territory and the Belgian Congo. The Council should recommend that the Administration take the necessary legislative and other steps to ensure indigenous representation in the Territory's legislative, executive and judicial organs. It should also recommend that the Administering Authority take steps to change the tribal system into a system of government founded on democratic principles.

24. Referring to the economic situation, Mr. Soldatov noted that there was no income tax and that the indigenous inhabitants who had no income paid a head tax, while the sub-chiefs and chiefs, who received from 7,000 to 237,000 Belgian francs per annum, were exempt from it. The Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority substitute for the head tax a progressive income tax system, or at least a simple income tax system based on the inhabitants' financial situation and ability to pay.

25. Indigenous inhabitants did not take an active part in the Territory's economic life. Only one of the seventy-nine commercial, agricultural and industrial companies was owned by indigenous inhabitants, and all foreign trade was in European hands. The Administering Authority made no attempt to promote industries based on the raw materials available in the Territory. On the contrary, minerals were exported in their raw state; cotton was exported after ginning by the *Compagnie de la Rizizi*, which held the monopoly for the purchasing and processing of cotton, and there was still no question of establishing a textile industry although the Territory imported cotton goods from the Belgian Congo.

26. With regard to social advancement, the Administering Authority was following a policy of racial discrimination against the indigenous inhabitants, violating their rights and disregarding their interests. Apart from the division of the urban areas according to race, there were also separate penitentiary systems for indigenous inhabitants and for Europeans. On the question of forced labour and the penalty of whipping, he referred to page 44 of the report on Ruanda-Urundi submitted by the United Nations Visiting Mission to East Africa (1948).⁴

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 25.

² See *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1949*, Brussels, 1950.

³ See *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1950*, Brussels, 1951.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 2*.

27. 'It was clear from page 110 of the 1949 report that women could not own property and were deprived of all rights of inheritance. Thus, the Administering Authority's statements about respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms had no foundation in fact. The Trusteeship Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority put an end to its policy of racial discrimination, violation of the rights of the indigenous inhabitants and disregard of their interests.

28. The same policy of racial discrimination was applied in connexion with the public health services. There was not a single indigenous doctor; there were four hospitals for indigenous patients and three for Europeans in the Territory, although the number of Europeans was far smaller than that of indigenous inhabitants. Similarly, the Europeans were given favoured treatment in the hospitals, as was clear from the table on pages 352 and 353 of the 1949 report. The Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority establish adequate health services and, for that purpose, increase the allocations for public health.

29. Referring to pages 342, 343 and 344 of the 1949 report, Mr. Soldatov noted that the indigenous inhabitants lived in miserable conditions and that their wages were totally inadequate. That was also confirmed on page 60 of the 1948 Visiting Mission's report.

30. With regard to education, he noted that the indigenous population was made up of illiterates; yet the Administration was not trying to set up a system of primary, secondary or higher education. Almost all the schools were run by religious missions, and consisted of only two classes. UNESCO had stated in its report (T/903), in the chapter on Ruanda-Urundi, that the Administering Authority restricted access to the secondary schools to persons possessing the necessary moral and intellectual qualifications. That point was also dealt with on page 52 of the 1948 Visiting Mission's report. During 1949 and 1950 only one indigenous student had gone overseas for higher education. The Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority set up lay establishments for primary, secondary and higher education and, for that purpose, increase the allocations for education.

31. Mr. DESTOMBES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), after paying a tribute to the great experience of the representative of Belgium, said he wished to complete the statement he had made at the 360th meeting following the comments made by the Belgian representative; the latter had expressed astonishment that UNESCO should have studied the extent of public as compared with religious mission education in the Trust Territories. UNESCO experts held the view that questions of a general nature could not be entirely left aside. That was why UNESCO's general comments on the six annual reports for 1949 concerning African Trust Territories contained a section entitled "Public and private education". As for the substance of the question, it should be pointed out that, in under-developed regions like those Territories, it was advisable that the framework and administration of the educational sys-

tem, the inspection of schools and the preparation of curricula should all come completely under the Administering Authority's jurisdiction. Those were the comments which UNESCO had transmitted to the Trusteeship Council in accordance with the Council's resolution 47 (IV). They had previously been adopted unanimously on 27 January 1951 by the eighteen members of UNESCO's Executive Council, Belgium being one of them.

32. Obviously, the comments were not in any way intended as a direct attack on mission schools, still less could they be interpreted as evidence of an anti-clerical spirit. UNESCO had simply emphasized the importance of the problem and stated that it deserved study, without even proposing that it should carry out such a study, as it had done in the case of certain other problems dealt with in the general observations.

33. As for the procedural questions raised by the Belgian representative, UNESCO welcomed his statement that the Belgian Government would be quite prepared to reply to any requests for additional information on certain aspects of the annual reports. Thus far UNESCO had not addressed its remarks directly to the Ministries concerned in cases of that kind, since it felt that it was for the Council, if it thought fit, to put such questions to the Administering Authority. That was why the questions had simply been inserted in the comments submitted by UNESCO. His Organization's attitude on the question was clearly defined in its report, under section (b) of the chapter on general observations.

34. Mr. LEROY (Special representative for Ruanda-Urundi), replying to comments by members of the Council, emphasized that the Administering Authority, anxious as it was to carry out the task entrusted to it, would not neglect anything which might contribute towards the development of Ruanda-Urundi. There were, however, various political, economic and social problems in the Territory which could not be solved simply by decrees. To solve them, it was essential gradually to obtain the support of the population, and that could not be done without considerable difficulty.

35. Naturally the Administering Authority would give due consideration to the suggestions and comments of members of the Council on the situation in the Trust Territory.

36. One of those comments, made by the representative of New Zealand who had expressed surprise at the small yield of milk from the cows in the Territory (360th meeting), called for some clarification. It was true that the Administration had tried to cross-breed the indigenous cattle with foreign breeds, but while the cows bred in that way were better milk-producers, they had also proved to have less resistance to the cattle diseases common in the Territory. The Administration was therefore concentrating, in the experimental farms, on improving the indigenous species rather than on cross-breeding.

37. He next replied briefly to the statement of the USSR representative. The latter's allegation that the Administering Authority was not promoting the political development of the Territory but was trying to

strengthen the colonial régime in Ruanda-Urundi by means of an administrative union with the Belgian Congo was entirely unjustified and was in fact disproved by the information supplied by the Belgian Government. Similarly, the reports proved that, contrary to the USSR representative's statements, Ruanda-Urundi was not in any way subordinated to the Belgian Congo. There was actually close collaboration between the two territories, from which the Trust Territory profited greatly. The texts of the Act of 1925 and the Royal Decree of 1926 were certainly flexible enough to enable Ruanda-Urundi to fulfil its destiny.

38. According to the USSR representative, the indigenous inhabitants were excluded from exercise of any legislative, executive and judicial powers in the Territory. It should be borne in mind, however, that, although they were excluded from the exercise of legislative powers—and the same applied to the other elements of the population—the indigenous inhabitants could influence the legislation of the Trust Territory through advisory organs; that the Bami, the chiefs and the sub-chiefs exercised executive power; and that there were indigenous tribunals which were competent to settle all civil cases arising between members of the indigenous population. It should also be explained with regard to the judicial powers that it was only on very rare occasions when it was essential in the interests of the indigenous inhabitants, that the Residents and Administrators presided over the indigenous tribunals. Lastly, it should be emphasized that there was no tribal organization in Ruanda-Urundi.

39. In the field of social advancement, he had himself admitted the need to raise wages.

40. The USSR representative had spoken of racial discrimination and corporal punishment, but he had omitted to mention the efforts the Administration was making. It was the USSR representative's practice to take certain sentences from the reports out of their context and to draw conclusions which were often tendentious. For example, he had omitted to state that, apart from the eight governmental hospitals he had mentioned, four of which were for Europeans and four for the indigenous inhabitants, there were also thirty-one other hospitals for the indigenous inhabitants and some ninety dispensaries reserved for them.

41. With regard to education, it was unfortunate that the USSR representative had thought fit to attribute to the Administering Authority a statement which had actually come from UNESCO, or which might conceivably have been made in the past by a single official and could not therefore be regarded as committing the Administering Authority. The USSR representative's remarks generally had been a criticism of the current situation in Ruanda-Urundi, as opposed to the conditions which should exist when the Territory had completed its development. He had shown very little objectivity and had pointed out gaps, but in evaluating the work he had refused to take into account the original conditions in the Territory and the progress achieved since then. Had there been no such problems of development, there would have been no need to place the Territory under trusteeship.

42. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) drew attention to certain statements by the USSR representative which were contrary to the information in the annual reports or that supplied by the special representative.

43. For example, it was quite wrong to conclude simply from the fact that the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo was the administrative head of Ruanda-Urundi that the Trust Territory was subordinated to the colony, or to state that the indigenous population was excluded from any participation in the political life of the Territory or from the exercise of executive and judicial authority.

44. Similarly, it was well known that the *Compagnie de la Ruzizi* had no monopoly over the purchase of cotton, as the USSR representative had alleged. It had a monopoly over the ginning of cotton, but the sales were made on behalf of the producers and not of the company.

45. It was false to state that women were deprived of all rights in the Territory. Moreover, if there were more beds in the hospital wards reserved for the indigenous inhabitants than in those for Europeans, the difference was due not to racial discrimination but simply to practical difficulties, since the indigenous inhabitants were so much more numerous than the Europeans. It should also be pointed out that there were some wards for the indigenous inhabitants with only a few beds in them.

46. He asked the Secretariat to take care, when reporting the USSR representative's remarks, not to omit the contrary remarks made earlier by the special representative and the Belgian representative.

47. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had not referred to the hospitals mentioned by the special representative for a very good reason. The tables in the annual report showed, for instance, that the hospital of the Catholic mission at Kabgayi, which had 200 beds, had only one European doctor and two nursing sisters; the rural hospital at Muhororo had only one doctor for seventy-two patients, and so on. That information gave a sufficiently clear idea of the value of the medical care such hospitals could give to patients. The USSR delegation had therefore merely mentioned the figures concerning government hospitals, and in so doing had confined itself to mentioning, without any change, the facts in the Administering Authority's reports, which neither the special representative nor the Belgian representative had been able to deny. Nor had they been able to deny the facts concerning other questions which the USSR delegation had quoted from the annual reports.

48. Mr. LEROY (Special representative for Ruanda-Urundi) said that he had nothing to add.

49. The PRESIDENT thanked the Special representative for his contribution to the work of the Council.

Mr. Leroy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, withdrew.

50. The PRESIDENT proposed that a committee composed of the representatives of Australia, Iraq, New Zealand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should be asked to prepare the Council's draft report on Ruanda-Urundi.

It was so decided.

Request for information concerning recruitment of doctors from displaced persons camps for employment in Trust Territories

51. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) asked whether the Secretariat could circulate a document which had already been published in the Press, concerning the possible employment in Trust Territories of doctors now in displaced persons camps.

52. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat would make inquiries.

Examination of the annual reports of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/796 and T/906)

[Agenda item 4 (d)]

At the invitation of the President, Brigadier Gibbons, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, took his place at the Council table.

53. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) thought it would be best in his general statement merely to give a few facts which would reveal to the Council the increasing tempo of the Territory's advancement in the course of the two years under consideration and to analyse the most important developments during that time.

54. Some of the significant facts were that the number of qualified doctors working in the Territory had increased from 7 to 15, and that of dispensary attendants from 64 to 233; that expansion had been due to the development of the health services of the Cameroons Development Corporation, as well as to the increase in government and indigenous administration expenditure on medical services from £40,900 to £65,600. There had been an equally great expansion in education, and expenditure for that purpose had increased from £62,000 in 1948 to £108,000 in 1950. The number of children attending school had risen by 20 per cent and there had been a definite improvement in the quality of the teaching.

55. Transport and communications had also improved. In spite of considerable difficulties caused by the rough terrain, 200 miles of new roads had been built in the Cameroons itself; in addition, the first road link with eastern Nigeria had come into use and another road, between Mamfe and the port of Calabar, was nearly complete. Great progress had also been achieved in air communications between Tiko, where the airport had been modernized for all-weather use, and the main centres of Nigeria.

56. The Administering Authority was, however, fully aware of the magnitude of the task remaining.

It realized that the deficiencies of the road system, particularly in the North, were an obstacle to the Territory's development; that many children of school age were still not attending school; and that some parts of the Territory were almost entirely without modern medical services.

57. In order to solve those problems and to ensure rapid progress in all fields, what was needed was, first, a complete road system; secondly, strong financial resources based on the prosperity of the Territory itself; and thirdly, an awakening of the people to their civic responsibilities.

58. The Territory's financial situation had changed greatly. Whereas in the past it had always depended upon subsidies from Nigeria and the United Kingdom Government in order to meet its expenditures—subsidies which in the five years from 1943 to 1948 had amounted to £891,980—in the financial year 1949-1950 the Territory's revenues had for the first time exceeded its expenditures. That complete turnabout had been largely due to the establishment in 1946 of the Cameroons Development Corporation as a public corporation to operate the plantations of the Southern Cameroons for the exclusive benefit of the population. The Territory derived large revenues from the corporation, in the form of taxes and customs duties; thus, in the financial year 1948-1949, taxes paid by the corporation had raised the Territory's revenues from £300,000 to £500,000, with the result that the Territory's deficit had been reduced from £240,000 to £128,000. The next year, the Territory's normal revenue had been supplemented by approximately £150,000 received as arrears of company tax in respect of previous years. The revenue had then reached £1,053,240, leaving a surplus of £310,280.

59. It was of course hard to say whether that happy situation would continue, especially as the Territory's prosperity depended largely on the export of bananas, which in turn depended on climatic conditions and on world markets. Furthermore, in the years to come the Territory could not expect a repetition of the exceptional increase in revenue which had occurred in 1949-1950. Nevertheless, that would be largely compensated by the expansion of production for export. It would therefore seem that, unless something unforeseen occurred, the Territory's revenues for the next two or three years should remain close to the 1949-1950 level.

60. It had been decided that the present surplus would not be returned to Nigeria in reimbursement of previous subsidies, but would be paid into a Cameroons development fund, which would be administered by the Governor of Nigeria with the advice of the Commissioner of the Cameroons in consultation with the regional authorities concerned and after discussion with representatives of the people of the Territory. The fund would be used to finance capital development and to supplement current expenditure on the Territory by the two Nigerian regions concerned, so that the Governor would be able to regulate the relative rate of expansion in the northern and southern halves of the Territory. The special status of the Trust Territory was thus receiving adequate and effective recognition from the Administering Authority.

61. The taxes levied on the Cameroons Development Corporation did not, of course, endanger its prosperity; it had been able to set aside considerable reserves while embarking on big schemes of housing and social welfare for its employees.

62. With regard to communications, there was still no road between the Southern Cameroons and the part of the Territory administered with the northern region of Nigeria. The Administration had worked out a programme of road construction designed to provide an all-weather north-south road connecting on one side with the road system of the Nigerian Northern Provinces and on the other with the French Cameroons. The work had already begun.

63. As regards the awakening of the people to civic responsibility—a most important factor—the Administration had encountered considerable difficulties, due to the people's inertia. Nevertheless, its initiative had produced some encouraging results in many parts of the Territory. Thus, in the North, the Administration had successfully followed a policy of decentralization on democratic lines, which had provided district headmen with local councils of representatives of the people, with funds at their own disposal for local needs. In the South the policy of welding Native Authorities into larger federations had been applied with some success, and in the Cameroons Province there was growing support among the literate people for the idea of establishing divisional Native Authorities.

64. The literate population was making its opinion increasingly felt in the Southern Cameroons, under the influence of the Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union. The union had matured remarkably in the past few years, after a serious conflict it had had with the management of the corporation in 1949. The labour relations of the corporation were now highly satisfactory. Incidentally, the leaders of the union had successfully combined various improvement unions into a body called the Cameroons National Federation, which promised to be a potent factor in the development of indigenous political consciousness.

65. During the period in question, a change had taken place in the people's attitude towards the Cameroons Development Corporation. As the Council knew, it had been decided that the first year's profits of the corporation should be spent on local development projects suggested by representative development committees. It was encouraging to note that, by serving on those committees, the people had learned to understand and appreciate the corporation's aims. District officers had also tried to use the committees to spread the idea of self-help in community development.

66. Brigadier Gibbons drew the Council's attention to paragraphs 169 to 175 of the 1950 report⁵, which described in detail the entry into force of the new Nigerian Constitution and the first elections which were to take place soon. By allowing the people of the Territory to take part in the administration of the

eastern, northern and central regions, the new Constitution would be very helpful in training them in democratic methods of government. Furthermore, while the Administering Authority wished to bring about a gradual evolution of the Territory's people towards self-government in collaboration with their Nigerian neighbours, the measure in no way altered the Trust Territory's status. The Administering Authority intended to give effective recognition to that status, as was clear from its discussions on constitutional reform. Thanks to the election of indigenous representatives to regional legislative organs, the Territory would have a number of officers who might be considered true representatives of the indigenous population and whom the Administering Authority could consult in case of need on matters affecting the Territory.

67. It was the Administering Authority's aim to achieve, as rapidly and smoothly as possible, the spiritual and material advancement of the population and an awakening of its political consciousness. To that end, it was necessary to develop the Territory's economic resources, thus ensuring its future prosperity, and to see to it that political advancement was matched by simultaneous advances in the standard of living, in health and in education.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and was resumed at 4.35 p.m.

68. In reply to a question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) in connexion with the fact that there was no lingua franca in the Territory (para. 31 of the 1950 annual report), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that in his view the only way to have a single language in the Cameroons would be to make the use of English general. The question of the languages taught in schools was dealt with in paragraphs 695 and 696 of the 1950 annual report.

69. In reply to another question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that in the Cameroons the "kindred" was a basic unit of primitive society—the family, which contained a varying number of persons. The particular importance of the blacksmith kindreds arose from the fact that the blacksmiths, who were skilled in working with metals, enjoyed in the Territory a status comparable to that of highly qualified technicians in modern society.

70. In reply to a further question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the text of the Cameroons Development Corporation's report for 1950 was being put into final form in London and would be published in the beginning of August.

71. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) realized that, under the Trusteeship Agreement, the United Kingdom Government was entitled to administer the Cameroons as an integral portion of the Protectorate of Nigeria. He wondered, however, whether it had been necessary to integrate the two quite so completely and how the Administering Authority proposed that they should be separated when the time came.

⁵ 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 the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the year 1950.

72. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied that a distinction should be drawn between the southern half of the Trust Territory and the northern half. The two provinces which composed the southern half had retained their individuality and had not been subject to complete integration. The northern half, on the other hand, did not form a natural entity, but was part of social units which were centred outside the Trust Territory. That state of affairs had not been created by the Administering Authority but had existed when it had assumed the trusteeship.

73. In reply to a question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Cameroonian mentioned in paragraph 108 of the 1950 report as having been appointed to the Senior Service of the Administration was in fact an education officer. Any African appointed to the administrative service had to attend the same training courses as officers of other races. So far, no indigenous inhabitant of the Trust Territory had been selected as an administrative officer, but a very considerable number of Nigerian officers had taken those training courses.

74. In reply to another question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) about the selection of representatives on the Native Authority councils, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) agreed that the methods used by the Africans were on the whole democratic. The inhabitants of a village apparently found it unnecessary to make inquiries in order to choose their representative. Usually, several of them would put forward a candidate whom the rest accepted unanimously. In case of disagreement, the inhabitants of the village met in the village square and succeeded, after long discussion, in agreeing on the choice of a representative.

75. In reply to a further question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the judge of the supreme court selected his own assessors. He usually asked the district officer to give him a list of names of persons who might be suitable for the office and selected the assessors from the list.

76. In reply to a question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that, as a rule, offenders came before a Native court on the basis of a summons served by a court messenger. Where necessary, arrests were carried out by the elders of the village or by a court official with a warrant of arrest. In the Native courts, justice was administered by a group of people acting as both judge and jury. The village council or the village head was responsible for deciding whether a person was to be prosecuted in court.

Mr. Khalidy (Iraq), Vice-President, took the Chair.

77. In reply to further questions from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS

(Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the person to decide whether a punishment authorized by law or by indigenous custom was repugnant to humanity was the officer in charge of examining the Native court records. It was also possible to appeal to the magistrate who judged each case.

78. To his knowledge, the highest position in the police force at present occupied by an African was that of inspector.

79. In reply to a question from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) about the establishment of a regional house of representatives for the Trust Territory, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that the greatest argument against such an arrangement was geographical. A glance at the map would show that the Territory was not a unified country. Only the southern part of the Cameroons gave the impression of being a social and political entity. The northern half was composed of two regions, which were not even joined together and were in fact parts of Nigeria and the Cameroons under French administration. Lastly, the Cameroons under British administration was a small Territory, which could only develop politically and economically if it was administratively linked with a much larger and more highly developed territory, as was envisaged in the constitutional reforms of Nigeria.

80. In reply to a question from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) observed that the Administering Authority had always endeavoured to produce figures for the Trust Territory that were separate from those relating to Nigeria. The figures which were given in tables 15A, 15B, 16 and 17 of volume II of the report for 1950 were not entirely accurate because they had been arrived at by taking the overall figures, but they did provide a reliable picture of the Trust Territory's financial position. The figures were constantly under review, and the revisions were always given in the Administering Authority's following annual report.

81. In reply to another question from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Administering Authority had no intention of transferring to the Territory the administrative headquarters of those provinces of the Cameroons which were at present situated outside it. Those capitals were the headquarters of various African political parties whose members were not all drawn from the population of the Trust Territory. From the point of view of public opinion in the regions, it would be inconceivable to move the traditional Native headquarters.

82. In reply to a further question from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Governor could, under his reserve powers, disallow a financial provision adopted by the Nigerian Legislative Council. However, as the report said, the Governor had never used that power.

83. In reply to a question from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that paragraph 108 of the report for 1950 showed the number of Africans who had already been appointed to senior posts in the Administration and the number who had received scholarships or training grants in 1950. Paragraphs 725 and 726 of the report gave further details of the scholarship and training schemes for the inhabitants of the Territory. So far, one African had been appointed to a senior post in the Administration, after the necessary training. The number of such officials would obviously increase when the trainees sent to the United Kingdom returned to the Territory.

84. In reply to a question from Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) regarding the building of quarters at Bamenda for a magistrate and his staff, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) agreed that it was important that a magistrate's court should be set up in that district, but added that the building of the accommodation in question affected the general principle of priorities in carrying out the building programme. Bamenda was a recently established province which was developing very rapidly, and all the government departments were claiming accommodation. He had adopted the principle that the first priority

in building should go to the people concerned with the expansion of the social services and with economic prosperity. He had therefore not put the building for the magistrate's court at the top of the list.

85. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) drew the attention of members of the Council to paragraph 132 of the report for 1950, in which it was stated that magistrates were appointed by the Governor and could be removed by him. He felt that the Administering Authority should consider the possibility of separating the executive and judicial branches of the government. There could be no real justice when a judge who decided to hand down a judgment against the Administering Authority might feel himself to be threatened with removal.

86. He then asked whether the United Nations flag was used in the Territory, in conformity with Trusteeship Council resolution 301 (VII).

87. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Cameroons had a United Nations flag. It had been presented to the Administering Authority by the 1949 United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa and was flown with the British flag on appropriate occasions.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.