



Friday, 29 June 1951, at 2 p.m.

FLUSHING MEADOW, NEW YORK

C O N T E N T S

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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 British administration for the years 1949 and 1950 (T/796 and T/906 (*continued*))

[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.

1. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the special representative what steps were being taken by the Administering Authority to assist the indigenous population in modernizing agricultural methods.

2. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that considerable progress had been made in the northern parts of the Territory, particularly in the Emirate of Dikwa, in distributing artificial fertilizers and in accustoming the population to their use. In Adamawa Province, research and demonstrations were being carried out with regard to the system of mixed farming, which was beginning to have an effect in the Trust Territory. In the southern part of the Territory, the Administration was operating an experimental and demonstration centre at Bambui, which experimented with new types of produce and distributed seed of improved quality to the local farmers. The institution conducted eight educational farms, on each of which a candidate selected by the officer in charge of the

Bambui agricultural centre was trained for one complete year in modern farming methods. The men were given a subsistence allowance while in training and on leaving the centre at the end of the training period were provided with livestock and tools worth about £80 to enable them to set up farms of their own in their native villages, using new and improved methods. No conditions were attached to the grant made to the trainees, who continued to receive guidance from officials of the Agricultural Department on setting up their own farms. The system was beginning to show good results in the Bamenda Province.

3. In addition, a large number of people visited and were given advice at the numerous demonstration plots organized in outlying parts of the Territory. It was hoped also that, when a new teacher-training rural educational centre near Bambui began to function, a knowledge of improved agricultural methods would be widely disseminated through the ordinary machinery of primary education.

4. While the Bambui agricultural centre provided intensive training admittedly to a very small number of persons, knowledge of improved agricultural methods was being widely fostered in the course of the normal activities of the Agricultural Department, which gave advice to farmers throughout the provinces.

5. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he did not think that the £80 worth of equipment supplied to trainees at the Bambui centre could be considered a non-returnable grant by the Administration but rather a lump-sum payment in lieu of wages. He wanted to know how the payments were financed.

6. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that he did not see how men in training could be said to be entitled to wages. During the first year or two of the centre's operation, money had been provided from funds under the control of the Ex-Servicemen's Union. As, however, persons other than ex-servicemen were now admitted to the centre, funds were being allotted by the Agricultural Department from the normal estimates of Nigeria.

7. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the Bambui agricultural centre could reach only a very small part of the farming population. He wanted to know what steps were being taken to encourage the mass of indigenous farmers to change over to improved agricultural methods.

8. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) observed that there existed the natural incentive arising from the farmer's desire to increase the value of his crops.

9. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that what he desired to know was whether the Administering Authority granted subsidies for long-term loans to farmers who might wish to employ the new methods.

10. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Administering Authority considered that steps to develop African farming on a large scale by using the latest methods and producing crops on a much more extensive scale from that now achieved by the ordinary peasant, were extremely desirable, particularly since a more profitable market in foodstuffs was developing in the southern extremity of the Territory as a result of the large concentration of labour on the plantations operated by the Cameroons Development Corporation and its competitors. The Administration was therefore assisting inhabitants of the Trust Territory who had the desire and the ability to open up such enterprises by lending them the necessary capital. Although the list of loans granted was not yet very impressive, there was a considerable amount of capital available to those who might apply to the Regional Development Boards, which were empowered to make loans under satisfactory conditions to prospective farmers.

11. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that the data contained in paragraph 303 of the 1950 report¹ indicated that the individuals receiving loans were mostly well-to-do farmers. The grant of loans to an insignificant number of individuals did not change the general picture in the slightest.

12. He wanted to know specifically to what extent the Administering Authority had organized measures to encourage new agricultural methods among the great mass of the farmers.

13. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) felt that there was considerable similarity between the outlook of the USSR representative and that of the Administering Authority, except on two points. One was that the Administering Authority looked on the mass of the population as a collection of individuals; it appeared, therefore, that if widespread improvement was to be achieved in the mass, it would have to be introduced through individuals. The other point of difference was

that, while the number of loans to prospective agriculturalists was still very small, those loans could not be described as insignificant. On the contrary, they were deeply significant because they were the first sign of improvement in a domain where, until a few years before, the most primitive conditions and methods had prevailed. He predicted that in future years the Trusteeship Council would find that a very great movement had been started from those modest beginnings.

14. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that when he had spoken of encouraging new methods of agriculture among the mass of the farmers, he had had in mind the granting of loans to individual farmers in order to enable them to employ modern agricultural methods on their own holdings. If the Administering Authority had developed a system of assistance involving 5,000 or 10,000 holdings, it would have been possible to say that concrete steps had been taken to induce the agricultural population to change over to modern methods of farming.

15. He inquired whether any indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory were represented in the administrative services of the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Board and the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Board, referred to in paragraph 187 of the 1949 report.²

16. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied that there were none, adding that that was not surprising because the Trust Territory included no more than one twenty-fifth of the population served by those boards.

17. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether there were any plans to establish branches of those boards or special administrative services for the special branches of agriculture concerned within the Trust Territory itself.

18. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Administering Authority did not propose to damage the economic interests of the Trust Territory by removing it from the sphere of operation of the marketing boards, which were contributing so greatly to the new prosperity of the Territory. They were handling produce on a large scale and consequently were in an excellent bargaining position. To set up separate subsidiary boards of a similar kind for the Trust Territory alone would mean that producers in the Territory would lose the benefit of the stabilized prices resulting from large-scale marketing.

19. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that if special branches of the boards were set up in the Trust Territory, the indigenous inhabitants would have an opportunity to take part in their management, look after their own interests and

¹ 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.*

² 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 1949*, London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1950, Colonial No. 262.

thereby emerge from the backward position in which they found themselves. That, in his view, was the aim and purpose of the International Trusteeship System.

20. Referring to paragraph 247 of the 1950 annual report, he asked how the needs of the Trust Territory had been taken into consideration in the revision of the ten-year plan of development and welfare and how the ratio of expenditure for the Cameroons compared with that for Nigeria.

21. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) stated that he was perfectly satisfied that the claims of the Trust Territory had received equal consideration with those of all other parts of the area covered by the plan. The views of the indigenous inhabitants on the development of the Trust Territory were constantly reaching the Administration, because they formed a considerable part of the representations made to government officers in the course of regular visits to local areas. Simply stated, the indigenous inhabitants wanted everything that people everywhere desired: more roads, hospitals, education, etc.

22. The question of priorities among schemes of development, however, was one with which indigenous representatives were not completely competent to deal, although such bodies as the working committee of the Cameroons National Federation were often able to offer very good counsel on what kind of projects should be initiated before others.

23. When decisions on the revised plan had been taken, full details would be conveyed to the Council in the reports of the Administering Authority, and the year-to-year expenditure of funds in implementation of the ten-year plan would continue to be given as a statistical appendix to the annual reports.

24. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Administering Authority was taking any steps to substitute an income tax for the existing poll tax in the Territory.

25. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) stated that it was the desire of the Administering Authority eventually to institute a properly computed income tax in all areas where the necessarily primitive methods of assessment resulted in the collection of what amounted to a poll tax from the bulk of the population. As conditions became relatively modernized and incomes tended to become completely cash incomes—rather than, as was now the case, incomes in kind for the most part—it would become more and more possible to extend the practice of assessing individual incomes. At present, all indigenous inhabitants who had known incomes, such as persons employed in the public service, were paying an income tax, not a poll tax.

26. In reply to further questions by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that the ownership of land was not affected by the establishment of forest reserves. The reserves referred to in the 1949 report (p. 82) had been set up by the Native

Authorities themselves for the purpose of preserving the valuable assets represented by forest land for succeeding generations. Due account had of course been taken of the present agricultural needs of the population.

27. The growing of timber for firewood had been carried on under the supervision of the Native Authority or of the Government in certain specialized types of forest reserves. Otherwise no use had as yet been made of the reserve forests, which could not be exploited without the express permission of the authority concerned. It would be a great stride forward when some form of commercial exploitation could be begun whereby a certain percentage of the timber would be cut each year, on a basis which would permit the regular regeneration of the forest and at the same time produce considerable revenue from the sale of timber. Such revenue would, by law, revert to the Native Administration of the area concerned. Proposals to exploit some of the reserves in the Kumba Division were under consideration.

28. Successful exploitation of existing reserves might help to convince the indigenous peoples in other areas of the advantages to be derived from the system and might in time result in an extension of the area under forest reserve to 25 per cent of the Territory's total area—the target aim of the Administering Authority.

29. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what form the proposed commercial exploitation of the reserves in the Kumba area would take.

30. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) thought agreements would provide for the establishment of a fair price for the timber, the money being paid directly to the Native Administration by the exploiting concern. The concern would either set up a sawmill on the spot or transport the timber for sawing elsewhere, making whatever profit it could from resale or export of the timber, subject, of course, to government export duties, if any.

31. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the question called for serious consideration on the part of the Trusteeship Council, particularly in view of the substantial proportion of the Territory's area actually involved (13 per cent) and the widespread popular suspicion, as noted in the 1949 report, paragraph 319, that the white man was aiming at some kind of exploitation for his own profit.

32. The forest wealth of the Trust Territory was the property of the indigenous inhabitants and safeguards were needed against land alienation or exploitation prejudicial to their interests. The Administering Authority should therefore furnish the Trusteeship Council with all relevant information regarding plans for the commercial exploitation of forest reserves in the Territory.

33. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) trusted that it was already clear, from his remarks and from the account of the forestry policy given in the reports,

that no question whatever of land alienation was involved: the ownership of the land remained precisely as it had been prior to the decision to establish forest reserves.

34. The more usual criticism levelled at the Administering Authority regarding the commercial use of the forest reserves had been that it was merely locking up assets and making them inaccessible to the people. The fact was that the Administering Authority was prepared to allow exploitation by commercial undertakings only on lines thoroughly compatible with the interests of the indigenous owners, or by associations of the owners capable of exploiting the timber themselves. Moreover, exploitation could be carried out only on the basis of contracts which had been freely concluded by the indigenous owners, who had the benefit of expert advice from the Administering Authority. The Trusteeship Council need therefore have no fear of grasping commercial exploitation of forest reserves in the Territory.

35. In reply to a further question from Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concerning the relatively high expenditure in 1950 on the judiciary, the police and prisons, as compared with expenditure on social services, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that it was inevitable, in a new and primitive society, that there would be a heavy initial outlay of public funds to ensure law and order, upon which depended the whole subsequent economic development of the people. With the achievement of economic development, the structure of the society would change, and the cost of social services would become relatively higher than that entailed by measures to ensure law and order.

36. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) found that explanation unsatisfactory; the USSR delegation disagreed entirely with the arguments adduced.

37. He then asked whether the income from the Cameroons Development Corporation was included in the overall budget of Nigeria or shown in the specific accounts of the Territory and spent in accordance with its needs.

38. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied that the income in question was entirely accounted for in the Territory's accounts and was wholly expended in the Territory's interest.

39. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) remarked that most of the information his delegation would have sought had already been brought out by previous questions. He wished to know, however, how the figures for cocoa production in the Cameroons (1950 report, paragraph 225) had been arrived at, whether by actual weighing in the Territory or by rough computation.

40. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied that the figures had been obtained from the licensed buying agents of the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board and represented purchases made and weighed in the

Territory itself. It was safe to assume that the figures were comprehensive and accurate for the whole export production of the Territory.

41. In reply to a further question by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) regarding the wide variation in the proportion of the poll tax retained by the different Native Authorities, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) stated that the system previously in use, whereby a fixed proportion of the direct tax in each area had been handed over to the Central Government and the remainder had accrued to the Native Administrations, had had to be revised towards the end of the recent war because of the increased financial obligations of the Native Administrations. It had then been proposed that the Government should accept a comparatively small sum as poll tax from each individual's tax payment, the amount to go into the government funds of the region concerned. In fixing the rates of capitation, the regional authority took into account the need to maintain for each region as much as the net amount at that time being derived as the Government's share of direct taxation; to allow Native Administrations in the least-developed areas to undertake measures of local benefit; to adjust the contribution to regional revenue from particular areas to their state of development and general economic condition; and to provide funds for a system of grants-in-aid for such purposes as health and education. Those strongly competing claims had resulted in the variations in the capitation rate in different areas. With the passage of time the rates would tend to become more uniform. It should be noted, too, that the capitation amount was small compared with the individual's total tax payment.

42. In reply to questions by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said he regretted he had no data at hand on the world market price for bananas. The price of £32 per ton paid by the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom was the same as that paid by the Ministry for West Indian bananas.

43. The broadcasting station referred to in the 1949 report had not yet been opened; it would probably start operating later in the year. He understood it would have sufficient power to ensure good broadcasting throughout the whole of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

44. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) said he would appreciate it if his question regarding banana prices could be answered later.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and was resumed at 4.20 p.m.

45. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) noted with satisfaction that the number of medical practitioners in the Territory had risen to thirteen in 1950. He was sure, however, that the Administering Authority would agree that the number was still highly inadequate for a population of over one million. The training of indigenous doctors to meet Western standards, for which provision was being made at

Ibadan, was a very slow process. He therefore wondered whether the Administering Authority had considered the possibility of training indigenous medical practitioners to meet a somewhat lower standard, as had been done with excellent results elsewhere.

46. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied that a class for training dispensary attendants and dressers, capable of giving first aid and simple medical treatment, was in operation; but for the time being the Administering Authority had no intention of lowering the standard of the medical profession by accepting standards below an internationally recognized level.

47. In reply to a further point raised by Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) agreed that the present facilities for hospitalization in the Territory were not large, but he pointed out that the number of hospital beds had materially increased in the last two years and the rate of expansion might be expected to continue. The Cameroons Development Corporation hoped to complete its programme for expanding hospital facilities within the next two years; moreover, the Administering Authority had plans to increase the medical services.

48. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) suggested that the Administering Authority might usefully consider some form of training towards a level of efficiency between that of the fully qualified medical practitioner and that of the dispensary attendants mentioned by the special representative.

49. Noting the preponderance of male indigenous nurses, he asked whether the present nursing trainees at Tiko and Victoria were mostly men or women.

50. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that for the most part the trainees continued to be men. The main obstacle to the training of women was lack of candidates of an adequate educational standard. The number of women candidates would no doubt increase in view of the steady improvement being made in female education in the Territory.

51. In reply to further questions from Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that there was now a considerable number of trade union officers in the British Non-Self-Governing Territories, in addition to the normal Labour Department staff. Their function was to act as advisers to the new trade union movement as it emerged and expanded, and, where needed, to promote the proper trade union traditions and organization. As it happened, the trade union in the Territory had been relatively well organized from the outset, and its leaders had little need of advice from the trade union officer.

52. With regard to narcotic drugs, he confirmed that the population of the Territory was not addicted to the use of such drugs and that no control measures had

been found necessary. No narcotic drugs were produced in the Territory.

53. Speaking of the probation system provided in Nigeria (1950 report, para. 678), he said that such a system was needed most in large urban areas; as there were no such areas in the Territory, the Administration felt that a probation system was not required.

54. With regard to control of the tsetse fly, he said that, fortunately, there were practically no tsetse flies in the principal cattle-breeding areas, although they existed in the forest belt immediately to the south. That area was densely forested and sparsely populated. It would be exceedingly difficult to carry out control measures there and so far none had been attempted.

55. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand), referring to the measures taken to eliminate the breeding places of mosquitoes, mentioned the usefulness of the gambusia fish in connexion with mosquito control.

56. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said he would call the attention of the technical services concerned to that fact.

57. In reply to a question by Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that the exchange of women referred to in paragraph 36 of the 1950 report, in connexion with marriages, really meant the interchange of brides between two family groups, thus making the payment of the "bride price" unnecessary.

58. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), referring to the shortage of doctors in the Cameroons under British administration, said that the World Health Organization and the International Refugee Organization had offered the United Nations a considerable number of doctors who were at present in refugee camps. He asked the Administering Authority whether there was in the United Kingdom any department responsible for visiting those camps and finding doctors not only for the Cameroons under British administration but also for other Trust Territories under the same administration.

59. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) said that the Colonial Service Division of the Colonial Office was responsible for assisting in the recruitment of doctors for Trust Territories. The division was of course in continuous touch with all sources of medical personnel. In the past, considerable numbers of doctors had been appointed to Non-Self-Governing Territories from among those in European displaced persons camps. He did not know whether there had been any specific appointments to Trust Territories. The chief difficulties against large-scale recruitment from that source were, first, the language difficulty — a knowledge of English was essential; and secondly, the fact that the minimum qualifications required under the legislation governing the employment of physicians in the Territory were not always held by the doctors concerned. Steps had been taken to overcome both those difficulties in order to enable such personnel to be employed.

60. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) said it should be borne in mind that the doctors concerned were displaced persons and could hardly be expected to produce evidence of their qualifications. He understood the World Health Organization was investigating their backgrounds in many cases.

61. He wondered whether any steps were being taken to reduce the numbers of unqualified tribal doctors whose activities were not in keeping with modern civilization.

62. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) pointed out that a very real control existed under the normal provisions of the Criminal Code, which made any indulgence in the use of injurious substances by the Native medicine men a criminal act. The Administration was relying upon the gradual spread of modern medical services and the simultaneous increase in the population's respect for those services eventually to eliminate resort to tribal medicine men.

63. In reply to a further question by Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said he did not feel that the tribes in Nigeria were superior in potential technical ability to the tribes living within the Trust Territory. In support of his view, he recalled that the first Baptist mission established in the Southern Cameroons, in the early part of the nineteenth century, had reported that a very high standard of craftsmanship had been developed among the people at Victoria, a statement which had later been confirmed by a visiting commission from the mission's headquarters. The explanation probably lay in the fact that the Nigerians had enjoyed technical training during a period when most technical jobs in the Trust Territory were held by low-paid German labour. As technical education in the Territory improved, posts would naturally be transferred from Nigerians to the indigenous inhabitants.

64. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina), referring to the existence of corporal punishment in the Territory, reaffirmed the oft-repeated stand of his delegation in favour of the complete abolition of that type of punishment.

65. He noted from the report that a death sentence had been awarded in the Territory in 1950. He wished to know whether or not the sentence had been carried out.

66. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said it was possible that the sentence had not actually been carried out until the first months of 1951.

67. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) was happy to note the statement in the report that prisoners were given some payment for their work, as that made it easier for them to return to normal life upon release from prison. The original suggestion had come from his delegation.

68. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) wondered whether the Administering Authority had implemented the

Council's suggestion that special attention should be given to the rehabilitation of the Bakweri people by means of special contributions from the earnings of the Cameroons Development Corporation.³

69. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the Administration had devoted much thought and effort to the Bakweri problem. Many suggestions for the use of the funds received from the Corporation had been tabled by representative meetings of the inhabitants of the area. They were currently being re-examined at meetings of the people where projects which they felt should have high priority were being selected. When the programmes were finally chosen, funds would be available to carry them out.

70. The Administering Authority had encountered some difficulty in obtaining the co-operation of the Bakweri representatives. As a fresh approach to the problem, it had established a centre to train the people for community development. That office was staffed by administrative and welfare officers who would give effect to the plans for the resettlement of the Bakweri people, which was the ultimate aim of the Administering Authority. The training programme was attracting large numbers of candidates and was designed to imbue them with a desire to help themselves and to develop their communal life. Part of the course was devoted to practical schemes of village rehabilitation intended to show the Bakweri people what good-will and a firm determination to progress could accomplish.

71. He thought the people would support the projects the Administering Authority had under consideration, for they had already stated what types of schemes they would like to see carried out in their areas. The Administering Authority's chief difficulty with the Bakweri people was their reluctance to support its resettlement plans. Every effort was being made to secure their co-operation in that scheme.

72. As regards the suggestion made in the Council that immigration to the Bakweri lands should be controlled,⁴ he said that machinery of two kinds would be needed to carry out such a programme. Certain rules for the control of land should be laid down, which the Native Authorities would enforce. Furthermore, relief should be provided through a resettlement plan in which immigrants would not be allowed to participate unless the local inhabitants proved unable to operate the scheme. Effective control of immigration could not be ensured however until certain reforms in the local government in that area, which were now under discussion, had been instituted. The proceedings of the Bakweri Land Committee had undoubtedly swayed public opinion in its favour, with the result that an increasing tendency had been noted to refuse immigrants admittance to regions where land was short.

73. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) realized that the population figures given in the reports were only approximate, but he wondered why the estimated

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 36.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

increase in population for 1950 was only 1,000 whereas for 1949 the increase had been estimated at 60,000.

74. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that, pending a fresh census, the Administering Authority had based its figures on the number of adult males who paid taxes, multiplied by the formula for the average relation between adult males and the number of women and children in the normal indigenous family. The variation in the figures would therefore reflect any fluctuation in the numbers of adult male taxpayers. The figures could only be taken as a rough indication of the population of the Territory.

75. As regards cost-of-living surveys, he said few people were adequately trained in that type of research. As the Territory was not an area in which such surveys would be particularly required, the shortage of trained personnel had undoubtedly led the Administering Authority to conduct such inquiries in other areas first. He hoped, however, that surveys of that type could be made in the Territory in the near future.

76. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) asked what had been the policy of the Administering Authority with regard to forced labour.

77. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that under the Labour Code Ordinance the Administering Authority was not required to pay the indigenous inhabitants for forced labour. Persons who did not wish to perform such work could be excused upon payment of a certain sum per day representing the daily cost of labour. He knew of no instance in the Territory, however, where the provisions of the ordinance had been invoked. The Administration did not plan to go beyond the restrictions set out in the relevant section of the ordinance; he added that that section had been inserted chiefly as a result of representations made by members of the indigenous population.

78. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) noted that the principle of equal pay for men and women for equal work was generally accepted in the Territory. He failed to understand the statement made in paragraph 575 of the 1950 report that that question was not of practical importance in the Territory.

79. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that, at the present time, there were few activities in the Territory in which men and women were employed together and that the question of equal pay for equal work was therefore largely academic.

80. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) wondered why there were fewer hospitals in the more densely populated areas than in the Victoria Division, for example, or in other more sparsely settled regions.

81. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) acknowledged that better hospital services were to be found in the less populated coastal areas, the reason being that health services had been established in the more accessible regions first, and it was only later, as com-

munications spread inland, that the health services had gradually penetrated into the interior. At the present time, they were reasonably widespread throughout the southern region of the Territory. Medical services had just been introduced into the North, which until recently had remained inaccessible. Previously, that area had been served by facilities located across the border in Nigeria. Hospital services were therefore available to the people in the northern part of the Territory which were not mentioned in the report but which the inhabitants could use because of the free ambulance service in the Adamawa Province.

82. Mr. STRONG (United States of America) asked the special representative for some details on the development of trade-union leadership in the Territory, particularly as regards the Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union and its influence on the labour movement throughout the Territory.

83. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that, during the settlement of a dispute over rates of pay, the leaders of the Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union had become more familiar with the economic situation of the corporation and were now better able to judge what likelihood their demands had of being granted. After the settlement of that dispute, they had participated in the deliberations of the consultative committee, which represented the views of both management and labour. They had become much more thoroughly acquainted with the problems involved in running a commercial enterprise of that sort and had proved themselves to be very responsible leaders. In particular, they had been able to maintain the confidence of their followers even when rejecting their excessive demands for new benefits by explaining why such demands could not be met.

84. The union membership included the great majority of the wage-earners in the Territory, and the quality of its leadership set the standard for the whole labour movement in the Territory.

85. Mr. STRONG (United States of America) asked what steps had been taken to increase the number of women resident in Victoria Division, particularly on the plantations.

86. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said considerable efforts had been made to encourage the employees of the Cameroons Development Corporation to move their families closer to their place of work. Furthermore, attractive housing for the labourers and their families were being erected as rapidly as possible. He had no figures to show how successful those measures had been, but he hoped to receive definite information on the matter within the next few months.

87. Mr. STRONG (United States of America) wondered whether the Public Relations Department supplied the newspapers circulated in the Territory with information on United Nations activities, particularly those which were of direct concern to the Territory.

88. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) had noted

that a great deal of information about United Nations activities was published in those newspapers, but he did not know whether it was supplied by the Public Relations Department. The department had begun publication of a newspaper which devoted considerable space to the Territory. As it had just begun to appear, he could not give the Council any idea of how wide a circulation it had.

89. Mr. STRONG (United States of America) asked that that information should be included in the next annual report on the Territory.

90. In reply to Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) pointed out the location of the hospitals serving the northern area of the Territory.

91. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that in many cases those hospitals were so situated that patients would have to travel at least a hundred miles to avail themselves of their services. He therefore wondered what plans the Administering Authority had made for providing the northern region with adequate health services.

92. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said the Administering Authority was well aware that the existing arrangements were not a satisfactory solution to the health needs of the northern part of the Territory, particularly in view of the distances which patients had to travel to reach the hospitals. Yet a large percentage of the patients in the Nigerian hospitals came from the Territory, despite the long journey.

93. The Administering Authority had given much thought to the problem of the health services in the northern region. The only solution in the long run would be to establish more hospitals in that area. In fact, a new hospital had just been built at Mubi, which would be operating very shortly.

94. In reply to further questions by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the fact that numbers of patients went from the Territory to hospitals at Yola and other places in Nigeria was undoubtedly due to the free ambulance service provided. Many immediate problems would be solved if that service could be extended throughout the Territory as soon as better roads were built. It should be borne in mind that in any sparsely populated area, whether it was a Trust Territory or not, patients would probably always have to travel some distance for hospital care. Perhaps the best solution in such regions would be to establish a network of rural dispensaries to look after the health of the people and discover cases which needed hospital treatment in the early stage when the patient was still able to make the journey. A system of rural dispensaries had been set up in the northern area and had achieved reasonably satisfactory results. The people of

that region were able to obtain fairly comprehensive health services from those dispensaries, the hospital at Maiduguri and the new clinic to be opened at Mubi. The Administering Authority was, however, seriously concerned about the situation in the Adamawa Province, where little of value in the way of health services had been achieved. He thought any real progress there would have to await the construction of the new road in the area.

95. As regards corporal punishment, he pointed out that the United Kingdom representative had already informed the Council that his Government intended gradually to bring the situation in the Trust Territories under its administration into line with the present practice in the United Kingdom itself. The Administering Authority had undertaken a further review of the problem in the Territory in the light of the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council and of General Assembly resolutions 323 (IV) and 440 (V), on the abolition of corporal punishment, and further progress in that direction would be made as rapidly as local circumstances permitted.

96. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the report gave no satisfactory reply to his question. He noted that the Administering Authority was not considering any concrete steps for the abolition of corporal punishment—an attitude which his delegation could not condone.

97. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) wondered how the Immigration Ordinance No. 30 of 1945 provided for control of the entry of non-indigenous persons into the Territory.

98. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) explained that no non-indigenous persons could enter the Territory without the approval of the immigration authorities. Under the ordinance, the Government could limit the entrance of trained European employees who might reduce the employment opportunities open to Africans. It could also ensure that persons entering the Territory did not become a public charge. The ordinance did not, however, contain any provisions of a discriminatory nature.

99. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) asked how many students graduated annually from the Women Teachers' Training Centre at Kumba and whether it could train enough teachers to meet the needs of the Territory.

100. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) did not know exactly how many students were now attending the centre, which was one of the largest of the five training institutions mentioned in the report. Enough teachers could be educated there to meet the present demand but it would undoubtedly be necessary to expand the Territory's training centres in the near future.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.