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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 British administration for the year 1951 (T/992 and Add.1, T/1012) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (f)]

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

POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

1. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): At the Council's last meeting on this question, the representative of China asked me to state the official designation of the inhabitants of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship, and I undertook to look up the exact wording and inform him later.

2. The status of inhabitants of the Cameroons under British Trusteeship is laid down in an Order in Council made under the British Nationality Act, 1948, which defines them as it also defines the inhabitants of all colonies and protectorates in the British Commonwealth under the terms "British protected persons". This is a term which is applied to the inhabitants of all protectorates and Trust Territories under British administration, and these are enumerated in the schedules under the Order in Council in connexion with this nationality legislation.

3. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): Perhaps I did not make myself clear. When I said legislation, I meant

legislation on electoral procedure with respect to whether or not, in these laws, the inhabitants of the Cameroons are referred to as Nigerians.

4. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Under the electoral legislation, the qualification is given as being that of a British protected person, which covers both inhabitants of Nigeria and of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons.

5. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): So the term "Nigerians", which is used to cover Cameroonians as mentioned in the annual report for the Cameroons under British administration¹ is not based on official legislation?

6. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): No, sir. That is so except that, of course, there is also a residency qualification which applies so that the voter has to be a British protected person who resides in Nigeria or the Cameroons.

7. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): What I meant was that the term "Nigerians", which is used to cover the Cameroonians, is not official; that is to say, the term "Nigerians" should not cover the Cameroonians.

8. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom): Perhaps I should make it clear, as I think has emerged from the replies of the special representative, that in no legislation, either United Kingdom or territorial, is an inhabitant of the Cameroons described as Nigerians. Where a description is required for legal purposes, he is described as a British protected person, or it may be a British subject resident in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship. The term "Nigerian" and the term "Cameroonians" have equally no legal significance in the context in which they were being investigated by the representative of China since there is no citizenship of Nigeria or of the Cameroons. It is not a description of status but of geographical origin.

¹ See Report by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the year 1951.

9. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): From the information in paragraph 87 it seems that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory have the same status as the inhabitants of the English colonies. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends to give to the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons a particular status in accordance with the status of the Cameroons as a Trust Territory.

10. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I know of no intention to differentiate between the status of persons in the Trust Territory and that of other persons under British administration.

11. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question deals with table 5 of the statistical appendix. I should like to know whether there are any Cameroonians in the Senior Service of the Administration at the present time.

12. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I know of two Cameroonians in the Senior Service of the Administration at the present time and one in the Senior Service of the Cameroons Development Corporation.

13. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I am not quite clear as to why the information under the heading "Development Officer" at the beginning of table 5, does not include the particular officer who was listed back in 1950.

14. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): This is a comparison between the table for 1951 and that for 1950. If I am being asked to say why there is now one African Development Officer where in 1950 there were two, the reason is simply that one African Development Officer has been transferred to another part of the country during the year.

15. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): From this table, it can be seen that there are no indigenous inhabitants in the Senior Service of the Administration who are residents of the Trust Territory. I would ask the special representative to specify for us whether the remaining indigenous inhabitant in the Senior Service is an inhabitant of the Trust Territory or of some other part of Africa.

16. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Of the two inhabitants of the Trust Territory who are members of the Senior Service, one of them is employed inside the Trust Territory and the other is employed at the Eastern Regional Headquarters in Enugu; and the Trust Territory inhabitant who holds the post of a senior servant in the Cameroons Development Corporation is, of course, employed inside the Trust Territory.

17. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I would ask the special representative to explain the data contained at the beginning of table 5. Under the headings "Development Officer" and "Natives of Trust Territory", there is no indication whether there is a dash under the column. I have concluded from that that the two people mentioned here are not inhabitants of the Trust Territory. On the

basis of what you have just told us, it seems that one of them is an inhabitant of the Trust Territory. I ask whether there is any information in one direction or another to clarify this particular point.

18. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The answer to that is that there is no inhabitant of the Trust Territory who is a development officer. The inhabitant of the Trust Territory who is a Senior Service officer employed in the Trust Territory happens to be an education officer and not a development officer, and would thus appear in a different part of the table.

19. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I would like to know where in the report I can find that information because it is not contained in table 5 under the heading of "Education". For some reason there is no information at all under the heading "Education".

20. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): That is correct. The detailed information as to the education staff in the Territory was received just after this report had been typed. The full details will appear in the printed version; however, I have with me the information which is going to be inserted in the printed version of the report and am in a position to give a short summary of what it says. It enumerates under the Senior Service eight officers, six of whom are male and two female. One of the male officers is an African who is a native of the Trust Territory. It then gives the details of a number of Junior Service employees, all of whom are African and most of whom are natives of the Trust Territory. If the representative of the Soviet Union will bear with me for a moment, I will give him the totals of those figures. The table enumerates seventy-seven Junior Service officers, all Africans, and of these, forty-four are inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

21. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I think it would be good thing if the members of the Council could have that table made available to them, if possible. At the moment I am interested in the Senior Service of the Administration. As I understood the special representative, he said that there is one indigenous inhabitant who is in the Senior Service of the Education Department. In that connexion, I have the following question: what steps are being taken by the Administering Authority to prepare the indigenous inhabitants to occupy responsible posts in the Administration, and I have in mind here primarily the Senior Service?

22. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Before answering the present question, I should like to say that the United Kingdom delegation will be happy to circulate the missing part of this table referring to the employees of the Education Department, and we will see that a fresh document is put before members of the Council containing this new information which will be inserted in the printed copy of the report.

23. With regard to the steps which the Administration is taking to prepare the inhabitants of the Trust Territory for holding posts in the Senior Service of the Administration, as the Soviet Union representative of course knows from his study of the appropriate sections

of the annual report, the most energetic steps have already been taken to confer upon as many of the inhabitants of this Territory as we can find with suitable capacities, scholarships for higher education, and the Trust Territory occupies in this respect a position of unusual privilege in Nigeria and the Cameroons. It not only has opened to its people all the scholarship schemes offered by the Nigerian Government, but it also has opened to it additional scholarship schemes conferred upon it by the Cameroons Development Corporation and also by expenditures out of profits of that Corporation. As a result of these measures, I believe that thirty-one Trust Territory inhabitants, mainly men and sometimes young women, are now undergoing courses of instruction at universities and other centres of higher education. I have no doubt that when some of these people have finished their courses they will wish to enter the Senior Civil Service, although of course very many of them will wish to exercise professions outside the Civil Service or take posts under the Cameroons Development Corporation.

24. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I have no further questions on this section.

25. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): In paragraph 130 the competence of the various native courts is taken up, and with regard to matrimonial questions we are told that the native courts are competent except in cases of Christian marriages. What is the competent jurisdiction for such cases of Christian marriages?

26. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The competent authorities for those cases are the Supreme and Protectorate Courts which administer English and Nigerian law.

27. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): What is the composition of the grade A native courts?

28. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The grade A native courts are generally staffed by an expert Alcali of the Moslem legal profession.

29. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): If I understand the position correctly, the court has only one member?

30. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I think that the composition of these courts varies from place to place, but the usual form is that the court consists of a small bench of Mohammedan judges, and I think it is never a single person.

31. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): To enter the practical field, may I know the composition of a court called upon to examine a matter in which the death penalty may be imposed?

32. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The only native courts which are able to consider these cases are grade A courts which would consist of a small group of Mohammedan Alcali.

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

33. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic): My delegation would like to refer to paragraph 209 of the Administering Authority's report. In this paragraph we read that the purchase price of the lands leased to the Cameroons Development Corporation was approxi-

mately £850,000. Would the special representative be kind enough to tell us whether the operation involved the purchase of lands or merely the renting of lands?

34. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It was, in fact, a question of the purchase of lands. The lands in question had been expropriated a considerable time ago—about fifty years ago or more—and they had later come into the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property, since their owners were enemy aliens during the Second World War. At the end of the war, the Governor of Nigeria purchased these lands from the Custodian of Enemy Property with the purpose in mind of putting them under the operation of this public corporation, the Cameroons Development Corporation, in order that they might be used and developed for the exclusive benefit of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

35. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic): My delegation would like to put a question to the special representative regarding paragraph 267 of the report. Our attention is drawn in this paragraph to the statement that the new calculation is based on figures of revenue and expenditure in 1949-1950 and that they were received from certain private firms and government departments. We would like the special representative to tell us whether the figures mentioned as calculated anew are adjusted results and exact figures for the fiscal year 1949-1950. We would also like to ask him why the figures of expenditure and revenue come from private firms as we cannot understand why such work should be carried out by private firms.

36. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I agree that this paragraph is a little obscure. The explanation is that private firms are concerned really not with expenditure but only with revenue. The point is this: that the larger part of the revenue attributable to the Trust Territory is derived from the company tax paid by the Cameroons Development Corporation and by other large private trading organizations which are operating in the Territory. In order to decide what amount of company tax has been received in a given year from the private firms operating there, we are obliged to get the firms themselves to make as close an estimate as they can as to what proportion of the total income tax they pay is based on income that has in fact been derived from their operations in the Trust Territory.

37. The position is that a firm which operates all over the west coast of Africa pays to the Nigerian Commissioner of Income Tax a tax based upon its profits derived in Nigeria and the Cameroons. We then have to arrive at our calculation as to how much of the total sum paid by this firm was derived from its operations inside the Trust Territory. I am glad to say that the firms in question are extremely co-operative in this matter and that they do make a close calculation in order to furnish us with this information, so that we can pass it on to the Trusteeship Council. But, of course, getting the accurate figures is a matter which takes a good deal of time because it depends upon all the figures of the firm's operations passing through and being brought to account. What generally happens is that we have to insert in our annual report, to begin

with, an estimated figure, and then about a year later we are able to arrive at a figure which is very closely calculated. It is for that reason that this correction has been made in those figures for revenue. The situation is somewhat similar in the case of our expenditure figures which, of course, concern the Government entirely and have nothing to do with the operation of firms.

38. Again, in this connexion, when we first publish our annual report, we have to rely upon figures which have been estimated by the heads of departments and the Accountant-General, and it is only some time later that we have all the accounts cleared through the Nigerian Treasury and are able to arrive at a really accurate picture of the exact payments and receipts. It is for that reason that we find these corrections being made very often with regard to the finances of the Trust Territory.

39. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic): I wish to thank the special representative for this very clear piece of information he has given us. We would now like to comment upon paragraph 278 of the report which states that each region has its own budget with the exception of items such as railways, posts and telegraphs, income tax and audit and certain administrative expenditure of all departments which are still carried on the estimates of Nigeria.

40. With regard to this, I should like to ask the special representative whether the Administering Authority contemplates granting the Territory a greater degree of financial autonomy or independence in the future.

41. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): On that question, I think I should say that a certain degree of financial autonomy has in fact been conferred upon the Trust Territory simply as a result of our having, over a course of years, made these calculations, which we place before the Trusteeship Council, of the exact fiscal position of the Territory. But it is not intended that we should endeavour to give the Trust Territory a budget of its own. It would only be possible to produce what could properly be described as a budget for the Trust Territory if the Trust Territory had its own services entirely, instead of as at present having the benefit of sharing the services of Nigeria, and if it had a customs barrier round it, instead of as at present being within the customs framework of Nigeria. It would, therefore, be impossible to provide the Trust Territory with a separate budget, but the information regarding the calculated fiscal position of the Trust Territory is set out in the report and is available to the Trust Territory representatives in the various organs of the Constitution and is, therefore, open to discussion and representation by them. Of course, there is consultation between the peoples' representatives and officers of the Administration regarding the financial position and prospects of the Territory.

42. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic): We should like to tell the special representative that paragraph 340 of the report impressed us very considerably. This paragraph, which describes population pressures, refers to the Bakweri area and points out that the Bakweri problem is very much more than a problem connected with the scarcity of land—it is a

social problem which involves the regeneration of a people. Although reference to this problem has been made at other sessions of the Trusteeship Council, we should like to ask the special representative whether it has decreased in importance recently.

43. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I would not say that this problem has been diminishing in importance, except in so far as I think the Administration and the Trusteeship Council are now fully agreed upon what the measures should be for dealing with the problem. I am afraid that it is taking a considerable time to get the people concerned into the right frame of mind to carry out the steps which we envisage for their rehabilitation. As I think I mentioned in the opening remarks I made to the Council [443rd meeting], there have been encouraging signs during the last few months that new elements are becoming active among the Bakweri people who are responsive to the publicity which this Council and the Administration have been putting in front of them on this matter. I expect that during the next year some more headway will be made with regard to the steps towards rehabilitation, upon which we are now all agreed. I am quite certain that this will be a long-term matter. I do not expect that complete success can be achieved in a short time, or even in a few years.

44. The problem really comes down to educating the Bakweri people in the best use of land and the resources that they would gain from the land if they used it well and then to provide the Bakweri people with more and abundant land which they could exploit in the best manner. The development which I have been watching in the last few months has consisted of the rise to prominence of a co-operative society of Bakweri farmers, known as the Bakweri Farmers Union. There were about seventy members of this Union when I was last in the Territory, all of them being farmers of some substance among the Bakweri. Their first desire was to sell bananas, which they are able to produce in their farms, to the Cameroons Development Corporation. This sale of bananas has been arranged for them and from it I think they are going to accumulate financial resources which will enable them to branch out into other kinds of agriculture, which they are already quite anxious to do. We shall be ready to give them all the technical advice, assistance and supervision that they require to make a success of it.

45. A point that might be of interest to the Trusteeship Council which I should like to mention about this Union is that, of course, the first thing we had to do when we were negotiating the contract between the Union and the Cameroons Development Corporation for the purchase of the banana production which we could expect from these farmers, was to make a fairly close survey of the farms which they possessed to see what quantities of bananas we could expect to have in order to make shipping arrangements for them over the next few months. The interesting point was that in making this survey we found that there was available to these farmers a really very large area of land which they have not begun to exploit at all. It appears to me that it will probably be some time before we have taught the Bakweri people how to make the best use of the land which they already occupy and we get them to

the point of being ready to take up the operation of the lands, up to 25,000 acres, which we are in fact offering them for excision from the Corporation's holdings, and which will ultimately be handed over to the Bakweri people.

46. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic): My final question, which has perhaps already been answered by the special representative, relates to paragraphs 325 and 336 of the annual report. In those paragraphs, we note that there has been alienation of land on a large scale in the Trust Territory, that thousands of acres have been set aside for cattle-rearing, that another piece of land has been granted to the Cameroons Baptist Mission for a leper settlement, and so forth. I should like to ask the special representative how this alienation of land can be justified.

47. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The large area of land in question is, of course, the 5,600 acres which have been set aside for cattle-rearing. In this instance, the grant has been made not to a private individual or company, but to a public organization: the Eastern Regional Production Development Board. The Board will operate this grazing land entirely for the benefit of the people of the Trust Territory. It is therefore perhaps too precise to speak of this grant as alienation. The land has simply been set aside for a particular kind of production, for the benefit of the people of the area.

48. The areas granted for the purpose of setting up leper settlements are, of course, comparatively small. They are, however, large enough to make the settlements self-supporting. Having grouped together the leprosy patients for the treatment which we hope will in due course rid them of this terrible disease, we intend to give them in their settlement a completely full social and economic life. We wish them to continue farming, just as they would have been able to do in their own villages had they not become the victims of leprosy. These settlements have been set up with the full agreement of the people themselves. We have also provided sufficient land so that all lepers coming to the settlements will be kept fully occupied in the production of food for their own new community.

49. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): In paragraph 204 of the annual report, there is a reference to the Société Africaine Forestière et Agricole. How is revenue for the Territory obtained from this company? Is it obtained by means of an export tax or by means of a foreign concession rental? In short, how do the Native Authorities derive a benefit from the company's activities?

50. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The Native Authorities derive benefits from the company's operations in the form of a share of the dues paid for the felling of scheduled trees, for which the company is given permits.

51. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): The dues form part of the ordinary revenue of the Trust Territory, then?

52. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): They do. Part of the dues accrue to the Native Treasuries,

and another part, to the Government. The part which accrues to the Government is, of course, reflected in the revenue derived from the Trust Territory, and is attributed to the Trust Territory in our calculated tables. I believe there are certain export dues, also, which accrue to the Government and are, in the same way, credited to the Trust Territory.

53. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): Could the special representative give me some idea of the extent of the United Africa Company's operations in the Trust Territory? What area does that company control? I take it does not own the area, but has some sort of concession over it. Also, does the company pay dues from which the Native Authorities benefit in the same way as they benefit from the dues paid by the Société Africaine Forestière et Agricole?

54. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The United Africa Company operates in the Territory very much more as a trading concern than as a plantation-managing concern. I believe that the great bulk of the company's operations consists, in fact, in buying primary products and selling consumer goods in return. The Territory benefits from these activities, of course, in the form of the large amount of income tax which the company pays in respect of its operations in the Trust Territory.

55. The United Africa Company is also a plantation-managing concern on a rather small scale. It has for a long time owned one estate, freehold. That estate is called the Ndian Estate. There is another estate, called the Bwinga Estate, on which the company is cultivating bananas and for which it has only a certificate of occupancy. It pays a rental to the Governor for that certificate of occupancy. In accordance with the normal practice in these matters a sum equivalent to the rental is paid over by the Governor to the Native Administration of the area in which the plantation lies.

56. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): In paragraph 209 of the annual report, there is a reference to the purchase price—£850,000—of the lands leased to the Cameroons Development Corporation. I understand that that sum is being paid to the Government in the form of a rental. I assume that the profits are calculated every year, and that these annual payments are deducted from them. If that assumption is correct, could the special representative tell me whether any further rent is paid to the Government by the corporation and whether, in view of the fact that the payments are actually capital payments—although they are called a rental—he considers that it is strictly proper to deduct them from the profits?

57. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It is quite correct that these payments do appear on the expenditure side of the Corporation's accounts and they are the only form in which the Corporation pays to the Governor any kind of rent, and, as the New Zealand representative observed, the payments consist partly of the element of rent and partly of the element of amortization in the funding of the original cost of the land. I feel quite satisfied, myself, as to the position, and I also feel that, in fact, this rent and purchase payment should quite properly be a first charge upon the operations of the Corporation, which is by these means

acquiring, by its own efforts, these lands for the use of the people of the Trust Territory in perpetuity.

58. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I think the conception of the corporation as a whole an admirable one, and I am interested in the observations of the special representative as to the propriety of charging all these payments to income. Can the special representative tell me what will happen to this whole purchase price when it is received? Will it be used by the Government of Nigeria for the benefit of the whole of the Protectorate of Nigeria and the Trust Territory? I can properly envisage that if this is in the nature of reparations, it may be a payment to which the Government of Nigeria is itself both legally and morally entitled, but I would appreciate some guidance from the special representative, some information as to what is intended to be the disposition of this capital sum.

59. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The point is that this capital sum of some £850,000 has in fact been advanced and spent by the Nigerian taxpayers, and the arrangement by which the corporation pays these rentals over a period of thirty-five years is designed to enable the corporation to refund to the Nigerian taxpayer what he has spent. So, in fact, we are not presenting anything new to Nigeria; we are simply paying our debt to Nigeria, which put up this very large sum of money in order to enable us to get on our own feet and, by our own efforts, to make ourselves into a prosperous country.

60. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): In those circumstances, the sum of £850,000 was not a book entry representing the purchase, but a sum actually advanced. Am I correct in that assumption?

61. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Trying to decide what part of the Government figures should be described as an actual payment and what part as a book entry, I am afraid, is a bit beyond my humble capacity as a financier, but certainly this amount has been shown as an expenditure on the part of the Nigerian Government and as a receipt on the part of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

62. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): From my point of view, if it was simply an entry in the books of the Government, showing that the purchase price was £850,000, and, although not actually advanced, would be in fact paid in that way, I am inclined to think that that is the real position.

63. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): The sum was actually paid by the Nigerian Government to the Custodian of Enemy Property, who was responsible for the German estates that were taken over during the war, and that money paid to the Custodian of Enemy Property went, of course, into the general reparations fund, so it was actually a payment made by the Nigerian Government out of its own purse for the benefit of the Cameroons and is now being repaid by the Cameroons in the way stated by the special representative.

64. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for this explanation, which makes the matter perfectly clear to me. In paragraph 216 of the report, it is stated that the corporation's main export, bananas, is marketed under an

agreement with Elder and Fyffe Limited, who act as sales agents and pass over the bananas to the Ministry of Food. Has the Cameroons Development Corporation a long-term contract with the Ministry of Food or its agents for the sale of bananas, including provision against excessive fluctuations in price?

65. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The contracts are, I believe, made from year to year and cover only one year at a time.

66. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I notice that there are provisions—entirely proper provisions, I think—for reserves against fluctuations in prices. Can the special representative tell me how those reserves are dealt with; how they are invested, and what is done with them?

67. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I am afraid I am unable to give details of the exact manner in which the reserves are invested, but I do recollect seeing the other day that a sum of £300,000, which was surplus to the current cash requirements of the Corporation, had just been placed in a long-term investment.

68. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I take it that there may arise occasions when those reserves could be used for development projects and for the assistance of the indigenous inhabitants in the area.

69. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It is certainly intended, I believe, that a large part of these reserves should eventually be used for development purposes. The Corporation has made a good deal of progress with a housing scheme which is going to cost about £2,500,000, and it is also committed, in the near future, to building one or two roads which are essential to the expansion of its plantations and to renewing at very considerable expense the wharfing facilities at the port of Tiko. One of the purposes of the large sums of money which have been placed to reserves during the last four years is to provide for a great part of the capital expenditure which will be required for those objects.

70. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I take it that the other Marketing Boards—the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board, the Groundnut Marketing Board, and the Oil Palm Marketing Board—have the same kind of year-to-year contracts as the special representative mentioned before; or have they long-term contracts?

71. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I know that in the case of the Oil Palm Marketing Board the contracts do run for a longer period—I think three or four years. I believe that in the case of the other commodities they are annual agreements.

72. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I thank the special representative for the information he has given me concerning the reserve fund. If he could let us know at some time the size of that fund I think that information would be valuable.

73. The reference to competition among buying agents in the last sentence of paragraph 219 of the report rather puzzled me. I do not know whether there is a point which has eluded me, but I thought that these

agents represented a marketing board or various marketing boards and I am rather at a loss to imagine how there is competition among them.

74. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The prices which the boards fix are the minimum prices for purchases, and the boards appoint as buying agents all the reputable established firms which have been in the practice of buying primary products in the country. It may well be, therefore, that one firm, in order to do more business than another, may be prepared to pay its middlemen a larger sum than the minimum price prescribed by the marketing board. I think that that is what is meant by the statement that competition among buying agents often results in the payment of more than the gazetted minimum buying prices.

75. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I am very interested in the veterinary development in the area which seems to be very good. I can imagine that the training of veterinary practitioners in this area is one of some specialization dealing with African animals, and I would ask the special representative whether there are schools in the Territory or in Nigeria for the purpose of training students to an advanced stage in the subject.

76. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): There are already schools for training veterinary staff in the northern region of Nigeria, and I believe that in due course veterinary subjects will be taken up at the Ibadan University, although that has not yet been done. Inside the Territory a good deal of the work of the veterinary centre at Jakiri goes to train herdsmen in simple principles of cattle management on modern lines.

77. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I notice a reference to the use of fertilizers, and I am glad that they are being used. Is the Administering Authority finding any difficulty in procuring the super-phosphates it needs?

78. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I believe that there has been difficulty in the past, although I am afraid it is not a subject about which I have any very detailed information. I know that in the last year the Administering Authority has embarked upon the production of its own fertilizers at various centres in Nigeria, and it is largely these domestically produced fertilizers which are now coming into use in the Territory, more particularly, I believe, in the extreme northern part where the use of these things has apparently taken hold of the public imagination to quite an extent.

79. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I heard the special representative refer to the use of fertilizers in the northern region. What about the southern part of the Territory? Is the Administering Authority having much difficulty in persuading the indigenous inhabitants to use them there?

80. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We are finding people in the southern half of the Territory more reluctant to take up the use of fertilizers than those in the far north. I think that it may be that one obtains very much more spectacular changes in the

sandy soil and almost desert conditions of the far north with the use of fertilizers than in the more naturally fertile conditions of the savanna and forest country of the south. That may be, I think, the reason why the people of the north have taken to this development whereas the people of the south tend to hold back.

81. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): We had some reference the other day to the nature of the sub-soil in Togoland [439th meeting], which was said to be of a very thin character so that the use of agricultural machinery by the indigenous inhabitants did present some difficulties. Having regard to these considerations, is the Administering Authority able to persuade the indigenous inhabitants of this Territory to use machinery to any extent? What progress has been made in the use of agricultural implements of a modern character?

82. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We are demonstrating the use of modern methods, such as tractor ploughing and so on, at the Government agricultural centres. I would say that the principal obstacle to the widespread use of agricultural machinery by the indigenous inhabitants is probably the high degree of fragmentation of lands among the various native owners. Before making successful use of modern agricultural machinery it is necessary, I think, to persuade groups of landowners to combine together in order to produce a sufficiently large consolidated agricultural unit to ensure that the use of machinery shall be an economic success.

83. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): It is stated, in paragraph 272 of the report that the prospects for cocoa and groundnuts are poor in the area. Can the special representative enlarge upon that? There is also some question as to the rehabilitation of abandoned cocoa farms. In what way does the special representative think that that situation can be rectified?

84. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It is true that the production of cocoa declined last year and, of course, we are receiving less money from that source than we used to. The reason is that the cocoa is mainly cocoa which was planted a very long time ago — mostly, indeed, as far back as during the days of German administration. It is, therefore, not in the best of condition today, and during the last year, which was particularly wet, it suffered rather severely from a disease known, I believe, as "leafless twig disease". At the same time, the climate in the parts of the southern Cameroons where cocoa grows is on the damp side for the production of this commodity, and it is not possible to produce a high-grade cocoa unless rather careful measures are taken by the producers in connexion with the preparation of the cocoa once it has been picked.

85. We are attacking this situation along two lines. The first thing that one can do to improve matters is, of course, to give more instruction to the producers in their methods of production and provide them with the equipment necessary to do the work properly so that they do not produce wet and mouldy cocoa. During the last few months there has been considerable production of simple types of drying plants which are being issued to cocoa farmers through the agency of the co-operative societies in which they are largely banded together for the purpose of marketing.

86. With regard to the question of planting new and better cocoa, we think that success will most likely be achieved if we get some public body, such as the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, to establish an up-to-date plantation somewhere where land is abundant and available and, at the same time, suitable for the production of cocoa. We should run this project on plantation principles, bringing to it Cameroons labour which could work it, and, at the same time, begin to develop individual cocoa production and thus give an example to surrounding peoples of the prosperity they could achieve if they went into cocoa planting in a large and up-to-date way. A scheme of this sort is already in contemplation and a great deal of discussion of its exact form and the manner in which it should be established has, I know, already taken place between the Regional Production Development Board and agricultural experts of the British Colonial Office.

87. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I should like to pass from cocoa to coffee. I note that the 1951 plantings of coffee are expected to be almost double those of 1950. Can the special representative give some indication of the prospects of coffee becoming an important primary industry in the Territory? Does the Administration encourage the production of coffee? If so, can the special representative tell us how it does so encourage it?

88. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We believe that there are quite encouraging prospects with regard to the production of coffee in the Territory. The highlands of the Mango grasslands seem to produce a very good quality arabica coffee and the more lowland areas in the Cameroon province, particularly adjoining the frontiers with the French Cameroons, are already and have been for some time producing a variety of robusta coffee, which seems to find quite a wide market at the present time. The arabica production in the Bamenda Province on any scale is really a new production which has been brought about entirely by government demonstration and propaganda. This is about to be very considerably stepped up by the Regional Production Development Board with regard to a coffee plantation near Santa in the Bamenda Province; this is already going forward.

89. In the Cameroons Province the problem is mainly to find good outlets of communication for the robusta coffee, which is already being produced by the people, notably by the Bakossi tribe who live between Kumba and the frontier with the French Cameroons. There is already one road out of this area to the Mango river which is being built by the Cameroons Development Corporation. This will provide one outlet for the crop by water transport down the Mango river to the port of Tiko, where I am fairly confident that the United Africa Company would be only too glad to buy it.

90. We also have as a high priority in the road programme for the Territory the construction of a road out from Kumba into the middle of this area where the coffee is being grown.

91. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): Will the special representative give me some idea of the possibility of an export trade based upon the cattle industry? I have observed that there are some 150,000 cattle in the Bamenda highlands and that these cattle are among the

finest in Nigeria. Who owns them? I presume they are relatively free from disease. What does the special representative feel about the prospects of developing an export trade?

92. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): These cattle on the Bamenda grasslands, as also those on the Mambila plateau further north of the Adamawa province, are generally owned by Fulani herdsmen who have come down from the northern region of Nigeria. It is a peculiarity of these people that they regard their herds of cattle rather in the way that we regard our gilt-edged investments: they are not particularly anxious to dispose of them. That is one factor which makes it difficult to organize any considerable trade in beef from these herds either for domestic consumption or for export. I do not think that the number of cattle likely to be available from these herds is large enough for us to have any bright prospect of producing an export trade in cattle, if by that is meant the export of beef from the country to world markets, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, where imported beef is required.

93. There is already a fairly large trade in cattle between these herds in Bamenda and the southern extremity of the Trust Territory, on the one hand, where a great deal of meat is absorbed by the plantation labour force, and, on the other hand, in sales to the very densely populated Ibo areas of the eastern regions, where there is a market which could certainly absorb the entire production obtainable from the herds of the grasslands and plateau as soon as the herdsmen begin to become interested in the idea of selling their cattle instead of gazing at them with admiration as at a bank account.

94. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): I have two more questions. The first deals with the reference in paragraph 385 to the fact that the percentage of land which constitutes forestry reserves in the southern Cameroons is 13 per cent, and paragraph 381 states that the ideal is 25 per cent. Can the special representative tell me whether the Administration encounters very great reluctance on the part of the Native Authorities to constitute Native administration forestry reserves?

95. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, we do. That is really the reason why we have not yet succeeded in placing under reserve the ideal percentage of land which the Department prescribes. It is possible for the Administration to invoke compulsory powers in order to place forests under reservation, but we are reluctant to do that so long as there remains any prospect of persuading the people themselves to understand the value of forestry reservation and to do it themselves. We believe that in the course of the next few years there will be a process of enlightenment going on among the people very largely as a result of the new constitutional developments which will probably tend to make them more prepared to establish forest reserves to the extent which we believe the country should have.

96. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): My final question deals with airfields. I have observed the problems of the Territory in respect of roads, and no doubt the construction of roads is a costly matter. In paragraph 445 of the report it is stated: "The only airfield in operation in the Territory is at Tiko. The runway has now been

completed and is capable of taking medium range aircraft of up to 30 tons in all weathers." Has the Administration given very much consideration to the development of other such airfields which would make available the use of planes to carry passengers and goods and thus make transport a good deal less difficult in an area which seems to suffer from a lack of transport facilities?

97. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, we certainly have given very much consideration to this kind of development. The airfield at Mamfe, which is now completed, is quite a good one and it has been used on a number of occasions for individual flights for one purpose or another. It has not been brought into regular use by the West African Airways Corporation, although negotiations are already going on with the corporation with a view to putting the airfield into one or another of its various schedules.

98. One difficulty about it is that there is a good deal of mountainous country between Mamfe and Tiko which makes it necessary for aircraft trying to get from Mamfe to Tiko or vice versa to make a long detour, in fact as far as Calabar, which is already on one of the regular services between Nigeria and the Cameroons. This makes it a bit difficult to fit Mamfe into one of the regular schedules. However, thought has been given to this matter by the corporation and I know that they do wish to bring Mamfe into use as soon as they have worked out exactly the best way to do it.

99. At the same time, we have spent more than two years in searching in the mountainous country of the Bamenda Province for a suitable place to put a much needed airstrip. Unfortunately, the country there is extremely rugged. You have very steep and broken country and it appears that the atmospheric conditions are extremely chancy. It is difficult to find a site for an airstrip which, at the same time, would be within easy reach of Bamenda or some other centre and also safe to operate for commercial aircraft. We have looked at a number of sites and have had meteorological observers stationed on them for considerable periods. So far, in each case, the decision has been that we have not found a sufficiently safe place.

100. Just before I left the Territory, there was a further survey being carried out by a flying officer of the West African Airways Corporation who was having another look to see what other places might profitably be examined by meteorological observers.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

101. Mr. PIGNON (France): I want to ask the special representative, with reference to paragraph 352 of the report, whether he could give us some detailed information on what is called "mixed farming".

102. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): What we mean by "mixed farming" there is the production of agricultural units in which the same farmer takes charge of livestock as well as arable land, thus getting the advantage of being able to fertilize his land with animal manure and having a properly balanced type of agricultural production which is rare in those areas,

because of the natural condition of the people, and is usually an introduction of western methods.

103. Mr. PIGNON (France): If I understand the position rightly, on the basis of this form of cultivation there is intervention by the Administration in the form of advice, demonstrations and so on.

104. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): That is so.

105. Mr. PIGNON (France): My second question is the following: I read in paragraph 346 of the report that the Territory imports considerable quantities of sugar, palm oil, fresh fruit and so on. I know, moreover, that the Territory exports palm oil. That is nothing extraordinary; it happens in other areas. But I should like to ask the special representative, in this particular case, how he explains the fact that the Territory both imports and exports palm oil.

106. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The imports of palm oil are, I think, entirely those made by the Cameroons Development Corporation for resale at cost price to its large labour force. In the plantation area in the southern extremity of the Trust Territory there is a considerable concentration of labourers whose feeding does represent somewhat a problem, and it is there that the most economical way of providing them with the palm oil which is required as a necessary part of their diet is to bring it in by water from Calabar, which is a great centre for the production of oil palm produce. At the same time, oil palm produce which is gathered considerably further north in the Territory and which would be difficult to move down to the plantation area because of poor communications, does have a tendency to go over the frontier into the French Cameroons where, I believe, there is a ready demand for oil palm produce along the frontier regions.

107. Mr. PIGNON (France): The special representative has confirmed what I thought: that this is a matter of communications. I have no other questions on this chapter.

108. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): With reference to paragraph 217 of the report, I want to put several questions. Why is rubber not sold in the same way as cocoa, coffee and other products?

109. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I think the reason for that is that rubber is only a very minor product of the Nigerian economy, and it is not a commodity produced on the same scale as the oil palm produce, groundnuts and cocoa which have been made the subject of the establishment of these marketing boards. The only considerable production of rubber in the whole country is that of the Cameroons Development Corporation which, even at the extremely inflated prices of a year or so ago, was worth no more than £500,000. It is therefore not really worth while establishing a marketing board for this product which at present is mainly handled, anyhow, by the public corporation of the Cameroons Development Corporation.

110. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): Does what has just been said regarding rubber apply equally to hides and skins?

111. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It does apply to hides and skins to some extent, although hides and skins are a very considerably larger export from Nigeria and the Cameroons than rubber is, but it is not, however, so large as to have led to the establishment of a marketing board for handling that commodity.

112. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): I see that the boards are composed of three official members and three non-official members. I should like to know who the non-official members are.

113. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): All these boards follow the same pattern. The non-officials in each case are African representatives, very often members of the Houses of Assembly. In other cases they are well-known traders of the commodities which are the subjects of the board's work.

114. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): I should like to know who are the buying agents for the products sold through a board.

115. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The buying agents appointed by the boards include among their number all the established commercial firms operating in the Territory. Examples of these are the United Africa Company, John Holt's, and two French companies, and, of course, many others. They are the people who were trading in the country in the years before the establishment of the boards. To these concerns, of course, there have been added a number of other private operators.

116. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): Are there any supervisors who are responsible for ensuring that the minimum prices of these products are observed and paid?

117. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, there are. The department which is concerned with the grading of the produce is in a position to see that the minimum prices are paid and to receive any complaints that might be made by people who found that they were not receiving these prices. I have not come across any instances of people complaining that they have not received the statutory prices.

118. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): If I understand correctly, cocoa, for instance, is bought on certain dates and at certain places. I suppose that the planters do not sell their produce just as they like, but that all the produce is inspected.

119. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): In the case of cocoa, a very great proportion of the marketing is carried out by co-operative societies, into which the cocoa cultivators have banded themselves. In the case of all sales, of course, the produce has to be graded by an inspector of produce when the sale is made, and so there is in fact complete control of the quality of the produce and of the price paid to the producer.

120. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): Reference is made in paragraph 223 to the quality of cocoa, and it is stated that the Board did not purchase any cocoa of a quality lower than grade II. I should like to know

what is done with the cocoa of a grade lower than grade II.

121. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We believe that through the policy of the Board of increasing from year to year the premium paid for the higher grades of cocoa, the production of low-grade cocoa has been more or less extinguished. For example, in 1949-1950 the quantity of grade III cocoa brought in for marketing had fallen to 0.4 per cent of the total cocoa output. I think the answer is that the production of this low-grade cocoa has just disappeared.

122. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): In the ten-year plan, there is a reference to an extension of the cocoa plantations. Has this extension already been carried out?

123. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): In the Trust Territory, no such project has actually been put into effect as yet. As I said in reply to an earlier question on the subject, there is a project for a cocoa plantation in the Mamfe division of the southern part of the Territory which is now under examination by the agricultural experts. I hope that we shall make a start with a plantation there some time soon.

124. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium): If I properly understood the reply given by the special representative to one of my colleagues, it would seem that the present cocoa plantations in the Cameroons date from the German period, and that as a general rule these plantations are too old. Is there any intention of renewing these plantations?

125. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The plantations in question are all small holdings in the hands of peasant proprietors. They are all African-worked small plots. The question of renewing the cocoa palms planted in these small plots is, of course, one for the peasant cultivators themselves, and it is to be hoped that once we have given an example of what can be done in cocoa production in the southern Cameroons, and I believe the prospects are good, the peasant cultivators will tend to take up cocoa planting again instead of being merely content to make what they can out of the cocoa they were persuaded to plant by the German administrators during their time.

126. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador): The representative of New Zealand referred to an important point in connexion with paragraph 216. I should like to put two questions concerning that paragraph with regard to the manner in which Elders and Fyffes operates in acting as sales agents for the principal export of bananas. I should like to know what profit this company gets from the sale. Does the company work on a commission basis or does it buy the bananas directly from the corporation and supply them to the Ministry of Food? Exactly what profit does Elders and Fyffes get from the sale of the bananas?

127. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I believe that the principal way in which the firm of Elders and Fyffes profits from this particular trade is as the shippers of the bananas from the Cameroons to the United Kingdom, where they are marketed. Elders and

Fyffes are the owners of the fleet of banana ships which carry the crop from the ports of Tiko and Victoria to the United Kingdom. The remuneration which they receive covers the costs of the transport of the crop and, presumably, its handling on behalf of the Ministry of Food at the delivery end.

128. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador): Does this mean that the price of £32 per ton paid by the Ministry of Food is not all received by the corporation, but that the corporation receives a lesser amount and that the difference is composed of the transport costs and so forth? I should like to know what amount is received by the corporation.

129. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I believe that the figure of £32 is the net price, but I am not quite certain. I will see whether we have information on this point, and if we have I shall be very happy to give it to the Council at our next meeting.

130. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador): Following up the explanation given by the special representative on the subject of coffee production in the Trust Territory, I should like to know whether coffee forms a part of the diet of the indigenous inhabitants or whether it is produced merely for export.

131. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I do not think coffee is widely used as an item of diet by the indigenous inhabitants; it is mainly an export crop. A considerable amount of Cameroons coffee comes back to the Territory for the use of European consumers, who buy it from the firms which have bought it from the producers.

132. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador): My final question relates to the construction of the highway which will link the north with the south. Has construction actually begun, or have plans at least been drawn up?

133. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The main road of the southern Cameroons — the one which runs northward from Victoria through Mamfe to Bamenda and on to the boundary with the northern region — is already in existence. A great part of the length of this road is suitable only for one-way traffic at present, because of its bends and gradients. It is not invariably in good condition when the weather is bad. This road is now being put into permanently good order and, at the same time, is being widened to permit two-way traffic on all sections. The work, which will cost something like £650,000, has already been started by the contracting firm.

134. In the northern region, there are already a number of roads in existence, but these are really no more than dry season roads which, generally speaking, go out of use during the rainy season, when they turn into swamps in many parts. These roads are being re-surveyed, with a view to turning them into all-weather roads. Where the alignment of an existing road is found to be capable of improvement, the road will be realigned.

135. Apart from these operations, there are projects in the road construction programme for roads between places which have not as yet been the subject of detailed engineering surveys. These surveys are now being put

in hand. I can think of three stretches of road in the southern Cameroons which were surveyed during the last dry season. The necessary plans and estimates for the construction of roads are now being worked on by engineers.

136. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): Following up a question put by the representative of Belgium, I should like to have the following information from the special representative: what is the extent of indigenous representation in the marketing boards, and how is this representation determined?

137. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): There is as yet no actual representation of Trust Territory indigenous inhabitants on any of the marketing boards. This is perhaps not surprising, since the Trust Territory production of any of the commodities concerned is only a negligible percentage of the total production handled by the marketing boards.

138. The principal production of the Trust Territory is, of course, that of the Cameroons Development Corporation, which is, I think I may say, a rather parallel institution in many ways to the marketing boards handling other kinds of produce elsewhere in Nigeria. The Cameroons Development Corporation consists at present of nine members, three of whom are indigenous inhabitants.

139. Appointments to the marketing boards, as well as to the Cameroons Development Corporation, are made by the Governor upon the advice of people concerned with a particular trade.

140. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): As regards the membership of the Cameroons Development Corporation, I note the following sentence in paragraph 200 of the annual report:

"In due course the operations of the Corporation will be taken over and carried on by the selected representatives of the people themselves."

That is very gratifying. The Trusteeship Council adopted a recommendation at its ninth session,² expressing the hope that the representation of indigenous inhabitants in the corporation would be progressively increased. We note, however, the following statement in paragraph 783 of the report:

"With regard to membership of the Corporation it must be pointed out, however, that the number of indigenous inhabitants of the Territory with the necessary qualifications is very limited and its operations are of such vital importance to the Territory that the appointment of persons without the necessary qualifications is obviously ruled out."

141. From this statement, it would appear that full representation of the indigenous inhabitants in the corporation is still far off. In the circumstances, how does the Administering Authority envisage implementing the undertaking contained in the sentence in paragraph 200 of the report which I have read out? If it is so difficult to obtain qualified persons for the work, how can the Administering Authority ensure that the responsibility for the corporation's operations will be taken over by the indigenous inhabitants in the near future?

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 114.

142. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The representative of China is quite right in believing that the entire management of the Cameroons Development Corporation is unlikely to be handed over to indigenous representatives in the near future. It is obviously essential that the affairs of this very large undertaking should be in the hands of people having considerable knowledge of commercial operations on an international scale, people who are fully aware of trading tendencies in the United States and the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, and have contacts among prominent business people and concerns in the capitals of the world.

143. There is, of course, also a need among the members of this corporation for people with very special qualifications and with equally special knowledge of the social considerations within the Territory itself, as well as the human relationships with the people of the Territory which are involved in the operation of such a corporation. I think it is mainly in that direction that we find the present three indigenous members of the corporation of the greatest use. I do not, myself, foresee any very considerable increase in the indigenous participation in the management of this corporation until a very much larger number of indigenous people than at present have had their horizons considerably expanded by contact with affairs in Europe and the United States.

144. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): On page 23 of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.290) it is stated in the third paragraph that "The Senior Service of the Corporation's staff includes no Africans, but the Intermediate Service, instituted to encourage Cameroonian participation increased from 8 to 34 in 1950." Is it the intention of the Administering Authority to train more people in order to qualify them for the Senior Service as well as for the Intermediate Service in which they participate now?

145. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, it is not only the intention of the Corporation to do this, but it has been its practice for some years. For some three or four years the corporation has been giving scholarships for higher education with this object particularly in view. I think it would be fair to say that the number of scholarships which it gives is limited at present only by the number of people who come forward with the necessary qualifications to get into institutions of higher education. In one respect this account of the structure of the corporation's service is already out of date as, since the report on which this summary is based was typed, the Senior Service of the corporation has gained the inclusion of one of the indigenous people.

146. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): We have noted in the report the prices at which the various export commodities of the Territory were sold. We wonder whether all these prices have given the producers the full benefit of their products. How do they compare with world market prices?

147. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): As the representative of China will see from the summaries included in the report with respect to the marketing boards, there has been during the last year or so very considerable differentiation between the prices received

by the marketing boards for produce exported — which are, of course, the world market prices — and the prices actually paid to the producers, which have been generally considerably less. The producer does, of course, ultimately gain the entire benefit of the world market prices which have been received by the marketing boards since the whole amount of this differentiation is placed annually to the reserve funds of these marketing boards, the purpose of which is to maintain the prices paid to the producers in subsequent years when, as one must suppose is likely, the prices of primary products fall. In this way the marketing boards will fulfil their really basic function of protecting the African producer from the violent fluctuations of the world market in primary produce which we used to see in the years before the Second World War.

148. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): I have a question concerning the subject of co-operatives. In paragraph 424 of the report it is stated: "An endeavour made to establish village co-operative societies for the benefit of small cocoa farmers aroused little response. Two obstacles were encountered..." Can the special representative tell us what steps, if any, the Administering Authority is taking to surmount these obstacles?

149. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We employ in the Trust Territory a staff of co-operative society assistant registrars and advisers who are continually working at publicity and instruction among the people, endeavouring to get co-operative societies formed on the right lines and then to ensure that they are properly run. Their very serious handicap of finding it difficult to get local people who are capable of being secretaries to such societies is one that, I am afraid, will only yield to the continual process of education which is going on and which, we hope, is going to improve the general standard of education in the Territory from year to year until people of this calibre are readily forthcoming instead of only with extreme difficulty as at present.

150. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In paragraph 201 of the report reference is made to efforts to assist such economically weak groups as the Bakweri. I should like to know specifically what form this assistance has taken.

151. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): At the present time the specific kind of assistance which is being given to the Bakweri is in the form of instruction and the type of assistance which we have been giving during the last few months to the Bakweri Farmers Union, whose activities I have described in reply to earlier questions. As soon as the success, which we hope to see this union achieve, has brought the whole idea of resettlement and rehabilitation among the Bakweri into the sphere of practical affairs, then we shall be ready with every kind of technical assistance and supervision of which the Bakweri farmers will be in need.

152. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Thus, as the special representative has said, this has to do with assistance to those seventy members of the organization to which he referred and not to the Bakweri tribe as such which, as is known, was deprived of its land by the German colonizers and

has not had it returned by the Administering Authority. The assistance referred to has been given to those seventy members; is that not so?

153. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): That is so, but the significant thing about the seventy members is that they are the first of the Bakweri who have realized the need for seeking assistance, and this is, in fact, the gist of the problem which is before us. Our assistance is ready: our difficulty is to bring the Bakweri people to a state of mind in which they will appreciate that if they accept the assistance which is offered to them they can in fact win their way to a much higher form of life than that to which they are at present accustomed. It is for this reason that I look upon the recent activities of this union as being a most encouraging sign.

154. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In paragraph 242 of the report it is stated that the new five-year plan for 1951-1956 has been prepared after consultation with the Area Development Committees. What is the anticipated over-all cost of this plan for the five-year period and what part of the expenditure will fall on the Trust Territory alone?

155. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The figures are given in paragraph 243.

156. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Do the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons participate in the Area Development Committees?

157. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): In the Eastern Regional Development Committee there was at this time one representative indigenous to the Trust Territory.

158. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Could the special representative tell the Council how many schools and hospitals are contemplated under the new plan, and where they will be situated?

159. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): No, I could not. The plan, as is observed in the report, is still flexible and no attempt has been made to make definite arrangements as to exactly what institutions will be built or where in the years following 1952-1953. Thus, it is not possible at this time to look so far ahead and to say precisely where these institutions will be built during the later years of the plan.

160. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In connexion with the special representative's reply to my previous question on the subject of the portion of the expenditures under the five-year plan which will be spent on the Trust Territory, I have looked at the data contained in paragraph 243 which refers, however, to the northern Cameroons only. The reference made to the southern Cameroons deals only with 1952-1953. In these circumstances, I would ask the special representative if he could explain in greater detail and, perhaps, give the Council more information than is now available to it.

161. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The facts are that the figure given in paragraph 243 is, as is stated, for all works which will be specifically undertaken in the whole of the Cameroons under British administration during the two financial years 1951-1952 and 1952-1953, the total being £380,392. As is observed in paragraph 245 of the report, of this total which is to be expended in the Territory as a whole, £39,060 is to be spent in the northern Cameroons. As the report states, in view of unknown factors such as the future cost of materials and the availability of personnel it is, naturally, impossible to give similar details in respect of later years, though schemes are contemplated for the Trust Territory taking into account its size, known economic resources and present state of development. I would add here that when the ten-year plan of development for Nigeria was originally drawn up the planners attempted, as planners rather tend to do, to make a completely detailed scheme for everything which was to be done in each year throughout the ten years which the plan was to take up. Our experience over the first few years of trying to put this plan into effect was, of course, that this was a completely unrealistic way of going to work because we found that each year some unexpected factor upset the progress of the plan so that it was completely impracticable to try to lay down an exact programme covering such a great length of time.

162. Accordingly, the persons who have been responsible for the revision of the plan which has just been taking place, and which is described in these paragraphs of the report, made it their business to work the thing out on a much more flexible basis, making rather wide assumptions as to the total figure which should be spent upon given objectives but confining their detailed plans for the individual works actually to be carried out to plans covering only the first two years of the five-year period.

163. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): It is now quite clear that although I asked about the whole five-year period the reply of the special representative to the effect that the figures could be found in paragraphs 243 and 245 was not exact since those paragraphs deal with the first two years only and with a part of the Territory only. Thus, information concerning the over-all expenditure for the Trust Territory for the full five years under this plan is not available as I understand it. If that is so I shall proceed to my next question.

164. Does the revenue of the Cameroons Development Corporation go into the general budget of Nigeria or is it spent only upon the requirements of the Territory? I believe that reference was made to this previously, but I should like to elicit details on this particular aspect of the matter.

165. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Before proceeding to answer this question I think I should clear up some further points concerning the information about the ten-year plan of development. I think the Soviet Union representative is still not quite exact in stating that the information given in the paragraphs of the report which have been quoted refers only to one part of the Territory. The information refers to both

parts of the Territory and makes it clear that while the total expenditure during the two financial years in question is to be £380,392, of this £39,060 are to be spent in the northern part of the Territory; the remainder, of course, is to be spent in the southern part. The reason why this information is given only for these two financial years and not for the whole period during which the plan will be in operation has already been given by me in my replies to the questions. It is also stated in the last sentence of paragraph 243 of the report.

166. As regards the revenue of the Cameroons Development Corporation, the only portion of these revenues which passes into the hands of the Nigerian administration is the amount paid in income tax by the corporation on its profits and the amount paid by the corporation to the Governor of Nigeria in respect of rent and amortization of the capital cost of the lands. In addition to these sums there is a residual amount consisting of the final net profit of the corporation which is handed over, according to law, to the Governor of Nigeria for expenditure for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

167. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question concerns table 16 of the statistical appendix. In 1950-1951 expenditure on police was almost four times greater than expenditure on agriculture, and expenditure on prisons and judges was more than £15,000 greater than expenditure on medical services. I should like to ask the special representative for an explanation of this type of distribution of budget items.

168. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I assume that what requires an explanation is the fact that the charges raised by administrative, security and penal services are, in this statement of expenditures, high when compared with the percentages devoted, for example, to the development of agriculture. The reason for this is that in any new and comparatively undeveloped society the proportion of the budgetary expenditure which will be required simply for the purpose of maintaining law and order in the Territory on a high enough level to enable the Territory to raise its revenue and go on gradually to better things, must be high. The tendency from year to year is for the percentage of expenditure for the social services, as compared with expenditures for administration and security, to rise. I think that the percentage figures given in the table which is now under consideration do show that this tendency is going forward.

169. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I did not quite understand the special representative. To what tendency did he refer? He might perhaps refer to figures in order to explain his point in this connexion.

170. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): For example, whereas in 1949-1950 expenditure for education formed only 8.9 per cent of the total expenditure, it rose the following year to 11.6 per cent; whereas the expenditure for medical services was 5.3 per cent in 1949-1950, it rose to 6 per cent in 1950-1951; whereas the expenditure for public works in 1949-1950 was 14 per cent of the total expenditure, it rose in

1950-1951 to 15.4 per cent. In fact, in all directions there is a steady increase in the percentage of the budget for works of development as opposed to the basic matters of maintaining law and order so that the development itself might take place.

171. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Even bearing in mind the special representative's statement that there has been a 46 per cent and a 34 per cent increase in educational and medical services respectively, when we consider the actual figures we see that the sums allocated in the budget for these services are unsatisfactory. Even taking the absolute figures, we see that £165,000 were spent on education and about £80,000 on medical services. However, with a population of over a million people it must be seen that expenditures in these amounts are really insignificant. That is why I do not quite understand the balance ratio in the budget. I wonder whether the special representative can tell us anything more about the comparative distribution of expenditure in the budget. If he has nothing more to add I shall go on to my next question.

172. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I find myself in complete agreement with the representative of the Soviet Union. I think all of us here would certainly say that the scale of expenditure for these services is completely unsatisfactory.

173. In this matter, there is indeed only one problem; that is, to find the money for increasing them. I do not think that it can be found at the expense of reducing the administration and security of the Territory to such a low degree that the whole basis of administration there falls apart and the business of the collection of revenue and the maintenance of social services becomes totally impossible. We must therefore be resigned to see continuing in the future the same steady increase in the percentage of the total expenditure devoted to the social services which we have seen in the Council over the last few years.

174. With regard to the facts on the distribution of expenditures as between the various heads, I believe that table 16, which gives these percentages for two years—in the case of all of 1951, there are detailed heads of expenditure—gives information which is probably sufficiently complete for this Council to study.

175. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I simply wish to state briefly that the special representative said that he agreed with me—those were his own words—as to the very insufficient funds available for educational and medical services. I, on the contrary, cannot agree with the special representative when he mentions the reasons why it is not possible substantially to increase the budgetary allocations for these services. It does not necessarily have to be done at the expense of some other item in the budget. It must be done independently and even at the expense of the Administering Authority, if the special representative feels that the money available is insufficient. The Administering Authority, under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, is obliged at the present time to carry out these programmes. That is why I cannot agree with the reasons given by the special representative. However, this is not the time to discuss that. We can do so during the general debate.

176. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): Would the President just allow me to say that I am interested in hearing the views of the Soviet Union representative. I do not agree with them.

177. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Everyone approaches the implementation of obligations which he has undertaken as he sees best, and I can add nothing to what I have said.

178. My next question deals with paragraph 288. There, it is stated that the per capita tax is based on the principle of the recognition of the African authorities through whom the revenue is derived for the budget. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends to substitute an income tax for this direct tax. If not, why has it not been so planned?

179. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I shall repeat briefly the reply I gave to the Soviet Union representative last year [363rd meeting] when he put this question to me the last time. Taxation, as carried out under the direct taxation ordinance in such areas as are suitable for this method, is imposed by means of a communal examination which does, in fact, make it into a tax upon income which is graduated from a light tax upon the poor to a heavy tax upon the rich. This is the rule throughout the northern part of the Territory, where the Native Authorities have sufficient authority to be able to carry out such investigations and make such decisions as to the rates to be imposed upon the individuals within their jurisdiction.

180. In the southern part of the Territory, it has not yet been found possible to make very great progress in this direction although some progress has been made. It is, of course, the objective of the Administration to continue working at this problem until the tax committees of all the communities of the Territory, instead of only the northern part, are capable of imposing graduated taxes upon the people within their jurisdiction.

181. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I have the following question with respect to paragraph 83 of the report. Reference is made to the resettlement of a part of the population of this Trust Territory. It is stated that a resettlement scheme for hill-pagans is taking place on the plains near Gwoza. I should like to know what connexion it has with the Northern Regional Production Development Board.

182. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The connexion which this scheme has to the Northern Regional Production Development Board is simply that that is the institution which is providing the necessary funds for laying out the new settlement which the hill-pagans are going to occupy. In the Adamawa Province, there is at present a considerable movement fostered by the Administration for producing model villages which are laid out with the assistance of government and native authority technical experts in which the members of communities, who have hitherto been living under rather unsatisfactory conditions, can regroup and make themselves into better farmers and citizens than they were before. I have seen several such experiments in the Nigerian part of the Adamawa Province and I have been very greatly impressed by their value and very pleased to see that some of the inhabitants of the

northern Trust Territory are also catching the idea and are prepared to come down from some of their hitherto unsatisfactory dwelling places and invoke the aid of the Administration in showing them how to make more model settlements and a better life. The first of these developments, which is taking place in the northern Trust Territory, is the resettlement scheme near Gwoza for which the necessary funds have been provided by the Northern Regional Production Development Board.

183. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Reference is made in paragraph 336 to the alienation of 12,500 acres of land. I would like to know whether the authority or the approval of any indigenous inhabitants was obtained for such alienation.

184. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, this alienation, like all such matters, was of course discussed with the people beforehand. The area around Njinikom is practically empty land, highly suitable for cattle rearing and the people there are extremely glad to see this evidence of enterprise on the part of the Regional Production Board which will, I think, accrue very considerably to the income of that area.

185. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I would like to know who gave approval and in what form the approval was granted.

186. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The approval was granted by statutory authority which is in fact the Governor of Nigeria. The discussion of the matter was of course carried out by the Resident of the Province with the people of the area, and his report as to what was a suitable area, where the people were prepared to see this experiment tried, was before the Governor when the decision to use the land for this purpose was taken.

187. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I think that the interpretation was not quite correct. I was interested not in the approval of the Governor, but in the agreement of the indigenous population of the Bamenda Province on the alienation of this land that was mentioned by the special representative. I would like to know in what form the consent of the indigenous population was given and by whom, whether special meetings of the indigenous inhabitants were held, what sort of meetings, who participated in them and in what form the consent of the indigenous population was received in regard to the alienation of the land in question.

188. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I think perhaps it would be advisable, first of all, to consider exactly what type of alienation is here envisaged. What is envisaged is of course that grazing rights over this area of land are given to the Production Board for the purpose of letting cattle be held on this land and to graze on it. There is of course little interference with any local farming. The practice, when such a step is contemplated, is for the local district officer to call together meetings of the people who live in that area and to ascertain their attitude towards the intention of the Administration and to find out at the same time if they consider that this is a suitable area for such a step to be taken, what individuals there would be who might wish to make claims for disturbance that might

be caused to them as a result of the experiment. The exact descriptions of the individuals who were consulted in this particular case I could not of course quote at the moment, but if the Council would be interested in having some description of the people with whom consultations took place in this instance, the Administration would of course be quite prepared to furnish it.

189. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I should like to have this information to which the special representative has just referred. Furthermore, I should like to know what documents were prepared and signed by the indigenous inhabitants as concerns the alienation of their lands.

190. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It might be that some communications in this matter were prepared and signed by indigenous inhabitants, but I do not know whether that was the case and it is not necessary for it to have been so. The operative document in the matter is a certificate of occupancy signed by the Governor in his capacity as the trustee on behalf of the indigenous people for this land granted to the Developing Authority which is going to carry out the experiment in grazing that is envisaged on this land.

191. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question deals with paragraph 315 where it is stated that 2,164 square miles of Territory have been declared as forest reserves. I would like to know whether the Administering Authority has the agreement of the indigenous inhabitants for the creation of these forest reserves and the form of this agreement.

192. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): Yes, in all these cases the reserves were made not by the Administration but by the Native Authorities themselves, and the operative documents are native authority rules which have been signed by the members of the Native Authorities and published with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in the official gazettes.

193. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): My next question deals with paragraph 496 where it is stated that despite the protests of the Bakweri tribe the Administering Authority has decided to carry out its plan of resettlement. I would like to know how many people are affected by this resettlement plan and what area of land is involved.

194. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): The figures of the population concerned have, as the Soviet Union representative can probably recall, been given in detail in earlier annual reports on the Territory at the time when this particular problem was under discussion. Speaking from memory, I should say that the number of people concerned represents something like 4,500 adult males. The amount of land which we hope to use for resettlement purposes among these people, I need hardly recall, will amount to 25,000 acres.

195. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I just have one or two questions. In connexion with the land that is now actively operated by the Cameroons Development Corporation—78,000 acres, I believe, out of 250,000 acres—is that the same amount that has been under cultivation in recent years, or has it been recently increased?

196. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): I believe that there has been a steady increase of land brought under cultivation by the corporation, and we could, by consulting previous reports, find exactly what the increase has been. But the tendency is for a certain amount of new land to come under cultivation during each year.

197. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): With respect to the three indigenous members of the Board, do they have any special assignment in their activity, or do they sit on the Board with the total picture in hand as any other member?

198. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): They sit on the Board with the total picture in front of them. There is no differentiation in function between one member of the Board of the corporation and the other, and the three indigenous members sit alongside the other members to consider all the problems of the management of the corporation. I think that there are, of course, special subjects in which these particular members can give more important contributions to the discussion than the others.

199. In the same way that two overseas members who come from London and the West Indies are able to contribute especially to the commercial side of the business, these three Cameroons members are able to speak with much more confidence on the human side of the operations of the corporation and thus help to make the Board of the corporation a balanced body which is able to bring expert knowledge to all the problems that come before it.

200. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): I have a question on the possibility of coffee development in the Bamenda area. Is coffee being produced there now, or did you say that the land would be suitable for coffee cultivation?

201. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): It is the case that coffee is being developed there now. It is at present being developed on the scale of peasant cultivation, and there has been a steady increase in the quantity grown by farmers who have all been getting their coffee plants from the Agricultural Department, which has been issuing propaganda and releasing publicity among them. The new development in coffee production in the Bamenda Province is that the Regional Production Development Board is now starting to run a coffee plantation on a considerably larger scale at a place called Santa, near Bamenda, where the land is particularly suitable for the cultivation of coffee. We expect that the example of this large-scale enterprise will help to induce a greater number of local farmers to take up this lucrative form of agriculture.

202. Mr. GERIG (United States of America): In that connexion, the improved road that is being built in the direction of the Bamenda area would presumably feature in the marketing of coffee from that area, or would such coffee go down across into French Cameroons and be marketed at Duala?

203. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration): We think that the construction of this road will have a

very considerable effect upon the evacuation of this crop, as well as others. The road between Mamfe and Bamenda, as the United States representative has only too good a reason to know, is at present a rather difficult one over great stretches of which traffic can only be carried out in one direction at a time. The obvious way to evacuate coffee produced in the Bamenda Province is by road down to Mamfe, which is on the

headwaters of the Cross river, and then by water down the Cross river to the port of Calabar, and the improvement which is now being made on this main road between Mamfe and Bamenda will certainly make it very much easier to carry out this evacuation of the crop.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.