



Wednesday, 16 July 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Page

Examination of the annual report on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration for the year 1951 (T/995, T/1012) (continued) 1

President: Mr. Awni KHALIDY (Iraq).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, 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 report on the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration for the year 1951 (T/995, T/1012) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (g)]

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

POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT (continued)

1. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): I wish to ask a question about the judicial organization, more specifically about the separation of judicial and executive powers and the courts. I heard from the special representative this morning [446th meeting]—and I also read in the report¹—that the Territory now has a completely autonomous judicial system with full separation of powers. I wonder if the special representative can tell us whether that applies to the courts of French law as well as to the indigenous courts.

2. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): This separation of powers is really effective for what I feel to be the most important part of justice, criminal justice. As regards civil law, we are still somewhat bound by tradition and the influence of custom on the behaviour of the Cameroonians. Because justice in civil cases is customary, the administration of such justice still rests

¹ See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1951*, p. 49.

with the administrative authorities, that is to say, the presidents of the courts of first and second degree, which are the courts of appeal in civil cases under customary law, are still administrative officials. But as far as criminal justice is concerned, the separation of powers is complete.

3. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): The report refers [page 56] to the evening classes provided at Yaoundé, Douala and Nkongsamba, for the training of Africans for important posts. Can the special representative tell us a little more about these classes? What courses are taught? How long do they last?

4. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I should have preferred to answer this question when we considered the part of the report which deals with education, since these evening courses are conducted by regular teachers and the question really relates to that part of the report. But since the representative of China has asked that question now, I am quite willing to give him the information he wants.

5. A distinction must be drawn in connexion with these evening courses. There are adult courses in which the rudiments of education—reading, writing and arithmetic—are taught. These are given to indigenous inhabitants who have had no education at all. They last throughout the year and the adults who register for them are more or less assiduous in their attendance, according to whether they are interested or not.

6. In addition, there are supplementary courses, designed for Cameroonian officials who are already in the civil service, which enable them to perfect their general knowledge and their technical knowledge in their specific fields, so that they can enter the competitive examinations through which they may later be able to gain promotions.

7. In the third place, there are purely technical courses which train Africans for specialized posts, those of geometers, geologists, surveyors and the like. There are also shorthand and typing courses which are, of course, entirely specialized and technical, and are also given in the evening to enable everybody to take them.

8. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): Could the special representative say how many members there are on the

Permanent Commission [page 34 of the report] and who they are at the present time?

9. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The Permanent Commission was composed — I say “was”, because the former Representative Assembly has been replaced this year by the Territorial Assembly which has a different membership, and I do not know to what extent there have been consequent changes in the composition of the Permanent Commission — of six members and a chairman. It was generally composed of the chairmen of the working commissions. For example, the chairmen of the Budgetary Commission, the Public Works Commission, the Public Health Commission and so on were *ex officio* members of the Permanent Commission, which enabled that body to function very effectively in the intervals between plenary sessions of the Representative Assembly.

10. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): Could the special representative tell me why the indigenous courts could not be given competence in penal matters [page 49 of the report]?

11. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The report does not say that it was impossible to allow indigenous courts to deal with criminal matters. The French Administration chose to abide by the principle that criminal jurisdiction should be the same for all persons under French administration. Their civil rights are the same; consequently their penal responsibilities should be the same too. The French Penal Code was therefore extended to all French possessions in Africa, but no distinction was made as to race, origin or colour.

12. The indigenous courts retain authority in civil matters only, as I said just now, because of the specialized nature of customary law and the difficulty involved in superimposing the uniformity of the French Civil Code on a country with such varied customs as the Cameroons. There is no question of prohibiting the indigenous courts from dealing with criminal cases. There is simply a distinction made between jurisdiction in criminal cases, which has been rendered uniform, and jurisdiction in civil cases, which varies in accordance with the different kinds of status obtaining in the Cameroons, where some people are subject to the general law — that is, the French Civil Code — while others have retained their “personal status” and are therefore under the jurisdiction of the indigenous courts.

13. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): I can quite understand that the French Penal Code is the only one that can be applied to the indigenous societies in the Cameroons. But would it not be possible to allow the indigenous courts to apply, not the penalties provided by custom, but the French Penal Code?

14. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): If there is a uniform code uniformly applicable to all persons, there is no longer any reason to set up special courts to deal with people according to their origin. Indigenous jurisdiction exists only in so far as it applies to a special civil status — personal status. But since all persons are subject to the same penal law, there is no reason whatever to have indigenous courts to deal solely with

offences committed by indigenous inhabitants. Since the offences and penalties are the same, justice is uniformly applied to all and there are no special indigenous courts to deal with criminal offences committed by indigenous inhabitants.

15. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): The law of January 1951 granted an amnesty to some categories of offenders. Could the special representative tell the Council what categories of offenders benefited from that amnesty?

16. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The amnesty law was not promulgated for the Cameroons alone, but for France and French-administered territories as a whole. It is a semi-political law which enumerates in detail the offences — mostly political offences — that are covered by the amnesty, and the exceptions. I cannot immediately give a complete list of the offences that are covered and those that are not, but I could easily obtain the information and I should be glad to transmit it to the Belgian representative if he so desires.

17. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): It is sufficient for me to know that the offences involved are of a political nature.

18. My last question is whether there were any expulsions from the Territory in 1951 and, if so, how many.

19. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): So far as I know, there were no expulsions in 1951. I cannot state that as a definite fact, but the information will be included in next year's annual report.

20. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): With reference to the laws governing the Territory and its inhabitants, we noticed from page 31 of the report that voters are grouped in two colleges, one comprised of citizens who are subject to the general law, and the other of citizens who are subject to customary law. We are also informed on page 33 that, at the end of the last session, the out-going representatives unanimously passed a recommendation to the National Assembly that the two-college system should be maintained. In the first place, could the special representative give us any supplementary information as to whether there is any substantial difference between one college and the other, and whether there is any substantial difference in the functioning of the two colleges, which would not be entirely due to the difference in status of the persons involved?

21. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The major difference between the two colleges arises from the difference in the educational and cultural level of the voters. As the report stresses, the distinction is based on the way of life and not on the origin or race of the voters.

22. In addition to Europeans, the first college is comprised of all those indigenous inhabitants who have renounced their special status, under which the indigenous inhabitants have the same rights as French citizens but keep their “personal” civil status. This distinction becomes clear when we consider that one of the main privileges of “personal” status is polygamy. A citizen with “personal” status can have a number of wives, but if he renounces his “personal” status for

ordinary law status, polygamy becomes an offence which is punishable by law. That is one of the main distinctions between the two types of status. Obviously, the citizen who is subject to the ordinary law is usually more civilized than one who has retained a "personal" status. Nevertheless there are exceptions, and citizens with a "personal" status are sometimes more civilized and more intelligent than those subject to ordinary law.

23. The college of citizens who are subject to the general law is comprised mostly of Europeans, since few Cameroonians have renounced their "personal" status because of the privilege of polygamy which such status gives them. Even advanced Cameroonians are reluctant to renounce the privilege of having a number of wives.

24. In the old Representative Assembly, there were twenty-four citizens with "personal" status as against sixteen who were subject to the ordinary law. In the new assembly, there are fifty representatives, and the proportion has been changed to favour the members of the second college, that is to say, citizens with "personal" status. There are eighteen citizens of the first college and thirty-two of the second.

25. The fact that the members of the assembly, as individuals, are subject to different types of law in no way affects their political rights as members: the distinction is made only in respect of the members of the electoral body. Members of the assembly chosen by the first electoral college and those chosen by the second have exactly the same rights; they have the same power to take decisions and may exercise their political rights in exactly the same way; they are on exactly the same footing.

26. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): Could the special representative tell us what reasons were given by the Representative Assembly for voting unanimously in favour of the maintenance of the two-college system?

27. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): If I remember correctly, the same question was asked this morning [446th meeting] by the New Zealand representative. It is difficult to evaluate the motives of each member of the assembly in voting in favour of retaining the two-college system, but it can be said that the main reason, generally speaking, was that in the first assembly, whose term of office has just ended, co-operation between the members of the two colleges was very close. Most of the Cameroonian members of the assembly would have been rather baffled with regard to some of the affairs of the Territory, such as drawing up the budget and apportioning the credits for major public works and the ten-year plan, if the European members had not been there to explain the business before the assembly and how credits were usually voted and so on. The African members of the Representative Assembly felt that that close co-operation was a felicitous one which should be allowed to continue in the present circumstances.

28. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): Page 48 of the annual report refers to the situation with regard to the setting up of regional councils. Apparently the discussion of the plan in the Representative Assembly indicated that the studies undertaken would have to be completed if the plan was to be put into effect in full. Could the special representative tell us what difficulties

led the Representative Assembly to consider that studies should be carried out before it approved the setting up of the regional councils?

29. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The major difficulties which forced the Administration to withdraw the original scheme submitted to the Representative Assembly for further study had to do with the way in which the members of the regional councils were to be appointed. The Administration thought that the representatives of certain branches of economic activity should be members of the regional councils, and it had been decided that those representatives should be co-opted by the bodies concerned; this applied, for instance, to the representatives of certain branches of economic activity, such as co-operatives, trade unions, etc. It had been agreed that the members of the trade unions would select their own representatives to the regional councils. The assembly considered that to choose some representatives by universal suffrage and co-opt others would not be in keeping with democratic principles. It asked that all representatives, without exception, should be chosen by universal suffrage. Hence the Administration had to withdraw the text in order to study it further and work out a new scheme for selecting the members of the regional councils by universal suffrage.

30. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): My delegation would like to have some general information on the relations between the Territory and its inhabitants with adjacent territories, and on the relations between the frontier tribes. Is there any tribal or racial unity in these frontier zones? We should also like to know whether there is any large-scale migration, controlled or illegal, and the approximate volume of trade between these various territories.

31. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): In my opinion, this question goes beyond the field of political advancement; a number of economic aspects are involved. I think, however, that I can give the representative of the Dominican Republic a fairly general answer, since it is difficult to give detailed information about a frontier which is, in fact, rather fluid.

32. The indigenous inhabitants generally have no well-defined concept of nationality. They have not the same feeling of belonging to a country as is usual in other places. They cross the frontier very easily. I would say that what attaches them to a country is the possession or use of the land, rather than a feeling of common kinship.

33. The majority of the inhabitants of Oubangui-Chari, across the whole forest belt north of the Congo, are members of the Pahouin race. The Pahouins have a certain feeling of racial unity, even when contact between the tribes is rare. The frontiers are therefore easily crossed and recrossed.

34. In the north of the Territory, conditions are slightly different. The peoples there are pastoral or agricultural who have become settled, rather than nomadic. The pastoral peoples cross the frontiers easily in search of fresh pastures for their herds; the cattle often have to cover great distances to find pasture. These peoples do not hesitate to cross the frontiers, eastward as well as westward.

35. This movement across the frontiers is, nevertheless, controlled, since indigenous inhabitants who wish to cross the frontier must have travelling papers — not passports or visas or permits — but papers certifying that they originate from such and such a province. In that way we can keep some check on their movements. Furthermore, census figures are brought up to date each year throughout the Territory, so that it is not difficult to learn whether any substantial migrations have taken place.

36. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): What is the language requirement in the Representative Assembly? Is French the universal language, or are other languages employed?

37. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): One of the conditions for eligibility to the Representative Assembly is a knowledge of the French language. All representatives to the assembly know French. The debates are conducted in French; there is no interpretation.

38. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): I have a question as regards the method of voting in the Representative Assembly. Is the majority rule or some other rule applied in taking decisions?

39. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The election of members to the Representative Assembly is based on majority voting, in one stage, by qualified voters. All laws prevailing in France to ensure the secrecy of the ballot are applied in the Cameroons. The only difference is that ballot papers of different colours and bearing different symbols are permitted to enable illiterate people to vote more easily. With this exception, the voting procedure is exactly the same as in France. Piles of ballot papers are available to the voter in a polling booth which hides him completely from the outside. The voter places the ballot in an unmarked envelope, which he drops into the ballot box.

40. Decisions of the Representative Assembly take the form of recommendations or motions. They are adopted by a simple majority of those present and voting, provided that there is a quorum: under the legislation established in the assembly, two-thirds of the membership constitutes a quorum.

41. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): According to page 33 of the report, sixteen members of the Representative Assembly are elected by the French electoral college, and twenty-four by the African. The special representative has given us additional information on this matter. In 1951, the African population of the Cameroons was more than 3 million, while there were only 12,000 Europeans. In view of these figures, and bearing in mind the additional information given by the special representative, I should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends to review the method of election to the assembly in order to make it truly representative.

42. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): As I said just now, the ratio between representatives of citizens subject to the ordinary law and those with "personal" status was modified by the law of 1952 setting up the new Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons. There are now thirty-two representatives of citizens with

"personal" status and eighteen of citizens subject to the ordinary law. This represents a considerable reversal of the former ratio in favour of the Africans.

43. I also stressed that the difference between the two colleges was basically one of status rather than colour. It is not quite accurate, therefore, to say that there are 13,000 Europeans on one side and 3 million Africans on the other. Among the citizens subject to the ordinary law there is a fairly large number of Africans, and the distinction between the electoral colleges is not based on colour privileges.

44. It is not for me to say whether the Administering Authority intends to go further in this spirit or reform; possibly the French representative will make a statement on the subject.

45. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In asking my question I had in mind the additional information given by the special representative, i.e., that, at the present time, thirty-two members are elected by 3 million indigenous inhabitants, and eighteen members are elected by 12,000 persons. The special representative says there are a number of Africans among the 12,000 who have the same legal status as Europeans. I should like to know exactly how many Africans are members of the first electoral college.

46. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I am not in a position to give the USSR representative that information.

47. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Bearing in mind that the special representative has told us that very few indigenous inhabitants seek to become subject to the general law, it is a fair assumption that most of these 12,000 persons are Europeans. Does the special representative agree with my conclusion?

48. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The majority are undoubtedly Europeans.

49. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): When does the Administering Authority intend to grant the Representative Assembly full legislative power and the power of deciding political questions?

50. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): As special representative, I am not competent to answer that question.

51. Mr. PIGNON (France): As I have already had occasion to point out, the Administering Authority is giving its attention to the study and drafting of reforms designed to increase the present powers of the Representative Assembly in various matters. However, neither I — nor, I think, anyone else — can state when the present Territorial Assembly of the Cameroons will be transformed into a Legislative Assembly like a European parliament, for example — since that is what the representative of the Soviet Union has in mind. A certain evolutionary process is taking place, and will presumably continue, but it is impossible to say whether it will be complete on 1 January 1953, or 1954, or 1955.

52. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): the Special representative told the Council this morning [446th meeting] that, out of 532,000 indigenous voters, about 50 per cent actually voted in the last election; which means that a rather small proportion of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory were, in fact, able to avail themselves of their electoral rights. Since the population of the Cameroons is approximately 3 million persons, this seems a very small number of voters. What measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to enable all voters to avail themselves of their right to participate in the elections to the Representative Assembly? The Administering Authority is well aware of the level of education and political development of the indigenous inhabitants, who are, as we all know, very backward; widespread illiteracy prevails. What measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to foster the political education of the indigenous inhabitants?

53. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): When, in 1949, I had the honour of appearing for the first time in this Council as special representative for the Cameroons under French administration, the representative of the USSR inveighed against the Administering Authority for having only 40,000 Cameroonian voters on the electoral lists.² That number rose to 70,000 the following year, and the Soviet Union representative was just as critical of the Administration.³ In 1951, the number had increased to 110,000, and today it is 530,000. In other words, in the space of a very few years, the right to express their will has been given not to 40,000 indigenous inhabitants alone, but to 530,000. In view of this, I am astounded that anyone can criticize us for being too slow in extending the franchise.

54. As to what the Administering Authority is doing to foster the political education of the Cameroonians, the very use of the ballot is a civic education in itself. The fact that 280,000 Cameroonians went to the ballot box last year and this year to elect deputies and representatives to the Representative Assembly is ample proof that the political education of the Cameroonians is proceeding apace. In this field, the school plays an important role — particularly the evening courses. The explanations given by the chiefs, to whom the significance of the privilege of being allowed to vote has been explained at length, and by French officials in the course of their circuits through the Territory, are among the best ways of informing the Cameroonians of the advantages of the electoral system.

55. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The special representative's answer shows that the Administering Authority is not taking any special measures to foster the political training of the indigenous inhabitants and to help them to avail themselves effectively of their right to vote in elections to the Representative Assembly. I am, therefore, interested in the following points. In what manner did the various political parties, trade unions, social organizations and other similar bodies participate in the electoral campaign? Did they carry out any work of political

education among the population, or were their activities also inadequate?

56. Mr. PIGNON (France): I should be grateful if the President would allow me to speak before the special representative replies to the Soviet Union representative.

57. The French practice is that civic education should be given in the primary schools in a very simple form. Beyond that stage, we are very anxious to avoid exerting any kind of pressure on the freedom or judgment of individuals. Apart from this elementary training—a valuable and indispensable training—which we call civic education, and which is given at a time when the child is taught a citizen's duties to his country and his fellow citizens, we avoid doing anything which might jeopardize the freedom of the individual. We are very much attached to this practice of ours, and we naturally apply it to the territories which we administer. We are always careful not to jeopardize the free expression of opinion of the Cameroonians. They are entitled to become members of political parties, and it is in these political parties that they will complete their civic education; it is not for the Administration to do so. The Administration teaches the basic principles, but, in the interests of freedom, it is careful to go no further.

58. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I shall now reply to the last question of the USSR representative, concerning the activities of the parties during the elections. The parties work through their representatives. All parties are entitled to submit candidates in any election, and they did so very extensively at the last election. Each candidate enjoys the privileges accorded by the electoral law: he may use special hoardings to make known his policies, and the State provides him with ballot papers, free of charge, and also with a free petrol allowance to enable him to conduct his campaign. Thus all the political parties are given every facility for conducting their electoral campaigns and, incidentally, promoting the political education of the Cameroonians.

59. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The French representative confined himself to a general statement in reply to my question. With regard to the Administering Authority's scruples about democratic freedom, may I point out that what we have been told does not correspond to the facts brought to our attention, and that this is true even outside the Trust Territories. Nevertheless, I do not wish to pursue such general considerations. What I am interested in is the actual situation in the Trust Territory, which is quite specific.

60. The Administering Authority is under an obligation to ensure the political advancement of the indigenous population as expeditiously as possible, and naturally it must take action to foster that political education, come what may. The French representative says that the Administering Authority is very scrupulous and does not wish to jeopardize the democratic freedoms of the indigenous inhabitants. But if the indigenous inhabitants are not even capable of understanding what their rights are, and if no one explains to them what democratic freedoms are, what value can those freedoms have? In order to enjoy democratic

² See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Fourth Session*, 14th meeting, p. 181.

³ See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Ninth Session*, 370th meeting, para. 46.

freedoms, the indigenous inhabitant must understand what those freedoms are and how they can be enjoyed. That is the task of the Administering Authority; it must take all steps to foster the political enlightenment of the indigenous inhabitants so that they can understand their rights and freedoms.

61. We should not confuse the question of the political enlightenment of the indigenous population in general with the question of the elections, that is, with the activities of the political parties and the choice of candidates. They are two separate issues. Any interference by the Administering Authority in the free exercise of electoral rights would obviously be improper. I was speaking of something else; I was referring to the general political education of the electorate, to the need to explain to the indigenous inhabitants that they are entitled to participate in elections and to elect the candidates of their choice. This, I submit, is an entirely different problem, and I have dealt with the point at some length so that there should be no misunderstanding. The question of the political education of the indigenous population, for example, in regard to the interpretation of the electoral law and the manner of conducting elections, must not be confused with the question of the elections themselves.

62. I think my question is now clearer. Perhaps the special representative or the representative of France would care to add something to what they said just now.

63. Mr. PIGNON (France): If it is simply a question of informing the indigenous inhabitants of the elementary rights which they enjoy in the matter of voting, I agree with the Soviet Union representative. But this is being done, as the special representative explained when he enumerated the various steps we have taken for that purpose. What I alluded to were courses of political training which would go beyond the elementary points of civics which are taught in all schools. With regard to informing the indigenous inhabitants of their electoral rights and of how they can avail themselves of those rights, under the law, I agree with the Soviet Union representative, if he confines his demands to that. I agree with him that that should be done and it is being done.

64. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): We have at least cleared this issue up. There is just one point which remains obscure. The special representative says that this political education is being given in the schools. I am interested in the new electoral legislation. No matter how much education the Administration may give to the children in the schools, they are not yet entitled to vote. Consequently, if the present voters received their political education five or ten years ago, they are not well versed in the new electoral law. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority has taken any measures to ensure the political education of the indigenous population; whether it explained the new electoral law and the rights and duties of voters to them between the time the new law was promulgated and the elections took place.

65. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I fail to understand the insistence of the representative of the Soviet Union. I think we have answered the question. Nevertheless, I am quite ready to repeat what I said

just now. The Administration is in constant and permanent touch with the indigenous chiefs, who act as the intermediaries between the Administration and the population. The Administration keeps the chiefs informed of the elections that are to take place and of the provisions of the electoral law. It is then up to the chiefs to inform the people they administer.

66. During their electoral campaigns in the villages, even the European heads of districts, assemble the villagers together and explain the voting procedure, so that everybody is fully informed. There is, moreover, one very simple fact. I said just now that, at the beginning of 1951, 110,000 Cameroonians were registered on the electoral lists. In June 1951, in the elections to the French National Assembly, the number of electors rose to 532,000; we had only a very short time — ten days — in which to revise the electoral lists. Despite this short time, 280,000 Cameroonians were in a position to express their opinions spontaneously by placing their votes in the ballot box. This indicates a widespread knowledge of the functioning of the electoral machinery among the population.

67. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The second part of this statement confirms the views held by the USSR delegation, namely, that the lists of voters who are to participate in the elections to the legislative, judicial and executive organs in the Territory must be extended. It seems that everything took place very rapidly in the Cameroons under French administration. A law was adopted and ten days later the elections began, if I understand Mr. Watier's last remark correctly. In ten days, however, it is quite conceivable that the new electors were unaware of their new rights. The special representative says that the Administration increased the number of registered voters to 532,000 and that only about half of them took part in the elections. According to him, this was due to the fact that the indigenous inhabitants were not prepared to take part in elections. This is a point on which I do not agree with him, and that is why I am trying to find out whether the indigenous inhabitants knew that they were entitled to vote, whether they knew the conditions under which they could do so, and whether they were fully aware of their rights. I feel that the Administering Authority failed to pave the way sufficiently, since the indigenous inhabitants were apparently unaware of their rights and duties under the new electoral law. This is the point I was trying to bring out.

68. The special representative says that the task of explaining the new electoral legislation was left to the chiefs. I should like to know how the chiefs proceeded to do this. Did the Administration check whether they were explaining the new electoral legislation correctly? Did any chiefs violate the electoral provisions and was the Administering Authority informed of any such incidents?

69. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The representative of the USSR has chosen to aver that the haste displayed by the French Administration resulted in a number of voters not being aware of their rights and that this was the cause of so many abstentions in the elections in June 1951. That is not the case, however; since then, there have been further elections, to the

Territorial Assembly. The electorate was the same and the number of abstentions was approximately the same. A year had elapsed, however, between the two elections and all the registered voters had had ample opportunity to learn about their electoral rights from those who had voted in the first election. There was no need for any detailed explanations by the heads of districts, since 290,000 voters had already taken part in the elections in a satisfactory manner. Their previous experience made them experts on electoral procedure and there was no need for the Administration to take any special action.

70. The representative of the Soviet Union wants to know how we ascertained that the chiefs were explaining things properly. That is simple: one need only judge from the results. When one considers that 280,000 Cameroonians, who had never before seen a ballot paper, knew how to use it correctly, that there were very few errors, and that everybody voted for the candidate of his choice—these things can easily be checked in every polling booth—one is entitled to conclude that the political education was sufficient and that the chiefs did their jobs properly.

71. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The special representative's last answer makes it quite clear that the population must be educated. The special representative said that the elections which took place a year later resulted in the same number of abstentions; that percentage is too high; the Cameroonians did not vote because they did not know their rights and obligations or how they could perform their duty as citizens. I therefore repeat that the Administering Authority should take more energetic steps to give the indigenous inhabitants a political education; it should do more itself and should not entrust everything to the chiefs without checking their activities.

72. My next question refers to page 34 of the report, which speaks about the right of the central power to annul the assembly's decisions. It is stated there that, in all other matters submitted to the decision of the assembly, only one decision was annulled. I should like to know in what cases and what circumstances decisions of the assembly have been annulled. If the special representative is unable to reply today, I should like to receive this information tomorrow.

73. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): This information is not in my possession at the moment. I shall be pleased to supply it as soon as possible.

74. With regard to the Soviet Union representative's remarks about the large number of abstentions in the Cameroons, for which he is obviously trying to make the Administering Authority responsible, my answer is that if 42 per cent of the electors did not vote, that indicates that the people are not yet interested in elections. We have no intention of driving them to the polls. We are introducing democratic reforms, precisely because we believe in free elections. When the people themselves feel the need to vote, they will do so. I have always been surprised that certain countries have been able to achieve 95 or even 97 per cent participation in elections. We shall certainly not reach that figure in a country like the Cameroons for many years to come.

75. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I can make only one remark in connexion with the special representative's last comments: it is not enough to proclaim democracy; it must be applied and exercised. That indeed is a horse of a different colour.

76. My next question relates to the information given on page 302 of the report. I should like to know how many women were on the electoral rolls for the elections of 17 June 1951 and how many women took part in the voting.

77. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I am not in a position to give exact figures of the number of women on the electoral lists. It would be very useful to have that information, and we have tried as far as possible to obtain some approximate figures. In some districts a count of the women was made according to the way the names sounded, since there was no other way of doing it—and it was found that in the southern districts the percentage of women was as high as 40 per cent. It is impossible to generalize, however, and that figure cannot be considered valid for the whole Territory. On the contrary, in the northern areas even the mothers of two children, who ought to be on the rolls, did not always register because the Islamic peoples are opposed to women voting and are reluctant to allow their women to be entered on the electoral lists. In Islamic regions the active participation of women in the voting is practically nil; it is much greater in the South. I can give only this general information, as I have no accurate figures.

78. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question relates to page 35 of the report, where it is stated that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory have the same status as the inhabitants of other territories in the French Union. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends to give a special status to the inhabitants of the Cameroons which would be in keeping with the special status of the Cameroons as a Trust Territory.

79. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I do not think there is any need to give them a special status, since they have it already. Contrary to what the representative of the USSR thinks, the Cameroonians have not been assimilated to the French citizens of French Equatorial Africa or French West Africa. The Cameroonians are not French citizens. They are *administrés sous tutelle française*, i.e., persons administered under French trusteeship; that is their status. They have not the status of French citizens and I see no need, therefore, to give them a special status, since they already have one.

80. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Perhaps I did not quite understand the paragraph on page 35, which states that the Cameroonians are *administrés sous tutelle française* and that they are citizens of the French Union, which ensures them enjoyment of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the preamble of the Constitution. There is no reference here to any special rights in keeping with their special status as inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The special representative states that they have

some special rights in that capacity. If that is so, I should like to know what those rights are.

81. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I spoke of a special status, not of special rights, but it so happens that the special status of the Cameroonians entails special rights. Over and above the rights given to all French citizens by the preamble of the French Constitution, the Cameroonians enjoy the privilege of not being subject to conscription; they are not obliged to do military service. That is a privilege directly derived from their special status as *administrés sous tutelle*.

82. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The special representative has in mind the status determined by the Trusteeship Agreement. Hence, in establishing the status of the inhabitants of the Cameroons, the Administration assumes that that status is determined by the Trusteeship Agreement. The French Government, however, has not adopted any special legislation on the matter, has it?

83. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is quite correct to state that the status of the Cameroonians is determined by the Trusteeship Agreement, which is their constitutional charter. There is no French law determining a special status for the Cameroonians.

84. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In that case, the next annual report should set out that situation more clearly.

85. My next question is, how many indigenous magistrates are there in the Trust Territory?

86. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): There are as many indigenous magistrates as there are indigenous civil courts, since these courts usually consist of an indigenous magistrate and two indigenous assessors. I do not know the exact number of these customary courts, but it would be easy to ascertain. Criminal justice, on the other hand, is entirely handled by European magistrates, except that in most of the courts the assessors may be, and often are, Africans.

87. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): There are therefore no indigenous magistrates except in the indigenous courts. There are, however, a number of indigenous assessors. I should like to find out exactly how many indigenous assessors there are in courts where the magistrates are Europeans.

88. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Few criminal courts have assessors. Most of these courts are magistrates' courts, conducted by a single magistrate. There are, however, three courts of first instance and one court of appeals, each with two indigenous assessors. There are consequently about ten Africans who act as assessors. The reason why there are not more indigenous magistrates in the criminal courts is that the French Penal Code and court procedure is applied and the magistrates must have a thorough knowledge of law. As in France, the qualifications are very high—one must have at least a law degree in order to be a magistrate—and when the Cameroonians have these qualifications they, rather than Europeans, will serve as magistrates.

89. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question refers to page 56. I should like to know how many indigenous inhabitants were appointed to responsible posts in the central Administration, in 1951.

90. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The answer to that question may be found on page 56, which reads:

"In 1951, a new post of assistant to the head of a subdivision was entrusted to an African, in addition to the posts originally occupied by indigenous inhabitants. The post of special agent has been given to Africans to an increasing extent, and an experiment is now being conducted under which three posts usually held by senior officials have been given to three officials of lower rank.

"With regard to indigenous jurisdiction, it should be noted that the civil courts in the two major centres (Yaoundé and Douala) are presided over by Africans selected from officials of the civil and financial services.

"In the central administration, the following posts are now held by Africans..." A list of the responsible posts held by Africans follows.

91. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): That does not answer my question; perhaps the special representative misunderstood me or perhaps I did not phrase it clearly enough. I asked how many indigenous inhabitants had been appointed to responsible posts in the central administration during 1951.

92. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I repeat, the answer is to be found on page 56 of the report, where we find the following:

"Recently, the important post of head of the agricultural region of Bamiléké was given to an African, who replaced a European engineer attached to the overseas agricultural services.

"Moreover, several heads of agricultural posts have been appointed, with authority to deal with various offences against the agricultural regulations of the Territory.

"In the meteorological service, an African has provisionally been appointed head of an African sector dealing with several districts; he replaces an engineer from the meteorological services. The appointment was in the nature of an experiment."

93. In the judicial field, there are two new magistrates. That makes a total of five indigenous inhabitants who have been named to responsible posts, in addition to several heads of agricultural posts.

94. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I should like to ask the special representative whether all the appointments mentioned in this paragraph were made in 1951.

95. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Yes, that is true with regard to the meteorological service and the heads of the agricultural posts. It does not apply to the three posts mentioned under the headings: Secretariat of the Cabinet, Department of Personnel; Depart-

ment of Political Affairs and Department of Finance. Those already had indigenous heads of bureaux, and this paragraph is merely a recapitulation. The other references apply to appointments that were made in 1951.

96. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The matter is quite clear now, but what the special representative has just said does not appear in the report; that is why I asked the question.

97. My next question refers to the same page. How many indigenous inhabitants of the Territory are at present heads or deputy heads of regions or subdivisions?

98. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): At present there are no African heads of regions or subdivisions. There are a number of indigenous assistants to the heads of subdivisions, but there are not yet enough Africans with sufficient administrative training to be heads of regions or of subdivisions.

99. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): How many indigenous inhabitants are there in senior posts?

100. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I do not quite understand the question. The senior posts of what category? There are senior officials among the indigenous inhabitants and naturally those with the longest service occupy high posts. Is that what the Soviet Union representative wants to know?

101. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I shall explain my question. On page 56, at the bottom of the left-hand column, it is stated that more and more special posts are being entrusted to Africans and that an experiment is now being carried out which has enabled the Administration to entrust posts ordinarily held by senior officials to three junior officials. When I speak of senior posts, I mean the grade mentioned in this paragraph. I should like to know how many indigenous inhabitants have such senior posts.

102. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): That is precisely what I was speaking about earlier. These senior grades refer to senior African officials in the ordinary branches of the administration. The point here is that jobs previously set aside for them have now been given to less qualified Africans. I do not remember the exact number of Africans in the senior grade, but about 15 per cent of the total civil service can be regarded as being in the senior grade. It would be easy to give the Soviet Union representative the exact number of Africans in the senior grade.

103. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question also refers to page 56. I should like to know what officials were given fellowships or scholarships for further training in metropolitan France.

104. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I think this information is to be found somewhere in the education section of the report. In any case, sixty-seven officials were sent to France for further training in 1951.

105. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): At the bottom of the right hand column on page 56 of the report, it is stated that scholarships were given to a number of officials for further training in metropolitan France. How many of these were indigenous inhabitants, and what sort of posts will they receive when they return to the Trust Territory?

106. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The officials who were sent for further training are all indigenous. As to the posts to which they will be appointed, that will depend on the work they do during their courses in France. If they succeed in passing competitive examinations which give them higher qualifications, then, of course, when they come back, they will receive posts in keeping with those higher qualifications. In any event, when they get back, they will certainly hold higher posts than they held before they went to France, because the whole idea of these training courses is to enable those who take them to return to the Territory with higher qualifications.

107. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have several questions on the political parties that have not, I think, already been asked. First of all, as I understand it, there are about six principal political parties and several smaller parties of a more regional character. Are these six generally national or territorial in character, or are they also — or most of them — regional in character?

108. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The only party which is more or less national in character is the UPC, the Union des populations du Cameroun, which is affiliated to the RDA, Rassemblement démocratique africain, which was a communist movement with branches throughout French Africa. It has now repudiated its communist links, whereas the UPC has kept them. So the UPC is the only party that has outside links of any importance and which is represented in every region in the Territory. There are UPC members — in small numbers — throughout the Territory.

109. The other parties are basically Cameroonian, and most of them are centred in the area near the coast and in the southern part of the Territory. The Evolution sociale camerounaise operates between Douala, Edéa, Ebolowa and Yaoundé, in the area where economic development is most advanced. This is also true of most of the parties, whose activities are conducted almost exclusively within a radius of about 112 miles of Douala.

110. Other parties are more specifically regional, or even tribal; the Kumsze Party, for example, is composed of the Bamiléké people, the Ngondo is a party of the Douala people and the Solibabi Party advocates the development of the Babambi area — it is thus entirely local in character. The Union tribale N'Tem-Kribi is also an entirely local party.

111. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): In that connexion, could we have a little more information as to the relative strengths of these parties? I think, from the answer that you have already given, that there is an indication that one of the parties particularly is much stronger than all the others. But could we have some information on the relative strength of the two or three principal parties?

112. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I said that the UPC was the most national in character, since it is represented throughout the Territory. But that does not mean that it is stronger than the other parties. As I said just now, it does not have very many supporters. The last elections, which clearly indicated the real support on which this party could count, revealed that only 6,000 voters voted for it; out of 283,000 votes, that is less than 2 per cent.

113. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): How many of these five or six parties are represented in the Representative Assembly?

114. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The peculiar thing is that, in the Cameroons, elections have never been on a party basis. The people have voted for candidates on their personal merits. Even the last elections for the Territorial Assembly were based on persons and not on ideas or parties, with the exception of the UPC, which presented its candidates on a UPC platform. However, none of these candidates were elected and there are no party representatives as such in the Territorial Assembly; the members are regional representatives, and very often tribal or racial representatives, but not party representatives.

115. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I now have a question with respect to the reflection on the various parties of the Territory of the parties in France. I notice that the CGT [*Confédération générale du travail*], for example, is influential with one of the parties in the Cameroons. But are other French political parties reflected in the political parties of the Territory?

116. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): If I may, I should like to correct what the United States representative has just said about the CGT. The CGT is a confederation of trade unions. It is not, strictly speaking, a political party. Of course, as a trade union, it is engaged in some political activity; but it is not a political party.

117. The French political parties are represented in the Territory mostly among the European immigrants. Some of the indigenous inhabitants are also becoming acquainted with the party organization, for example, the UPC is informing them of the activities of the Communist Party, and, through the CGT—*Force ouvrière*, which is linked in a general way to the Socialist Party, some of the indigenous inhabitants are becoming aware of the Socialist Party.

118. A number of the deputies from the Territory are affiliated to political parties, and these parties thus become known in the Territory. Nevertheless, it is still a fact that political life is not dominated by parties or party platforms. We are still at the stage where it is the personality of the candidate which counts, and the people have not yet arrived at the concept of a party or party principles.

119. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): Several Cameroonians were elected to the French Assembly. What identification with the French political parties do they assume? Or are they independent?

120. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): There is no definite rule. Some of them have become affiliated with political parties, according to their personal preferences. Others, who are not members of metropolitan political parties, are members of the so-called Party of Overseas Independence; thus they again constitute a party, even though it consists of African representatives. Their relations with French political life are very close. They all take part in the political party life of the National Assembly, and their votes are usually influenced by the parties with which they are affiliated.

121. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I take it that any group in the Territory which wishes to form a party is entirely free to organize such a party? The Administration places no obstacles in the way of any group forming a political party?

122. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): That is quite correct. No formalities whatsoever have to be complied with in order to set up a political party. The Administration has tried to encourage the formation of parties in order to develop the political consciousness of Cameroonian youth. We do meet with some difficulties, such as the indifference of the young Cameroonians, who do not want to make the necessary effort to run a party newspaper. It is difficult for a party to have an active political life if it has no newspaper in which to express its views. For the time being, there is no party newspaper in the Cameroons.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

123. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): In his opening statement [*446th meeting*], the special representative referred to the excess of imports over exports and expressed the view that this indicated the increasing development of the country. I presume that much of the excess of imports is really due to capital investment by the Government, as well as by private enterprise? I should like to know whether that is correct.

124. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is true that the excess of imports is due to the substantial capital investments which are being made in the country. On the one hand there are the investments made under the ten-year plan for installing improved equipment; on the other hand, there are the numerous private capital investments whereby many private companies have been able to establish themselves in the Territory.

125. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I should like to ask whether a separate account is kept of the value of government imports as distinct from commercial and other imports.

126. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Imports arranged through the government are listed as a separate item, since they are exempt from import duties if they are addressed to the government.

127. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): In such cases where the imports exceed the exports by such an extent, I am wondering whether it would not make

the position more clear if the statistics showed these government imports as a value separate from the others.

128. I am quite sure the Administering Authority is alive to the danger of allowing the increase of export crops to reduce the production of food, and I should like to know whether any plan is in existence for the storage of food or for the moving of food from one area to another in the case of a famine occurring in any particular district.

129. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): To the best of my knowledge, no difficulties with regard to food arose in 1951 which might have obliged the Administration to prohibit exports. But this could happen, and has happened in the past, in the northern districts especially, as the result of bad harvests. In such cases, the Administration prohibits the export of foodstuffs.

130. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): Are there any signs of the swollen shoot disease among the cocoa trees in the Cameroons?

131. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): There is a disease in the Cameroons which we call brown rot. It is not the same as the swollen shoot disease which affects the plantations in the Gold Coast. There is hardly any swollen shoot disease in the Cameroons.

132. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I have noted with interest and gratification the increase in the road mileage in the Territory. I should like to know whether the indigenous inhabitants are using these roads by bringing their crops to market by motor vehicles.

133. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is true that the increase in the road mileage and the improvement of existing roads has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of motor vehicles and in the motor transport of merchandise. In one year the number of automobiles has increased from 6,500 to 8,850. The number of lorries has increased from 3,000 to 4,665. Most of these lorries were bought by indigenous *entrepreneurs*, who carry out the transport themselves and apply for transport licences. They transport both persons and merchandise. Thus the spectacle of native goods being transported by lorry is becoming increasingly frequent, and it is increasingly unusual to see indigenous inhabitants carrying such goods on their heads.

134. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): Following the question asked by the representative of the United Kingdom about the excess of imports over exports, I should like to put this to the special representative. I agree with him that no doubt it is a healthy sign that such a state of affairs is the case today, inasmuch as the imports are, to such a large extent, for the development of the area. Can the special representative tell me how long he contemplates this continuing? It cannot continue indefinitely, as we all know, and one remedy for the situation would be the increase of production which, of course, will result, as a matter of fact, from this importation of capital equipment, but has the Administering Authority any idea as to how

long it is prepared to allow this state of affairs to continue?

135. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): In my statement this morning [446th meeting], I indicated that we expected the excess of imports over exports to continue for a number of years. There are several reasons for that.

136. In the first place, the basic equipment of the Territory under the ten-year plan has not yet been completed. It has four more years to run and we shall, therefore, still need substantial imports for carrying out this work.

137. Then, as I have already said, the setting up of power facilities in the Territory will bring about industrialization, which will probably be varied and extensive; that will bring into the Territory the building materials and consumer goods essential for the establishment and mechanical equipment of factories.

138. Nevertheless, this excess of imports should not be regarded as a cause for anxiety, now, at any rate, because, as I have already explained, these imports are to a great extent financed by the metropolitan Power and do not represent a burden on the Territory. They are intrinsically profitable, or at least will be so in the near future if not immediately, since they form part of the equipment of the Territory and will sooner or later promote production.

139. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): That appears to me to be a valuable answer and I should like to ask a further question which arises from it. The idea that there should be industrialization as the result of hydro-electrical work is obviously admirable. Can the special representative give me any further information as to the kind of industrialization he contemplates? He has mentioned factories, and of course the introduction of industrialization will mean the acquisition of techniques by the indigenous inhabitants. This is not, however, the kind of thing that can be introduced overnight, and I am wondering how the Administration is preparing for industrialization, particularly in the way of training the indigenous inhabitants for it.

140. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is true that the establishment of a large supply of available hydro-electric power should in itself encourage the setting up of factories. Their nature will be determined above all by the raw materials available on the spot. Detailed studies are being conducted now for setting up factories to process the timber of the Cameroonian forests into paper pulp. That can be carried out only with large reserves of electrical power. Plans have also been made for industries such as the production of ammonia from easily obtainable raw materials; the results should be interesting.

141. As regards the training of manpower to meet the special needs of such industrialization, it is rather difficult to take general measures when it is not known exactly how the manpower is to be employed. I think that, for the time being, we should confine ourselves to the general problem of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship, in order to accustom young Cameroonian to handling modern tools and machines. At the present stage, it would be difficult to develop the

technical training of Cameroonian workers any further.

142. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): It appears to my delegation that, despite increased trade and increased prices of imports and exports, the increase of the fiduciary issue is not very great and that inflation has been kept in check. Would the special representative care to comment on this? I would refer him to page 71 of the report.

143. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is true that it has been possible, to a certain degree, to spread out the increase in wholesale prices of basic products in the Cameroons in such a way as not to disturb the economy too greatly. It is significant that, whereas the general increase of basic products was 30 per cent in 1951, the increase in retail prices in the Cameroons did not exceed 14 per cent. The main reason for this is the improvement in the Territory's food supply, which makes it possible to build up considerable reserves; another reason is free competition, which has resulted in a substantial reduction of the margin of profits and in a fall in prices. Generally speaking, the country has not been unduly affected by the world increase in the prices of basic and manufactured products.

144. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): That seems to be a very fortunate position, because it is not true of all areas depending upon the proceeds of primary products for their economies. I heard the special representative refer to the creation of reserves, and that brings me to the question of the prices paid for, say, the principal export crop of cocoa. Is any reserve created there? Is the full export price paid out to the producers or is a reserve fund established by way of taxation or by way of the retention of an excess over a guaranteed price?

145. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): There is a special fund derived from an export duty levied on the sale price of cocoa. It is called the "Fonds de soutien du cacao" [*Fund for the support of cocoa production*], and its purpose is to facilitate the cultivation of that commodity in the Territory. The proceeds are returned, not to individual producers, but to the producing regions. The money is used to improve roads, to build bridges and markets, and generally to make the markets more accessible to producers. In fact, all the measures that can be taken to improve the production and transport of cocoa are financed from this fund.

146. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): During our consideration of these Territories we have heard something of the use of mechanical implements in agriculture and something also about the need for care in their use because of the thinness of the top soil—in Togoland under French administration, for instance. Can the special representative tell me whether the type of implement pictured on page 77 of the report is in wide use, and whether there has been any danger to the soil as a result?

147. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): As far as the thickness of the top soil is concerned, the Cameroons is in the same position as nearly all the African

countries: the top soil is rather thin and it is inadvisable to plough it to too great a depth, except in the "black soil" areas of Nkongsamba in the west of the Cameroons, where the top soil is thick and there are a good many feet of good arable soil. In other areas, however, superficial methods of cultivation have to be used; it is therefore inadvisable to use rotary disc ploughs in the areas where the top soil is thin; in such areas disc ploughs, which break the soil but do not turn it over, should be used.

148. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): And I take it that the use of these agricultural instruments is spreading. My next question deals with forest classification. I have observed from reading the report [page 89] that there has been some strong opposition in the Representative Assembly to the policy of forest classification. There has been some criticism in the past on the part of some members here because it has been considered that the area of the present forest reserves is too small.

149. Will the special representative make some comment upon this opposition on the part of members of the assembly? Will he give us what he thinks are the reasons for it and how far the Administering Authority is breaking down the opposition?

150. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The opposition to the Administration's forest classification scheme is mainly due to a misunderstanding on the part of the indigenous inhabitants. They received the impression that the classification would deprive them of their property and especially of their traditional rights to use certain forests. This is not so; the classification of a forest does not deprive the indigenous inhabitants who wish to use it of their rights to do so; nor does it in any way determine the future regulations governing the forest; classification does not constitute alienation of the forest land.

151. I believe that the real reasons why the delegates to the Representative Assembly have set themselves up as the champions of opposition to forest classification are mainly electoral. They want to please their electors, and even when they had realized the advantages of classifying the forests, certain members of the assembly went on opposing the idea. Nevertheless, some progress has been made in this connexion: representatives are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that forest classification is advantageous and even necessary.

152. The question is still linked with the problem of land reform and will have to be decided at the government level. A bill has been submitted to the French Parliament proposing new regulations for the land-tenure system. The campaign for forest classification will be resumed on the basis of this new law.

153. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I have one more question arising out of the last answer; namely, the mention by the special representative of opposition to forest classification on the part of the indigenous inhabitants. I should like to ask him about the question of reforestation, because I noticed that in connexion with industrialization he mentioned the making of wood pulp. I take it that the Administering Authority, in using the forests for such a most useful pur-

pose, does not contemplate an active policy of reafforestation at the same time.

154. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Hitherto, the question of reafforestation has not been one of particular concern for the forestry administration, because the exploitation of the forests has always been extremely selective. Only certain species of trees have been cut, and these were widely scattered throughout the forests, so that instead of harming the forests, the cutting has actually strengthened them by leaving clearings. When paper-pulp manufacture is begun, however, the forest exploitation will be much more intensive and will affect all types of trees; in that case there will be a risk of deforestation and the problem of reafforestation will arise and will be studied by the appropriate services. The study has not yet been undertaken, because the question of setting up a wood-pulp factory is still at the planning stage. If these plans are carried out, the problem of reafforestation will arise and will be studied.

155. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I had asked permission to put a question some minutes ago when we were discussing the industrialization plan. It would have been related directly to what the representative of New Zealand had been discussing. I shall go back to it, if I may. A reply was made that as a result of this economic activity, the price level had risen 14 per cent this last year. I was wondering if there had been any movement to increase wages as a result of this rise in prices.

156. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The wage increase even preceded the price increase. There were two successive readjustments of wages in 1951. Even if no administrative measures had been taken for this purpose, wages would have increased, because there is a great demand for manpower in the Territory.

157. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): Does the Administration have anything in the nature of a price-control system which is intended at least to curb the dangers of inflation?

158. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Hitherto, there has been no need to set up an official price-control system in the Territory. Whenever some product has tended to become too expensive, particularly one which was needed for indigenous consumption, the Administration has tried, either through the agency of the provident societies or through the direct intervention of the authorities, to bring about a decrease in the price of that product. It is also possible to manipulate railway rates and transport costs. Whenever there is a shortage of any given product, the freight rate for it is lowered, in order to bring about an immediate influx of that product from the neighbouring areas. Hitherto, the Administration has exercised its influence on prices mainly by these indirect methods. There is, however, no actual service or organization which exercises direct influence on prices.

159. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I should also like to put a question as to the relative roles played by the Africans and Europeans in connexion with this very marked economic and industrial activity that is taking place in that Territory.

What I have in mind is to find out whether the investments are almost entirely non-African. If so, what role is played by the Africans, in particular in connexion with this industrial activity?

160. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): It is true that African economy is still at a stage where it is impossible for Africans to be associated directly with the development of their country and especially to take not in companies which supply equipment; that is why the Territory is, to a great extent bearing the cost of African participation. Thanks to the establishment of "mixed economy" companies, the budget of the Territory and the Territory itself play a very important part in the utilization of some of this equipment. For example, there is the electric power station at Edéa, in which the Territory is extremely interested. This also applies to factories where indigenous products are processed, such as the palm-oil factories, in which the State holds extensive interests. By the State, I mean the State and budget of the Cameroons.

161. Moreover, some Africans are beginning to understand the functioning of a capitalist economy. They are beginning to understand the benefits they can derive from the activities which are being carried on around them, and more and more African enterprises are being set up. I have in mind the example of an African who has just been elected to the Representative Assembly and is one of the great property owners of the country. He has a large fortune and managed his business in such a manner as to enrich himself considerably. Others have tried to set up forestry industries on the pattern of those owned by their European neighbours. Many of them, however, have been unable to manage complex enterprises which require large capital investments and which are complicated and difficult to direct. Most of the Cameroonians who have embarked on enterprises of this kind have failed, although they were supported by loans from the Administration. Generally speaking, however, it may be said that Africans are becoming interested in activities which were foreign to them some years ago and are playing an increasingly important part in the industrialization of their country.

162. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I should like to ask a question in connexion with the further development of coffee plantations. In the report it is stated that the production of cocoa is still far in advance of the production of coffee, but apparently coffee has been taken up very rapidly in recent years. As I recall from an earlier report, coffee cultivation was introduced by the Administering Authority some twelve or thirteen years ago. I still recall, from our visit to the Territory, the very beautiful coffee orchards, especially among the Bamiléké tribe, which seems to have a special knack for coffee cultivation. Is the trend towards increasing the acreage planted with coffee-shrubs going forward? Also, is that regarded with favour by the Administration?

163. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I think that there is one difficulty which has prevented the extensive development of the coffee plantations. As the United States representative rightly pointed out, the most suitable areas for the extension of coffee cultivation are in the Bamiléké area; in any case, that is where the

best varieties are grown, especially the type known as "arabica". It is one of the regions with the highest density of population; in some places, for instance, there are 280 inhabitants per square kilometre, which is exceptional and even dangerous. It would therefore be difficult to allow the coffee plantations to develop to excess; the Bamiléké would be doomed to starve to death on their plantations as a result of neglecting the production of food crops in favour of industrial crops. I think this is the major obstacle to the intensive development of coffee plantations.

164. Cocoa, on the other hand, is cultivated in completely different areas; in particular, it is grown in the forest belt between the coast and the Oubangui frontier, in the deepest virgin forests. Large areas are still available in that region, and a much more intense development of cocoa cultivation may be expected, especially since it is exclusively in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants and is suitable for them because it does not require the complete clearing of the forests which is necessary in the case of coffee. The development of cocoa cultivation may therefore be expected, rather than that of coffee.

165. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I should like to ask a question in connexion with soil erosion. One gets the impression from recent reports that soil erosion is still one of the very serious concerns of the Administration, and that large areas are very much subject to erosion. Have any additional steps been taken during the last year to deal with this threat to the life of the country?

166. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The question of soil conservation is one of those which are being studied most carefully by the Administration, because, as I have already pointed out, the top soil in the Territory is extremely light and thin and must be protected against erosion.

167. There are two types of serious and dangerous erosion: one is erosion by deforestation and the other is erosion by inappropriate methods of cultivation. If crops are grown on steep slopes and the plants which held the soil on those slopes are uprooted, there is a danger of erosion when the rains wash away the fertile soil and leave barren slopes. This is one of the main preoccupations of the services concerned — the forestry and agricultural services. The indigenous inhabitants must therefore be given all possible guidance to prevent this washing away of the top soil; this is done by recommending certain types of cultivation, by means of small graduated terraces along the lines of the slopes. A system of crop rotation is also recommended to the indigenous inhabitants, in order to maintain the fertility of the soil or to restore the elements that may have been removed by the crops while the soil still lay fallow. An attempt is thus made, by means of a direct approach to the farmers, to avoid the dangers of erosion and preserve the fertility of the soil.

168. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have a question on another subject: the activities of the provident societies referred to on pages 114 and 115 of the report. Would the special representative indicate the extent of the membership of these societies? Do they meet with a good deal of resistance, or are they welcomed by the indigenous inhabitants?

169. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): Provident societies have existed in the Territory for many years, since they were first introduced in 1927. At first there was some resistance to them; the indigenous inhabitants distrusted them because they regarded their contributions as a new form of taxation, since all farmers and shepherds were obliged to join and to pay dues.

170. The indigenous inhabitants have now realized the benefits to be derived from the activities of these societies and are especially aware of the fact that the funds of the societies are administered mainly by themselves; thus, the resistance which was encountered in the past no longer exists. On the other hand, free co-operative societies, without any administrative control, have seldom achieved good results, and some of them have even met with great difficulties because of the dishonesty of their administrators. That is why the indigenous inhabitants now prefer the official provident societies and continue to join them with enthusiasm.

171. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have one last question in connexion with land alienation, if Mr. Soldatov will permit me to put this question before he puts his question. What is the policy of the Administration in regard to giving forest and land concessions to non-Africans? It is not quite clear from the report whether and to what extent land has been alienated in these respects and what the practice and policy of the Government is.

172. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The 1951 report does not lay special stress on the question of land alienation, which was dealt with before, in some detail, in previous reports; moreover, no new legislative measures were taken in 1951 to modify the system of concessions.

173. No substantial concessions were granted in 1951; there were a few small rural concessions, but their total is so small that they do not deserve any special mention in the report.

174. I should like to recall that the Administration's policy is not to grant concessions until certain precautions have been taken to safeguard indigenous interests. A number of measures have been taken, such as *de commodo et incommodo* investigations and the compulsory posting of applications for concessions. When the administrative inquiry has been completed, the application for a concession is submitted to the Representative Assembly for approval, and, if the concession exceeds a certain area, it can be granted only by a decision of the French Parliament.

175. I repeat that in 1951 there were no applications for substantial concessions and I am not aware of any complaints concerning the manner in which concessions are granted in the Cameroons.

176. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): My delegation would like to refer once again to the question of the adverse trade balance. We have noted the reasons for this deficit given by the Administering Authority both in the report and in the opening statement of the special representative [446th meeting]. Could the special representative explain to us in greater detail what measures have been taken to re-establish the trade balance? How is it proposed to solve this problem, that is, to make up the deficit?

177. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): As I had occasion to explain in my opening speech, the situation would be alarming if the Territory were obliged to make up the difference between the import and export figures out of its own reserves. In fact, however, a perusal of the Territory's accounts shows that the Cameroonian economy is not disturbed by the preponderance of imports over exports. I repeat that most of the sums spent to pay for imports come from loans; 50 per cent of the loan is an outright gift from France to the Territory. In other words, the Territory is not mortgaging its future to repay the loan, and 50 per cent costs it nothing. The remaining 50 per cent is loaned at an extremely low rate of interest—2 per cent, I believe—and for a very long term. The excess of imports is therefore financed by the loan in a manner which the economy of the Territory can easily bear.

178. I also stressed the relatively temporary nature of this excess of imports. As soon as the present major expenditures on equipment are completed, imports will return to their normal rate and will certainly be easily compensated by exports.

179. I also mentioned that the Administration had drawn up a five-year plan to double the present export figures. Even if the export figures are not doubled, we should be sure to restore the balance of trade, since the imports amount to 337,000 tons, worth 16,400 million francs, and the exports amount to 236,000 tons, worth 11,000 million francs. It will be seen, then, that the relation between the tonnage and the value is still in favour of exports, and it will therefore be easy to restore the balance of trade as soon as Cameroonian production increases sufficiently, even if it does not attain the 100 per cent which the Administration has set itself.

180. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I am satisfied by the special representative's explanations, but I should like to ask him, in the light of the information he has just given the Council, to comment on the figures in the table on page 389 of the report. The difference between exports and imports is approximately 60 per cent in favour of imports, which amount to 16,500 million African francs, in round figures, as opposed to a little under 11,000 million francs for exports. Thus the imports are 80 per cent higher than they were in 1950, and the difference between imports and exports in 1951 is, as I have said, approximately 60 per cent. The table on page 386 shows that, according to my calculations, something like 24 per cent of imports relate to goods which may be regarded as equipment essential for the industrialization of the Territory (machinery, automobiles, iron and steel, fuel, cement, etc.). Should the increase in imports in 1951 be attributed to this 24 per cent? Should the deficit in the balance of trade be attributed mainly to these items?

181. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): To begin with, I should like to point out that there is a small error in the report. The total given for imports on page 389 is 413,000 tons. This includes goods in transit, which should not be represented as imports of the Cameroons. The real figure for imports is the one I gave just now, 337,000 tons, and not 413,000 tons; the value in francs, however, is the same.

182. The representative of the Dominican Republic analysed the statistics correctly when he surmised that the highest import increases relate to consumer goods and construction. I would point out that 41 million litres of motor car petrol and 6,600,000 litres of aviation petrol were consumed in 1951 and that 375 machines of various types were disembarked in the port of Douala in addition to the 2,000 new automobiles to which I have already referred. This machinery should be taken into account. I should also like to say that the consumption of cement and reinforced concrete has increased considerably. There has also been a large increase in imports of corrugated sheet iron; 7,250 tons were brought into the Territory in 1951; this amount would make it possible to provide about 173 acres of roofing. This shows the extent to which the implementation of the ten-year plan has stimulated the economy of the Territory. That is why I think the representative of the Dominican Republic is correct in interpreting the figures to mean that machinery, motor vehicles, iron and steel and all basic equipment goods constitute the major part of our imports.

183. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I am very grateful to the special representative for the information he has just given us. I shall proceed to the chapter entitled "Taxation" on page 69 of the report. There is a reference to three categories of taxpayers. Would the special representative be kind enough to describe the criteria whereby these three categories are determined?

184. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The categories of taxpayers listed on page 69 of the report are determined according to income. The first category covers the women of the Foulbé,⁴ the Bororos and the Islamized population, servants and villagers. The second category comprises all the notables and persons not covered by the other categories. The third category covers the planters and traders who are not liable to pay scheduled taxes. They correspond to the three income scales which have been drawn up for the Territory and which are obviously rather arbitrary. This distinction makes it possible to classify the taxpayers according to income and to apply a different tax rate to each taxpayer. It is a kind of rudimentary income tax. At the same time, the scheduled tax has been increased. Many Africans who were formerly liable to the head tax now pay the scheduled tax, or income tax. The scheduled tax, which is certainly more equitable than the head tax, is becoming increasingly widespread in the Cameroons.

185. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): My delegation would like to express the hope that in the future the report will contain information on the economic capacity of these various categories. If they were indeed determined solely on the basis of the sex or working conditions of the taxpayer, errors might arise. For my part, I could not have understood the position without the explanations of the special representative.

186. I shall now proceed to the section on money and credit, on page 71 of the report. This section shows that the volume of banking operations has a certain influence on the general economic activities of the

⁴ "Foulbé" is the plural of "Peul".

Territory. My delegation wishes to know what part is played by savings in these banking operations. Would the special representative kindly tell us what measures are being taken to stimulate savings in the Territory?

187. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I quite realize that specific information concerning savings in the Territory would give an idea of the part played by the African section of the population in the general credit movement. Data on the amounts of deposits in the savings fund are given among the statistics on pages 410 and 411 of the report.

188. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I shall now turn to the information given on page 73 of the report, in reply to items 111 and 112 of the Provisional Questionnaire. I should be grateful if the special representative would give us more details concerning the four paragraphs on capital investments in the Territory. My delegation would be glad if that information could be given, as far as possible, in accordance with the questions in item 112 of the questionnaire [T/1010].

189. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I am not quite sure that I understand exactly what the representative of the Dominican Republic wants to know. Just now, he asked for information concerning savings in the Territory. According to the movements of the savings funds, the annual total of deposits amounted to 53,512,000 francs in 1951, and that of withdrawals to 38,930,000 francs, thus showing an excess balance of approximately 15 million. These are the real savings in the Cameroons. Apart from these savings, there are, of course, banking accounts which vary according to the size of the enterprise concerned, and especially according to the amounts withdrawn or deposited. I cannot give any detailed figures concerning the amount of bank deposits.

190. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I thank the special representative for the information he has just provided; I shall now return to the question I asked just now. Could the special representative tell me how the four general categories, in which the capital invested in the Territory is classified on page 73, are distributed? In the first category, we find the figure of 583 million francs, representing capital invested by new companies set up in the Territory in 1951, and, in the fourth category, there is the figure of 1,950 million francs, representing advances issued by the CAIFOM [*Caisse centrale de la France d'outre-mer: Central Fund of Overseas France*] to private companies which are taking part in the implementation of the ten-year plan. Could the special representative give us some additional information? What kind of companies are involved? What is their origin? What is their nationality? What are their activities?

191. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The most substantial item under new investments is that of the CAIFOM, which amount to 1,950 million francs. The FIDES [*Fonds d'investissement et de développement économique et social: Investment and Economic and Social Development Fund*], plan is the ten-year plan which is now concerned with financing the equipment of the Cameroons, and by far the largest investments are therefore public investments.

192. As regards the new companies set up in the Territory in 1951, it is stated in the chapter of the report on industrialization that several new industries have been started. For example, breweries have been established, a textile factory has been set up and is now in operation, and there are now public transport companies and companies utilizing the port of Douala. Of course, all these companies have brought considerable sums of money into the Territory. In 1951, these investments amounted to 583 million francs.

193. The increase in the capital of the old companies is not an item which requires any special explanations, and the same applies to the transfer of companies' head offices from the metropolitan country to the Territory. Certain companies which had their head offices in France have transferred them to the Territory for economic reasons. This operation has resulted automatically in an increase of investments.

194. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I am grateful to the special representative for the information he has just given us. I would now ask him to explain the delay in the distribution of food products referred to in the third paragraph on page 74 of the report. Could he tell us what measures the Administration has taken to remedy this situation? I am asking this question because the problem may have some connexion with the stabilization of agricultural production referred to on page 77.

195. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The report states that, although there were some difficulties with regard to food supplies, this was only in the large towns, and that it was a question of distribution rather than of production. The rapid growth of the urban centres has led to the abandonment of farms in the vicinity of the towns, and it is necessary to go further to obtain products for the food markets of the larger centres. That is why it is stated in the report that the question is one of distribution rather than production. There is no shortage of foodstuffs, but sometimes it is difficult to get them to the urban markets. In particular, cities such as Douala are supplied by products transported from the North by railway and sometimes even from the British-administered Territory. This means that foodstuffs must be transported over 119 miles to supply the city of Douala.

196. With regard to the statement on page 77 of the report concerning the stabilization of agricultural production, this should be understood in the sense that, in view of the somewhat limited manpower resources of the Cameroons — the density of the population nowhere exceeding 17.6 per square mile — it is obvious that the Cameroons have now reached a level which they can hardly exceed unless they become industrialized and operate an increasingly mechanized agriculture. That is the sense in which the question of the stabilization of agricultural production is referred to. Nevertheless, this stabilization should not be regarded as absolute, since the exports of the Territory are continually increasing, are double the pre-war figures and will continue to increase.

197. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): I turn now to the question of mines. On page 93 of the annual report, the various stages in the exploitation of mines in the Territory are enumerated. I should like to know

whether any mining concessions have been granted under a scheme of organized exploitation? The report refers only to permits for prospecting or research.

198. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): I believe that, at present, research represents the most significant aspect of mining in the Territory. True, there are some gold mines in operation, but their output hitherto has been small; I believe that exports have not exceeded 750 lbs this year. There is also a rutile mine which is not operating at full speed. There is a tin mine in the Mayo-Darlé region which may have fairly extensive deposits, but they are being worked only superficially now because there is no way of getting the tin out cheaply enough to make it profitable to work the mine. A road connecting the north of the Territory with the port of Douala is under construction. It will be completed next year, and it will probably be possible at that time to expand operations at the Mayo-Darlé tin mine.

199. In general, present mining operations do not represent a significant contribution to the Territory's economy. Judging from all available indications, however, we expect that, as a result of research and prospecting permits issued, interesting discoveries will be made which will help further to stimulate the mining industry in the Cameroons.

200. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): Could the special representative tell us the criteria established under present legislation in the Territory to determine the share of profits from mining exploitation which is to accrue to the Territory?

201. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The output of the mines in the Cameroons can be sold only through the Service des mines, which stamps its mark on gold assays and also tests other metals produced in the Territory. The Service des mines is therefore always able to advise the budgetary department on the revenue it may expect to derive from mining operations.

202. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): Could the special representative give any exact figures as to the percentage of profits which accrues to the Trust Territory?

203. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): These figures should appear in the Territory's budget, but I do not have them at hand. If the Dominican representative will agree to wait for the reply, I believe I can furnish this information tomorrow.

204. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic): My delegation would be grateful if the special representative could give us some information on the four-year plan which is announced on page 186 of the annual report. Has the Administration made plans for the greater participation of the indigenous inhabitants in

the plan? How will the more backward elements of the people benefit from this scheme?

205. Mr. WATIER (Special representative for the Cameroons under French administration): The ten-year plan attempts mainly to provide for the development of basic facilities in the Territory. This programme includes the creation of transport facilities, roads, bridges, port facilities and railways, and it also provides for the development of the people of the Cameroons, who are, of course, the most important part of the Cameroonian economy. That is why the FIDES plan, which calls for large public works, includes social projects as well. Some social projects have already been carried out with the funds allocated under the plan. Large expenditures for education and public health have been made which could never have been carried out otherwise. Without the ten-year plan, the Territory would either have had to secure loans, or even give up some construction programmes, such as the secondary and vocational training school programme. The ten-year plan has enabled us to carry out this programme and thereby to help the Cameroonian people to develop.

206. The social advancement resulting from the plan is also to be noted in another way. When a territory like the Cameroons is being developed at a rapid pace, as is now the case, the people must learn to handle new tools and machines which are unfamiliar to them, and in this way they quickly develop technical skills. All the new machines imported into the Territory require men to handle and operate them, and it is absolutely amazing to see the largest and most complicated machines—imported from the United States—being operated by Cameroonians, who learn to operate them very quickly. The bulldozers used in building roads through virgin forests are being operated by indigenous inhabitants.

207. All these indirect consequences of the plan are, obviously, to the benefit of the Cameroonian people. I might add that considerable improvements have been made in the technical services under the plan with a view to accelerating the development of the economy of the Cameroons. The departments which have the most direct influence on production are those of agriculture, water, forestry and mines. They have been developed considerably under the plan, with a view to ensuring that all levels of the Cameroonian population derive some immediate advantages from the plan.

208. The PRESIDENT: Before we adjourn I have to announce that one more item should be added to the list of outstanding items on the agenda for the present session. It was not included because of an oversight. The item is: "Consideration of the report of the Committee on participation of indigenous inhabitants in the work of the Council".

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.