

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL

## OFFICIAL RECORDS



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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 Togoland under French administration for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/785, T/907 and T/907/Corr.1) (continued)**

[Agenda item 4 (g)]

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

1. Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand), referring to the question of land registration mentioned on page 81 of the 1950 report<sup>1</sup>, asked whether the Administering Authority intended to set up a scale of fees for private surveyors pending the adoption of other measures in order to protect the indigenous inhabitants against the abuses mentioned in the report.

2. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) could not give exact figures for the fees in question. The principle of free land registration would probably be applied in the Territory in 1951. It should be made clear, however, that administrative charges were low in comparison with the fees of private surveyors, whose charges were unduly high.

3. Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand) asked whether the Administering Authority had attempted to explain the nutritive value of milk products, which could play a very important role in the people's diet, to the indigenous inhabitants who, according to the 1950 report, were not very fond of those products. It was usually rather difficult to change the food habits of a people, but perhaps through propaganda and education the consumption of milk products in the Territory could be increased.

4. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the Administering Authority had been chiefly concerned with ensuring milk supplies in the principal centres of the Territory. No steps had as yet been taken to promote the use and consumption of milk products in the rural areas.

5. In reply to a question by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the chromite deposits mentioned on page 101 of the 1950 report were the only mineral resources known in Togoland. The Territory was very deficient in that respect, as a geological survey carried out in 1950 had shown.

6. In reply to a question by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the personal tax would certainly be replaced by an income tax at some time in the future. The question had not as yet been studied at length, in view of the considerable difficulties there would be in identifying indigenous taxpayers. Those difficulties would only disappear as the practice of civil registration developed. It should be noted that the personal tax varied from 45 to 820 francs, according to the taxpayer's income.

7. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) observed that the 1950 report (p. 75) mentioned progressive income tax rates. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa (1949), however, had noted in its report<sup>2</sup> that tax was levied at a uniform rate on

<sup>1</sup> See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Togo placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1950.*

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 2, Report on Togoland under French administration, para. 56.*

all income over 10,000 francs. Was that actually the case?

8. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied in the affirmative.

9. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) recalled that, during its seventh session, the Trusteeship Council had expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would press forward with its plans to encourage the formation of agricultural co-operatives.<sup>3</sup> The 1950 report stated, however, that there were no such co-operatives in the Territory. He would like to know why no progress had been made in that respect.

10. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the Administering Authority had had to face a general indifference on the part of the indigenous inhabitants and a shortage of devoted and capable personnel. Some attempts had been made, particularly with regard to consumer co-operatives, and the Administration had distributed model statutes which it had had prepared; but the associations set up had had to be dissolved on account of maladministration. It should be added that the indigenous provident societies compensated to some degree for the lack of co-operatives.

11. In reply to a question by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the cost of living in the Territory had risen during 1949 and 1950, as a result of the increase in the price of imports and of local products which was due to speculation in cassava flour, one of the basic foodstuffs. The cost of living had, however, varied less than the sale price of industrial crops, which in the case of cocoa and coffee had doubled. The producers had thus found their financial position more favourable than in previous years.

12. In reply to a further question by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the pilot centre at l'Est Mono, the principal purpose of which would be to teach the farmers agricultural methods which would enable them better to preserve the fertility of the soil and to improve the production of cotton, would be ready to begin operations in 1951. The programme worked out by the Administering Authority provided for the establishment of six other pilot centres. There would naturally be no question of preparing fresh plans before the first programme had been carried out.

13. Mr. PIGNON (France) added that the palm-oil works at Alokouéghé would probably be completed before the end of 1951, although a road and a bridge had had to be built in addition to the factory buildings.

14. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), referring to the question of foreign exchange operations (1950 report, p. 71), noted that the Administering Authority had relaxed certain exchange restrictions. As regards the export regulations for United States

and Canadian dollars, the percentage of receipts from exports which the exporters need not necessarily convert on the free exchange market or the official exchange market, but which they could deposit in a French bank to be used for certain payments, had been increased from 10 to 25 per cent. Did the Administering Authority intend to pursue a similar policy in future?

15. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) thought he could reply in the affirmative. He should point out, however, that in that field it was not for the Administering Authority to take the decision, but for the Foreign Exchange Office of the metropolitan country, which issued general regulations on that subject.

16. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) assumed that no land survey had been carried out for the entire Territory. He wondered whether a grid of all or part of the Territory had already been prepared by means of a trigonometrical survey.

17. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied in the negative.

18. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) wondered, in that case, how the Administering Authority could ensure that the boundaries of the land for which titles of ownership were issued did not overlap.

19. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that whenever a request for registration was submitted, the land register was referred to and it was ascertained that the land in question had not already been listed. If it was not already registered, a survey was made and title to the land was granted in accordance with the State's estimates.

20. In reply to a further question by Mr. BALLARD (Australia), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that two surveyors were attached to the land register office, whose special task it was to carry out surveys.

21. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) inquired about the nature of the certificate which conferred customary rights over a piece of land.

22. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the certificate in question, which included a plan of the said land and gave its area, conferred only a provisional title of ownership, not full property rights, as did a real estate title.

23. Mr. BALLARD (Australia) asked whether such certificates were granted both to individuals and to communities.

24. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the certificates were usually issued to individuals, since communities had no need to establish their right of ownership of lands.

25. In reply to a question from Mr. HOUARD (Belgium), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the markets were established, not by the indigenous

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 93.

provident societies, but by decree of the Governor, at the suggestion of the *commandants de cercles* or the subdivision chiefs and on the recommendation of the indigenous provident societies. The indigenous inhabitants were not required to sell their products in those markets, but they were urged to do so, since the markets were organized for the purpose of facilitating the collection and classification of goods and of ensuring an equitable return to the producers. The indigenous inhabitants rarely sold their produce outside those markets which they hoped would increase in number.

26. In reply to a question from Mr. HOUARD (Belgium), Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the control service for the classification of produce was intended to prevent, where necessary, the commercial production of goods unfit for export. It rarely happened that the quality of a commodity was below the lowest grade suitable for export. In such a case, however, the product was returned to the producer, who could improve it by further sorting or other means. Further control was exercised at the port of embarkation, and inferior produce, if it could not be improved, was destroyed, the loss being borne in that case by the buyer or the middleman.

27. In reply to a further question from Mr. HOUARD (Belgium), Mr. PIGNON (France) confirmed that the factory for the processing of palm kernels would be established in the subdivision of Tsévié, in the *cercle* of Lomé.

28. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) added that palm kernels could not be cultivated beyond a certain latitude. The production of palm kernels was therefore concentrated in a certain area, in the centre of which the Tsévié factory, which would process most of the palm kernels grown in the Territory, would be set up.

29. Mr. HOUARD (Belgium) noted that, on page 85 of the report for 1950, it was stated that lands collectively owned by the indigenous inhabitants could be sold or leased only with the approval and by order of the *Commissaire de la République en Conseil d'administration*. He wished to know the meaning of "*en Conseil d'administration*".

30. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the phrase referred to the *Conseil privé* which assisted the *Commissaire de la République*.

31. Mr. HOUARD (Belgium), referring to page 163 of the 1950 report, which dealt with the study made of the soil, asked whether the Administering Authority intended, in the near future, to set up the *Bureau des sols* mentioned by the Visiting Mission in its report (para. 50).

32. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) pointed out that the office was already in existence, as a branch of the Overseas Scientific Research Department. It had done a substantial amount of work during 1950: it had

explored an area in the North, near Sokodé; one in the South, near Anécho; and the l'Est Mono region, where the Administration intended to establish cotton plantations so as to enable the Cabrais people, who were too numerous for their own territory, to migrate there.

33. Detailed information on the subject was given in the chapter on "Research", page 155, of the 1950 report.

34. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand), referring to page 52 of the 1950 report, asked the reason for the difference between the import customs and tariff rates in Togoland under French administration and in French West Africa.

35. Mr. PIGNON (France) pointed out that the Trust Territory enjoyed an international status, and that accordingly French goods could not receive preferential treatment in the Territory, as was possible in the territories forming part of French West Africa. Moreover, beginning with the fiscal year 1951, French West Africa had been granted its own customs system, within the French customs system.

36. In any event, standardization of tariffs was called for and would be achieved at the earliest possible moment.

37. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand), referring to the table of comparative expenditures given on pages 244 and 245 of the 1950 report, noted that in 1950 expenditures for health services and for education had been less than the estimates; on the other hand, unforeseen expenditures had amounted to about 3 million francs, whereas the estimates had been for 500,000 francs only. Similarly, in 1949, the estimates for social welfare services had amounted to 82 million francs and the actual expenditures to only 76 million francs. He asked the reasons for those differences.

38. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the fiscal year ended on 31 May, and that, in the table mentioned, the column devoted to expenditures showed only funds expended or committed by 31 December 1950. On 31 May 1951, the expenditures had doubtless coincided with the estimates.

39. The marked increase in unforeseen expenditures was due to the reclassification of the civil servants, which had taken place in 1950.

40. The discrepancy between estimates and expenditures for social welfare services in 1949 was due to the fact that it had not been possible, before 31 December 1949, to allocate the full amount of the funds appropriated. Consequently, the surplus had been transferred to the budget for 1950, in accordance with a special procedure.

41. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to page 45 of the 1949 report,<sup>4</sup> asked for an explanation of the discrepancy between the fixed price of 31,500 francs per ton of groundnuts

<sup>4</sup> See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Togo placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1949*.

and the price of 18 francs per kilogramme which was paid to the producer.

42. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the discrepancy was due to transportation, warehousing, insurance and other costs. Prices were fixed with the greatest care by the Administering Authority, and it could be said that the buying price was advantageous to the producer.

43. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not share that opinion. Moreover, he noted that the producers of groundnuts were situated at varying distances from the central export points. In view of the fact that transportation costs varied in direct proportion to distances, he asked to what extent those distances were taken into account when prices were fixed.

44. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) recalled that the groundnut-producing area was situated north of a certain latitude. Moreover, the distances between the various purchasing centres and the export points varied only to the extent of a few kilometres, so that transportation costs were virtually identical. In the circumstances, it was preferable to fix an over-all price.

45. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what was the present price of groundnuts on the world market.

46. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) regretted that he could not supply that information offhand.

47. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) hoped that the special representative would be able to furnish it at the following meeting, as it would make possible a clearer understanding of the situation of the indigenous producers of groundnuts.

48. He then asked whether any special fund existed for the assistance of those producers.

49. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that funds of that nature existed only for the assistance of cocoa and coffee producers.

50. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to page 88 of the 1949 report, noted that the planting of groundnuts had reduced the acreage devoted to subsistence crops, and that the increase in the acreage planted with groundnuts had, at one time, given rise to a marked food shortage. He asked why the Administering Authority encouraged the production of export crops at the expense of food crops, and inquired, further, what the situation had been in that respect in 1950.

51. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) pointed out that the increase in the production of groundnuts in 1949 had been due, not to any intervention by the Administering Authority, but to the interest which the indigenous inhabitants had taken in the crop, owing to the high prices which it fetched.

52. It was important to note, moreover, that groundnuts were not solely an export crop; in the northern

section, they formed a large part of the diet of the indigenous inhabitants.

53. In 1950 the acreage devoted to groundnuts, which had been 28,200 hectares in 1949, had fallen to 21,000 hectares, probably because of the fluctuation in the price of the product.

54. Mr. PIGNON (France) added that 1950 had been an excellent year as regards food crops; in particular there had been a surplus of cassava and cassava flour, so that it had been possible to export large quantities of those products to France and the Gold Coast.

55. In 1949, the food situation in the Territory as a whole had not been unfavourable. It was true that the food crops had been inadequate in the areas where groundnut production had increased, but as regards the shortage mentioned, it had merely been necessary for the Administering Authority to prohibit the export of millet from those areas and to guarantee them an adequate food supply. Certainly there had been no famine.

56. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to pages 49 and 50 of the 1949 report, noted that in 1949 exports of ginned cotton from the Territory had reached a value of over 95 million francs, while 289 million francs worth of cotton goods had been imported. He asked whether the Administering Authority had any plans for manufacturing cotton goods in the Territory.

57. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that up to the present the Administering Authority had limited itself to encouraging the cultivation of cotton, in particular through the Institute of Textile and Cotton Research.

58. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted the statement, on page 88 of the report for 1949, that all agricultural work was done manually. He asked what steps the Administering Authority had taken to introduce new agricultural methods, and what measures of financial assistance had been extended, for that purpose, to the indigenous inhabitants.

59. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that the Administering Authority was endeavouring to modernize agricultural methods, particularly by the introduction of the use of draught animals. Pilot centres had been established for the purpose of teaching the indigenous inhabitants how to preserve the fertility of the soil and increase productivity with the means at their disposal. Six other pilot centres were planned.

60. The expense of operating those centres was covered by FIDES (*Fonds d'investissement pour le développement économique et social des territoires d'outre-mer*), an investment fund for economic and social development.

61. In reply to a question from Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), concerning the manner in which the pilot centres were organized and the type of draught animals used, Mr. MONTEL

(Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the centres were under the direction of an agent of the Agriculture Department, who had several assistants working with him. The indigenous inhabitants were eager to follow the progress of the experiments shown to them in the centres, in particular with regard to the use of fertilizers, and to learn the technique of ploughing with draught animals, for which oxen were used.

62. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how many head of draught cattle the indigenous inhabitants had bought during the previous two years and how many families had relinquished the hoe for the plough. He also asked what was the average price of a draught ox.

63. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said he was unable to give the number of draught animals used by the indigenous inhabitants in the course of experiments introducing modern agricultural methods. The information might be obtained from the Territory's Agriculture Department because it had had to train oxen specially to be handed over to the indigenous inhabitants. The average price of a draught ox was 15,000 C.F.A. francs.<sup>5</sup>

64. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that the special representative was unable to give the number of head of cattle bought by the indigenous inhabitants for draught purposes. The matter was closely linked to the modernizing of agricultural methods, which ought to receive the Administering Authority's most earnest attention.

65. In that same connexion, he asked what kind of financial aid the Administering Authority granted to the indigenous inhabitants for the purpose of improving agricultural methods.

66. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that no direct financial aid for that purpose had been given to the indigenous inhabitants. The Administering Authority's activities were carried out through FIDES. Plans drawn up were executed in accordance with the ten-year plan, through the agency of the Territory's Agriculture Department.

67. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered the reply much too vague; the special representative should be able to provide the Council with fuller and more exact information later.

68. He noted from page 81 of the 1949 report that, on 31 December 1949, the area of land granted to Europeans had totalled 394 hectares. He asked to whom the lands had belonged and for what purposes they had been alienated for the benefit of Europeans.

69. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that they were lands over which the indigenous inhabitants had had no ownership rights or which they had ceded privately. The landowners' rights, whether customary or personal, were safe-guarded by the investigation procedure relating to applications for concessions. The

customary chiefs came together before a representative of the Administering Authority, who asked them whether there was any opposition to the application for concession or whether they were willing to cede the land to such and such a person. A record of the "palaver" was made and, in order that the Administering Authority might grant the concession, the record showing no objection on the part of the chiefs or owners of the land had to appear in the file. In principle, the whole 394 hectares to which the USSR representative had referred came into the category of ownerless and vacant land.

70. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would have liked the reply to be more specific. The Administering Authority should be able to state what the 394 hectares in question had been previously and how many indigenous inhabitants had consented to the alienation. He would like the purposes for which the lands had been ceded to be specified.

71. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) stated that the concessions had been granted for the establishment of plantations or the building of houses. In his application, the concessionaire always had to specify the purpose for which the land was wanted and had also to undertake to turn it to account within a fixed period of time: six months for the building of a house and a longer period, varying according to the crop planned, for plantations.

72. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for later information than that given in the 1949 report on the total area of land alienated in the Territory up to the present time. The information should specify what category of land the concession came under.

73. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) remarked that it was more than three months since he had left the Territory and he would have to send back for the very detailed information wanted by the USSR representative.

74. Mr. PIGNON (France) thought he could give at least a partial reply to the Soviet Union representative's question. He was able to state that no agricultural land had been ceded of late, in other words, since the last annual report had been drawn up. On the other hand, he could give no accurate answer as to concessions of urban land.

75. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether membership in the provident societies was compulsory and whether indigenous inhabitants refusing to join were liable to a fine. He wondered whether the position of the societies was the same in Togoland as in the Cameroons under French administration.

76. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that membership was compulsory for the indigenous inhabitants. Persons on the head-tax list paid a small subscription of about 40 francs a year. In practice, fines were not imposed because tax collectors requested

<sup>5</sup> One C.F.A. franc equals two French francs.

payment of members' subscriptions when collecting taxes. The position in Togoland was exactly the same as in the Cameroons under French administration.

77. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted from the annual reports that the Territory possessed mining resources in chromite, bauxite, lead and other important ores. The reports also showed that the Territory had no industries in the proper sense of the term. He wondered whether the Administering Authority had prepared plans for the establishment of industries to process the Territory's mineral ores and of heavy industries.

78. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) observed that operations had not gone beyond the stage of prospecting for and studying deposits. Once that stage was passed, plans would certainly be drawn up for the construction of processing plants.

79. Some industries already existed in the Territory, mostly cotton-ginning, kapok and soap plants and plants for the processing of cocoa. Industry in Togoland was to some extent still at the family stage, but it could not be said to be non-existent.

80. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that it could be concluded from the 1949 report, in particular from what was stated on page 118, that there was no industry in the proper sense of the word in the Territory. Moreover, he had merely asked whether the Administering Authority had contemplated the establishing of industries for processing mineral ores.

81. The special representative had said that mining was still at the stage of prospecting for and studying deposits. He asked who was carrying out the operations, private enterprises or government agencies.

82. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that one civil engineer had obtained three licences to prospect for bauxite and was studying the possible yield of the mines. The *Sociétés des Bauxites du Midi* had applied for authorization to prospect for a certain class of mineral resources; prospecting in the Territory was being carried out by that individual and by that society.

83. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) noted from page 67 of the 1950 report, under the heading "Money and credit", that the *Banque de l'Afrique occidentale* enjoyed the privilege of issuing currency and that the Territory held 1,428 of its shares. In order to gain an idea of the Territory's relative holdings, he asked what was the total number of shares.

84. Mr. MONDEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) regretted that he was not in a position to give an exact answer.

85. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) hoped that the information would be included in the next annual report.

86. He observed that the 1949 and 1950 reports did not contain any data on the Chamber of Commerce and asked whether the information given in the 1948

report<sup>6</sup> still held good, in particular, whether article 24 of Decree No. 307, providing for the reorganization of the Chamber, remained in force. By the terms of that article, the president and treasurer must be elected from among the French members.

87. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that Decree No. 307 was still in force and had not been amended. Article 24 stated a general rule, applicable to all chambers of commerce, and it would not be easy to depart from it.

88. Mr. PIGNON (France) explained that the qualification of French citizenship was required under the article in question because the offices concerned had judicial functions attaching to them, and only French nationals could serve as magistrates. That was the chief reason for article 24; hence, it would be difficult to amend or repeal it.

89. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) gathered from the explanations given that article 26 of Decree No. 307 also remained in force. By its terms, the Chamber of Commerce could validly deliberate, regardless of the nationality of its members, if the number of members present exceeded half the figures laid down in article 2 and if the meeting was presided over by the president.

90. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that article 26 was still in force.

91. Mr. HENRIQUEZ URENA (Dominican Republic) noted from page 56 of the 1950 report that the producers' and consumers' co-operatives had ended in complete failure. He asked what were the causes of their failure and whether the Administering Authority was proposing to revive them.

92. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the setbacks in that sphere had resulted chiefly from the fact that the indigenous inhabitants had failed to grasp the essence of the co-operative spirit. Furthermore, it was difficult to find among them qualified persons capable of managing the co-operatives efficiently. A number of attempts had been made, but the co-operatives had had to be closed down owing to faulty organization or mismanagement. Nevertheless, the economic bureau of the Administration still had the matter in hand and was providing the indigenous inhabitants with model statutes and all necessary information for the setting up of co-operatives.

93. Mr. HENRIQUEZ URENA (Dominican Republic) observed that the difficulties met with in Togoland arose in all countries where co-operatives had not previously existed. The people should be educated up to an understanding of their advantages and efforts made to set up a first co-operative, after which it would be comparatively simple to extend the system generally.

<sup>6</sup> See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Togo sous la tutelle de la France, année 1948.*

94. It was stated on page 75 of the 1950 report that all women in the Territory were exempt from the head tax. He asked what precise reason had led the Administering Authority to take that step, when women enjoyed the same rights and had the same duties as men.

95. Mr. MONTEL (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) believed it was a case of survival of past custom. Of course women might very well pay the head tax: they had the same rights as men and should therefore have the same obligations.

If such a reform should be decided upon, however, an opportune moment would have to be chosen to put it into effect.

96. Mr. PIGNON (France) thought the fact that women in Togoland were exempt from taxation, unlike the situation in neighbouring territories, could be traced back to the German administration, which had left behind it in Togoland a tradition entirely different from that found in those other territories.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.