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President: Mr. Mason SEARS
(United States of America).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration (*continued*):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1954 (T/1209, T/1223);**
- (ii) **Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.4 and 5/L.7 to 9, T/PET.5/L.32 to 61, T/PET.5/L.63 to 72);**
- (iii) **Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955 (T/1231 and Corr.2)**

[Agenda items 3 (d), 4 and 6 (b)]

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

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that his delegation felt some concern about conditions in the Cameroons under French administration, particularly since the unfortunate events of May 1955. It deeply regretted the loss of life and trusted that such events would never occur

again in that or any other Territory. The Council must bear in mind the rapid and increasing pace of political development in West Africa. The people of the Trust Territories were living in an atmosphere saturated with revolutionary ideas of dissatisfaction with traditional authority, human rights and political freedoms. Those ideas could not be expected to remain static while economic, social and educational advancement, to say nothing of political progress, moved at the same slow pace as in the past. Modest reforms at the proper time could sometimes avert discontent, disturbances and bloodshed.

2. He regretted that it had not been possible for the Administering Authority to submit its observations on the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955 (T/1231 and Corr.2) and hoped that in future such observations would be communicated in time for members of the Council to study them.

3. The Cameroons under French administration afforded its people great opportunities through its vast resources, natural agricultural wealth and geographic situation. It was the more regrettable that unity between the North and the South was still lacking. The absence of a national consciousness would certainly retard the Territory's political progress and, if the lack of understanding between the peoples of the North and South continued, it would give rise to a sense of bitterness that would be hard to overcome.

4. The Administering Authority regarded the Cameroons under French administration as an Associated Territory by virtue of the French Constitution of 1946, and in particular article 60 thereof. He could see no justification for that point of view, since no legislation had ever been enacted to make the Trust Territories under French administration Associated Territories. The whole relationship of the Cameroons under French administration to the French Republic and the French Union caused his delegation some concern. It was regrettable that the Administering Authority had never given the Visiting Mission or the Council any clear idea of it or of the situation with regard to Cameroonian citizenship. The people of the Trust Territory must know where their future lay and whether the French Union offered them real self-government or independence, and the members of the Council were entitled to the same information. The Council had requested the Administering Authority to transmit to it a concise appraisal of the effect of association with the French Union on the Territory's future development (A/2933, p. 157). It should recommend the Administering Authority not to delay the submission of that information any further. Studies were apparently being carried out on the status of the inhabitants but the progress made was not remarkable. The Council should therefore recommend the Administering Authority to hasten the process and to seek the views of the Territorial Assembly and local bodies on the subject.

5. While the Administrative Council was not entirely satisfactory from the point of view of its composition, he would not dwell on the matter, since it would shortly be replaced by a government council with members designated in a completely different manner. He would be grateful if the special representative could give further details about the proposed government council, its functions, responsibilities and membership in his final statement.

6. The Territorial Assembly was the political organ through which the local population participated directly in the Territory's administration. Its functions were to discuss and approve the budget and to deliberate on certain financial, economic and administrative matters. It could also submit comments to the French Government on all matters affecting the Territory, except political questions, which the Administration felt could more properly be dealt with by the Territory's representatives in the French Parliament. It should be noted, however, that the Territory had only four representatives in the French Parliament and that they were elected on the basis of an electoral law totally different from that in effect in France. He was not clear to what extent those representatives were really effective in discussing political matters concerning the Territory or to what extent they were helping the Territory to achieve self-government or independence. Further information would be welcome.

7. For many years the Council had recommended extension of the Territorial Assembly's powers, which were still as defined in 1946. The Administering Authority had reported that the question had been under consideration since 1950. A bill of reforms had been laid before the French National Assembly in September 1955 but the submission of amendments had delayed the vote. Under that bill the powers of the Republic would continue to be vested in the High Commissioner and, although the Assembly's competence would be extended to the power of discussion in matters related to customary civil law, the equipment and development plan, the budget and finance, questions of inheritance, public works, and rural and forestry concessions, it would still have no power to act or to discuss political questions. Ten years seemed a long time to wait for those reforms and it would be interesting to know whether they were still adequate and what was the present stage of discussion on the bill. The delay in passing the long-promised law might well be one of the factors contributing to discontent in the Territory. In any event, the proposed new Territorial Assembly would still have far less power than its counterpart in Togoland under French administration. Much bolder action was needed to make of it a true legislative body.

8. In that connexion he felt that the Trust Territory's assimilation to an Overseas Territory might stand in the way of its being given proper executive and legislative organs and hence prevent it from attaining the objectives of the Trusteeship System. There was nothing to prevent the Administering Authority from removing the Trust Territory, by a simple administrative act, from the scope of application of the French Constitution. The Council should therefore recommend that no provision of the Constitution should stand in the way of granting the Territorial Assembly full legislative powers, because article 72 of the Constitution applied only to Overseas Territories. The Council should further express the hope that the proposed reforms should be supplemented by addi-

tional reforms in keeping with the pace of political progress in West Africa. It should note that the Territorial Assembly was not elected by universal suffrage and had no legislative powers and it should express the hope that such powers would be granted to it progressively and that it would be elected by universal adult suffrage.

9. At the local government level, he was glad to note that three of the mixed communes were to be converted into *communes de plein exercice*, that eight other communes would shortly have a municipal council elected by a single college and completed by two councillors nominated by the High Commissioner, and that fifty-eight rural mixed communes with nominated mayors and seven rural communes with the chief as chairman had been established in the South. The Administering Authority was to be commended for its efforts. He hoped that the communes' powers would be extended and their number increased. It was regrettable that equally vigorous steps had not yet been taken in the North; the Council should recommend further efforts to modernize and widen the base of local political institutions there.

10. As far as the traditional structure of the indigenous society was concerned, the chiefs, chosen by the notables, still represented the source of indigenous authority: it was through them that the regional and subdivisional offices exercised administrative control and they acted as judges in the customary tribunals, census-takers and tax-collectors. That system was far from democratic and the functions of the chiefs should be modernized and taken over, in the near future, by democratic local government bodies with salaried officials.

11. The number of Europeans in senior posts in the civil service was still high and the Administering Authority should intensify its efforts to train more Africans for positions of responsibility. The Council should recommend that a civil service should be established for the Territory as soon as possible so that the inhabitants could begin to participate not only in the Administration of the country but also in the law-making process which was one of the principal objectives of the Trusteeship System. A common electoral roll based on universal adult suffrage should be introduced and the Council should express the hope that the electoral reforms pending before the French Parliament would be enacted very shortly.

12. Very satisfactory progress had been made in the economic sphere. The Administering Authority and the people had made commendable efforts to develop the vast agricultural and animal wealth of the Territory and should continue to co-operate in bringing about a still greater diversification of crops. The cultivation of cotton and rice and the improvement of livestock and pasturage in the North were encouraging and there had been a satisfactory improvement in agricultural methods in the South, although the majority of the indigenous people were still subsistence farmers. The Visiting Mission had seen evidence of the increasing participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the development of their economic life, principally through the activities of the small rural development schemes (*petit équipement rural*). Those enterprises were welcome, and it was gratifying to note that about 50 per cent of the capital was in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants. He hoped that indigenous participation would continue to increase. Further details and figures concerning the

ten-year plan for economic and social development, and more particularly the extent of African participation, would be welcome in the next annual report. The Council should recommend the Administering Authority to ensure the fullest participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the implementation of the economic section of the plan and in any other undertakings affecting the economic life of the Territory. Increased capital investment should also be recommended to expedite development.

13. He noted with interest the special representative's statement that farmers could not mortgage their land and secure loans from financial institutions. It was a source of satisfaction to his delegation that the right of individual property was being increasingly recognized in urban and developed agricultural areas; he hoped that the cadastral survey would be further extended in order to encourage the progressive definition of the indigenous inhabitants' rights to land.

14. The more than 15 million hectares of rain forest and 12 million hectares of dry tropical forests or wooded savannah were a great element of wealth in the Territory. It was regrettable that there had been so many bush fires and that the inhabitants were not co-operating fully with the Administering Authority in combating deforestation. He hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts, in co-operation with the inhabitants, to classify forests and combat soil erosion.

15. There had been a very satisfactory development of fish-farming and it was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts in that direction.

16. The Administering Authority should be commended for its efforts to develop the co-operative movement. He hoped that co-operative activities would be extended from bananas to other crops such as coffee, rice, cotton and cocoa. The Administering Authority should encourage that development by providing specially trained technicians.

17. The Territory was fortunate in having 10,000 kilometres of roads, of which 8,600 kilometres were all-season roads. The 505 kilometres of railways, the two modern seaports at Douala and Kribi, the river port at Garoua and the fifteen airfields were a great asset to the Territory's economic life. Nevertheless, secondary and feeder roads and bridges were still inadequate and he hoped that the Administering Authority would put its plans in that respect into effect in the near future.

18. The Territory's net revenue was approximately 8,500 million francs CFA¹ and expenditure over 6,600 million francs for the year under review. The Administering Authority claimed that the Territory could not meet its budgetary needs without outside assistance and it had explained the reasons for that situation. Nevertheless, continued assistance would keep the Territory's economy in a very weak position unless it was accompanied by great efforts to bring about a notable increase in production.

19. With regard to social advancement, he noted that, as in other African territories, the status of women was not satisfactory and the pace of progress in that respect not encouraging. The fault lay largely in the social structure and lack of education, coupled with the scant co-operation on the part of the inha-

bitants. The time had come to draw the people's attention to the harm they would be doing to themselves if they continued to follow such practices as bride-price, forced marriage and the denial of education to their girls. A large-scale educational campaign should be carried out throughout the Territory, particularly in the northern regions. Furthermore, the Lamine-Gueye Act should be reviewed as soon as possible.

20. He was glad to note that the Labour Code was operating satisfactorily. The Administering Authority should train more skilled workers in order to satisfy the increased demand for them.

21. In the medical field there had been good progress, although the number of African doctors was still negligible. He urged the Administering Authority to train more Africans in medicine, pharmacy, nursing and midwifery. He agreed with other delegations that the Administering Authority should be urged to intensify its efforts to reduce alcoholism, especially in the South.

22. He joined the Visiting Mission in drawing the Administering Authority's attention to the unsanitary and unhygienic housing in rural areas and fully agreed with a previous speaker's suggestion that a community development plan should be introduced and technical assistance sought from the United Nations and the specialized agencies. He endorsed the views expressed by various speakers that conditions in the prisons should be improved and that prisoners should be brought to trial far more quickly.

23. The increase in the number of primary schools and the number of pupils attending school was most encouraging but further efforts should be made to provide more schools for the children of school age who were not yet attending school. It was most encouraging that in the North, where education had not originally been accepted, there was now a general request for more schools and teachers, especially for the outlying bush centres. In that connexion he welcomed the special representative's statement that educational funds would be devoted essentially to the North. He hoped that the pilot school at Pitoa would help to train teachers adapted to conditions in the North and that the Administering Authority would study the possibility of establishing a *lycée* in the North as soon as possible. The time had also come to give serious consideration to the establishment of an institute of higher education in the Territory and he hoped that in 1957 the Administering Authority would report to the Council on its plans in that respect. The Administering Authority was to be congratulated on the increase in the number of scholarships. He hoped the increase would continue and that, on completion of their studies, scholarship-holders would return to the Trust Territory to serve it.

24. Mr. PLAJA (Italy) paid a tribute to the Visiting Mission and to its Chairman for the tact and ability with which it had carried out its work.

25. In connexion with the incidents of May 1955, the Visiting Mission had expressed the hope that as soon as the guilty parties had been punished, calm would be restored to the Territory, and he was glad to find that that wish was being fulfilled. It was to be hoped that there would be no further incidents such as those of May, which could only retard the Territory's progress. The most serious consequence had been a widening of the divergencies between the

¹ One franc CFA equals two French francs.

North and the South of the Territory; in fact, the Visiting Mission had even used the word "hostility" (T/1231 and Corr.2, para.111). The problem existed in every territory in which the coastal region had developed more rapidly than the hinterland but it seemed more serious in the Cameroons than elsewhere. The incidents had also had repercussions in certain marginal areas of the Territory, although, according to the statements of the special representative, they had been short-lived and superficial. However that might be, it was difficult for the Italian delegation to adopt a definite position in view of the dilemma of wanting, on the one hand, to see the aspirations of the people fulfilled and, on the other, to safeguard the general interests of those people which, in its view, would be best served by the creation of units large enough to guarantee a stable political and economic life. The Italian delegation would keep a close watch on that aspect of the situation.

26. He noted with satisfaction that a bill was before the French Parliament to enlarge the powers of the Territorial Assembly and to set up a government council consisting of elected and appointed members, as also local councils at various levels. He hoped that those measures would come into force as soon as possible and that the Cameroons under French administration would thus attain the stage of development that Togoland under French administration had reached in 1954.

27. He was glad to note the steps taken by the Administering Authority to increase the functions and responsibilities of the indigenous inhabitants in local administration. The transformation of the mixed communes into *communes de plein exercice* and the democratization of local organs were excellent measures and he hoped that the Administering Authority would continue on the same lines.

28. The modernization and democratization of local political institutions should undoubtedly be encouraged; at the same time, however, care must be taken to ensure the progressive and orderly development of the Territory's structure. Too sudden a break with tradition might be dangerous and, as the incidents in May had proved, might retard rather than accelerate progress.

29. The Africanization of the administrative services was continuing satisfactorily and it was particularly encouraging to note that the proportion of African officials was increasing. The Administering Authority should persevere in its efforts to hasten that process in the senior ranks of the Administration.

30. The Italian delegation was glad to note that the French Parliament had before it a bill extending the system of a single electoral college to the election in the Cameroons of representatives to the French National Assembly.

31. All things considered, the Territory had made considerable progress in the economic sphere. His delegation had noted with interest the Mission's statement that it had seen evidence of increasing participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the development of their economic life, principally through the activities collectively known as small rural development. The greatest progress had been made in agriculture, which was the basis of the Territory's economy. The special representative had given some interesting information with regard to the introduction of rice- and cotton-growing in the North, which was a

fortunate development not only because greater diversification of crops was essential but because the way was thus being paved for industrial development in the North of the Territory.

32. He was glad to know that the Administering Authority had tackled the question of price stabilization for agricultural exports.

33. He had noted with interest the main lines followed by the Administering Authority in the two stages of its first ten-year plan. The next ten-year plan might perhaps lay still greater stress on the development of production, although in a country with an economic structure such as that of the Cameroons a substantial proportion of the resources intended for general economic development must be devoted to the infrastructure, at least until such time as some other methods of international assistance came into being.

34. Great strides had also been made in the social field; nevertheless the problem of the status of women, and particularly their matrimonial status, remained serious. In that respect, progress could only be achieved by slow and patient action.

35. Workers' wages and levels of living had improved, as shown by the statistics submitted to the Council and by the Visiting Mission's report. It was to be hoped that the improvement in economic conditions would lead to further progress, particularly in the North.

36. His delegation had been glad to note the continued increase in expenditure on public health. The Visiting Mission had given high praise to the Administering Authority's efforts in that direction.

37. There had also been a continual increase in the amounts expended on education, though the Visiting Mission had expressed the opinion that even larger funds were required for that purpose. The Italian delegation recognized the efforts that had been made by the Administering Authority both by increasing the number of public schools and by encouraging private schools. The Italian delegation would like to see more rapid educational progress in the North of the Territory and a development of technical instruction. It considered that a balance must be maintained between the various requirements and that hence the extension of primary and secondary education was more urgent than the establishment of an institution of higher education in the Territory.

38. To sum up, satisfactory progress had been made on the whole during the period under review and he congratulated the Administering Authority, which he felt sure would continue to do its utmost to attain the objectives set forth in the Charter.

39. U THAN HLA (Burma) noted that the Cameroons under French administration formed part of the French Union as an Associated Territory but that its status as such was not defined in the French Constitution adopted in 1946. The French representative had explained that the position had been left undefined in 1946, since France intended to make the status of the Trust Territories dependent upon the Trusteeship Agreements, which had not at that time been approved by the General Assembly. It followed that the present relationship between the Cameroons under French administration and the French Union was based on the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement and the principles of the International Trusteeship System rather than on the French Constitution. In other

words, it must be such as to further the basic objectives of self-government or independence.

40. At its fifteenth session the Council had requested the Administering Authority to transmit a concise appraisal of the effects of the present association on the Territory's future political development. That statement had not been forthcoming and the Council should reaffirm its recommendation. Similarly, the status of the inhabitants had not been satisfactorily determined nor had the Council been informed of the results of the studies being made. The views of the Territorial Assembly and local organizations should be sought, for they would help the Administering Authority to make a full and comprehensive study of the matter.

41. The Territory participated in the legislative process concerning penal law, civil liberties and political and administrative organization through representation in the French Parliament. It should be noted, first, that the electoral laws in the Trust Territory were not the same as those in France; secondly, that the Trust Territory was not represented on the basis of equality with other parts of the French Republic or the French Union; thirdly, that the French Parliament was naturally concerned more with affairs of national and international importance than with the Trust Territory's affairs. It was therefore open to question whether that form of participation in the legislative process was desirable and whether the objectives of self-government or independence would not be better served if the Territory developed its own legislative institutions.

42. The functions of the Administrative Council were virtually limited to giving advice when such advice was sought and the Council was not responsible to any representative organ of the people. It could not therefore be considered an executive or government council. As for the Territorial Assembly, the disparity in the number of seats allotted to first and second electoral colleges, respectively, was obvious. Furthermore, the Assembly's powers were very limited: any matter touching on political questions was out of its competence and, apart from approving the budget, it had only certain deliberative and consultative functions.

43. The Trusteeship Council had recommended the extension of the Territorial Assembly's powers and the establishment of an executive council with a majority of indigenous members (A/2933, p. 157). The reforms had been hanging fire for several years and the delay was most regrettable. Even if the bill pending in the French Parliament was eventually passed it was debatable whether the reforms, which should keep pace with the people's aspirations and the rate of progress in neighbouring territories, would be adequate. While the degree of political consciousness in different sections of the population might differ, all sections were now alert and needed only leaders to make them feel that it was in their power to work out their own destiny. If the people's efforts were channelled in the right direction, there was every reason to hope for a process of democratic evolution. At the same time any delay would inevitably produce frustration, resentment and even hostility. The May incidents had been the outcome of the political discontent prevailing among a considerable section of the politically conscious elements of the population, although only a small percentage of the total population had been involved. The time had come for adequate reforms; the establishment of an executive

council with an elected majority responsible to the Territorial Assembly and a Territorial Assembly with full legislative powers elected on the basis of a common roll by means of universal adult suffrage should not be unduly delayed.

44. The Council had not sufficient information on how the regional administration actually functioned. It did not know on what basis the councils of notables were appointed, whether consultation with them was mandatory and whether such consultation extended to administrative matters. He hoped that the Administering Authority would provide more detailed information in the next and succeeding annual reports.

45. In the sphere of local administration the trend was clearly towards the democratization of the mixed communes and the day when they would become fully elected bodies with elected mayors and full powers did not appear far off. The development of local government institutions in the South was impressive and commendable; it was to be hoped that they would become more democratic and be given extended powers. In the North, however, conditions had scarcely changed. The system of administration by regional officers with the assistance of appointed notables still prevailed. Experience in other territories had shown the dangers of uneven development of the two parts of a territory and it was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would give serious attention to the early introduction of local government institutions in the North.

46. It appeared from the Visiting Mission's report that the prestige of the traditional chiefs had begun to decline in the South although in the North they remained the source of indigenous authority and acted as judges, tax-collectors, census-takers and intermediaries between the regional officers and the people. Conditions in the Territory were changing and the present organization of the chiefdoms should be correspondingly adapted. The Council had twice recommended the reorganization of the chiefdoms and it was most regrettable that the relevant bill had not yet been adopted.

47. The increase in the number of voters from 50,000 to 750,000 in the last six years was impressive but the need for a common roll on the basis of adult suffrage had still to be met. The Council had stressed that need for several years and reforms were pending. It was to be hoped that they would be implemented without delay.

48. The need for more Africans in the senior administrative service still remained. At present 108 Africans held senior posts compared with 1,032 Europeans.

49. Turning to economic advancement, he noted that the economy of the Territory was chiefly agricultural and pastoral, with industry and mining still playing a minor role. The Visiting Mission had been impressed by the Administration's efforts to expand the economy by the development of hydroelectric power, diversification of crops, improvement of livestock and pasturage and the introduction of rural development schemes in which the indigenous inhabitants were participating to an ever-increasing extent.

50. Cash crops were grown mainly by Europeans, while the indigenous farmers, with their primitive methods, grew little other than food crops. They should be encouraged to use better methods of farming and to produce more cash crops. He hoped that the

Council and the Administering Authority would give careful consideration to the Mission's sensible suggestion that the indigenous inhabitants should first be taught to use simple tools rather than modern agricultural machinery.

51. The conservation of forests and the prevention of soil erosion in the South still needed encouragement. The people were apparently still opposed to the classification of forests, fearing that it would interfere with the exercise of their customary rights to the land or result in a shortage of land for cultivation. He hoped that a study of the problem would be made and that efforts towards the conservation of the Territory's land and forest resources would be pursued in the light of the results of that study.

52. He noted with satisfaction the work of the Livestock Service for the improvement of stock-breeding. As the prospects for the development of a tanning industry seemed promising, the Visiting Mission's suggestion that the Administration should endeavour to teach the indigenous inhabitants proper techniques for the processing of hides merited careful consideration.

53. Little headway had apparently been made in the development of handicrafts and light industries, owing primarily to the lack of trained workers. It was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would continue to encourage technical training and to grant loans for the development of such industries.

54. The Visiting Mission had stated that Africans played an active part in the establishment and operation of small businesses but in the absence of detailed information it was difficult to form an accurate estimate of their role in that sector of the economy. His delegation was pleased to note the Administration's efforts in encouraging co-operatives. So far they dealt mostly in bananas but he hoped they would be extended to other crops.

55. It would be interesting to have further information on production projects included in the ten-year plan for economic and social development and on the indigenous population's part in the implementation of the plan. A quantitative estimate of the gross output it was hoped to achieve in various sectors of the economy would make it easier to assess the beneficial effects of the plan. He hoped that the Territory's statistical services could be strengthened sufficiently to provide the Council with the information it had requested on the effect of the plan on individual incomes and on the general level of living.

56. The Visiting Mission had noted that, although the status of women varied considerably from region to region, as a general rule women enjoyed few rights. His delegation thought that efforts to alter tribal customs should be accompanied by efforts to promote the education of women and their participation in social services. He wondered whether the Administering Authority had considered the possibility of establishing regional committees to give special attention to the problem. It was obvious that the Lamine-Gueye Act encouraged polygamy and the bride-price system and that its application placed a heavy burden on the local budget. The provisions of the Act should therefore be reviewed.

57. The general labour situation appeared to be relatively satisfactory, although there was said to be a shortage of skilled labour and a certain amount of

urban unemployment. He would be interested to know what steps the Administration was taking to remedy the situation. Vocational guidance might be useful in planning employment according to available opportunities, and in preventing unemployment and correcting the present unhealthy attitude towards manual labour. The welfare work undertaken by the Administration was commendable and should be expanded.

58. In the field of public health, progress had been made in the provision of medical and health facilities but there were only four African doctors as compared with sixteen European doctors in the Territory. There was not a single African dentist and the proportion of African nurses and midwives was still very low. The Administration should therefore continue to train more Africans in the medical and health fields.

59. The Administering Authority was to be commended for the general progress it had achieved in the field of education. Six hundred new primary schools had been opened during the previous five years and the number of teachers had increased, as had school attendance. The number of primary schools was still small, however, in relation to the population and more were needed. General progress had been made, too, in secondary education but little had been done in respect of technical and vocational training, although in view of the acute shortage of skilled workers technical education was essential for the future advancement of the Territory.

60. It was regrettable that the position in respect of higher education had not changed. His delegation endorsed the Visiting Mission's recommendation for the establishment of a university in the Territory, for it was obvious that the present system of sending students abroad for higher studies had many drawbacks.

61. Mr. WALKER (Australia) said that in its review of the Trust Territory the Council had been materially assisted by the valuable report of the Visiting Mission. He wished to associate his delegation with the tributes paid to the Mission for the objective and competent manner in which it had discharged its task. The Council had also been assisted by the observations submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational developments (T/1223), the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions on the incidents of April and May 1955 (T/L.634) and the report of the committee set up to review the 35,000 communications received from the Territory (T/L.647).

62. At its 692nd meeting the Council had adopted resolution 1481 (XVII) on the incidents of May 1955 which had left no doubt in the minds of most of the members regarding the responsibility for those events. The information supplied by the special representative had made it quite clear that the incidents had been provoked by the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC), which had organized armed attacks upon the persons and property of members of political groups to which the UPC was opposed and upon certain Administration buildings. Violence of that kind posed a difficult problem for any administration. The Council had been informed of the action taken by the local authorities to cope with the situation and it had discussed the further developments. He noted with satisfaction that the vast majority of those arrested in connexion with the incidents had been brought to trial and that the Administering Authority had displayed

special tolerance towards persons participating in the incidents as distinct from the relatively small number of ringleaders.

63. The Administering Authority had clearly weighed the matter very carefully before deciding to dissolve the three political organizations implicated in the incidents. The available evidence would appear to confirm that the circumstances in the Territory at the time had been such as to justify the Administering Authority in that step. The Administration's policy in relation to freedom of association in general was evidenced by the fact that other political organizations still existing in the Territory included in their political platforms major objectives which were also to be found in the UPC platform. The dissolution of that organization, therefore, did not deprive the people of the Territory of the possibility of engaging lawfully in the organized pursuit of those basic political objectives to which the UPC had overtly subscribed.

64. Two very disturbing features of the incidents were the misuse which the UPC and affiliated organizations had made of the name and flag of the United Nations and the UPC's embarkation upon a policy of violence with a view to intimidating political opposition among their fellow Cameroonians. He reiterated the hope expressed in the Council's resolution that the Administering Authority's present policy of tranquillization, together with the continued and intensified pursuit of programmes of reform and general political development, would restore political activity to normalcy and bring to an end the tensions which had recently characterized the political life of the Territory.

65. Turning to the general situation in the Territory, he expressed satisfaction with the progress being made towards the achievement of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System and congratulated the Administration and the inhabitants on the measure of success that had been achieved.

66. Progress was particularly noticeable in education. The number of classes, pupils and teachers in primary school had increased considerably from 1950 to 1954 and although the number of girls attending school was still distressingly low, here, too, there had been a marked increase. The number of children in secondary schools was admittedly low by Western standards but the rate of expansion was encouraging and should be accelerated as additional numbers of teachers became available from the training schools. His delegation attached special importance to the Administration's efforts to increase the number of teachers.

67. With regard to higher education, more and more students were studying overseas. Some representatives had expressed regret that there was no institute of higher education in the Territory. His delegation noted the Administering Authority's statement that there were not yet sufficient students qualified for higher education to warrant the establishment of such institutes within the Territory. Until such time as conditions justified their establishment, it hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its policy of generous provision of scholarships for overseas studies, and that upon the completion of their studies the scholarship-holders would return to the Territory to perform those services which would best contribute to the Territory's development.

68. The encouraging reports of developments at the Pitoa pilot school were particularly interesting and he

hoped that that and other efforts of the Administration to promote the educational advancement of the northern peoples would be continued.

69. The general impression of the Visiting Mission with regard to economic advancement had been favourable. Remarkable strides had been made in the diversification of agricultural production and in the expansion of production both for local consumption and for export. The Administering Authority had apparently been highly successful in its policy of increasing the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the economic life of the Territory, except for its failure to win the support of the indigenous inhabitants and their representatives for the land conservation programme. The Council should again express its support of the Administering Authority's efforts in that direction, and it might direct a statement towards the indigenous people themselves, stressing the importance it attached to the Administration's programmes of land and forest conservation. As the economy of the Territory must for many years remain dependent on agriculture, it was vitally important that its basic agricultural resources should be protected. Accordingly, further efforts should be made to acquaint the people with the importance of those programmes and to win their support.

70. With regard to the public finances of the Territory, it was clear that the local budgetary resources were incapable of bearing the cost of developmental investment. Considerable contributions had been made in the past by the *Fonds d'investissement pour le développement économique et social des territoires d'outre-mer* (FIDES) and other organizations, and the Visiting Mission expected that increased revenue would eventually accrue to the Territory from the capital investments that had been made. Nevertheless, the increasing productivity of the people would seem to justify a review by the Administering Authority of the Territory's tax structure, in order to give the people a greater opportunity to contribute, through taxation, to their own development. Although there had been some petitions complaining about the excessive tax rates, their number had been relatively small and the Visiting Mission seemed to agree that the present tax rates were not excessive. He hoped that the Administering Authority would endeavour to increase the proportion of the population which contributed to territorial revenue through income tax.

71. His delegation endorsed the Visiting Mission's praise of the Administering Authority's achievements in the social fields. It noted with particular satisfaction the increase in the number of trade unions and the success that had attended the implementation of the Labour Code.

72. With regard to the status of women, he shared the Visiting Mission's view that the mere enactment of laws would have little effect on the operation of the bride-price system and that the problem posed by the traditions of the indigenous people, particularly in the North, was likely to be solved only through education and contact with more advanced practices.

73. In the matter of political development, he felt that the immediate requirements of the people of the Territory were being met by existing legislation or would shortly be met by the legislation now under review by the metropolitan Parliament. It was disappointing that the passage of that legislation had been delayed but he was sure that every effort would

be made to secure its passage at the earliest possible moment. The changes it was to introduce would be of the utmost importance: dual electoral colleges and limited suffrage would become things of the past; the powers of the Territorial Assembly and hence the responsibilities of the indigenous inhabitants themselves would be greatly increased; the seeds of responsible cabinet government would be planted and the people would be enabled to engage more extensively than ever before in the management of their own affairs.

74. The Administering Authority was to be commended for the energy with which it had promoted the expansion of the whole local government system and had facilitated the participation of indigenous inhabitants in that area of political development. While much remained to be done, especially in the northern section of the Territory, the continuing expansion of the councils of notables and other types of representative organs, with the resulting limitation of autocratic rule by traditional leaders, was a matter for congratulation.

75. Further progress had been made during the year under review in the Africanization of the civil service. The special attention which the Administering Authority was devoting to the specialized training of Africans for the civil service deserved the Council's approval, as did its proposal to reform the procedure for the award of scholarships so as to ensure that the system contributed to the fullest extent towards the Africanization of the civil service.

76. In conclusion, he said that all those developments taken together offered considerable grounds for optimism about the future development of the Territory.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

77. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the sole criterion to be borne in mind in considering the progress made in the various sectors was how far it contributed to the progress of the indigenous inhabitants and of the Territory as a whole towards the objectives of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. In that connexion, his delegation would touch upon a few main points only.

78. First, with regard to economic development, the Visiting Mission had stated that the indigenous inhabitants were playing an ever-increasing part in the economic life of the Territory, but it was evident that that part was confined almost entirely to agricultural production and included very little industrial activity. The Territory's economy was, in fact, based on the cultivation of the soil and would no doubt long remain so. Yet, agricultural methods were primitive in the extreme, as was apparent from the Visiting Mission's recommendation that the Administering Authority should encourage the use of the plough, the cart, the wheelbarrow and draught animals. His delegation therefore felt that the Council should urge the Administering Authority to draw up a general plan of agricultural development for the Territory, giving special attention to the need to import essential agricultural tools and machinery.

79. The Administering Authority's attention should be drawn also to the subject of land concessions; although there was no land hunger in the Territory it was wrong in principle continuously to assign large areas of the Territory's land for exploitation by non-Africans and it might eventually harm the Territory's

interests. Again, it appeared that the indigenous inhabitants were to a large extent opposed to the classification of forests, even though that measure was designed to preserve the forests as an asset to the Territory. If the reasons were more carefully explained to them and if permits for forest exploitation were granted less often to foreign companies and more often to Africans, their attitude would no doubt change.

80. The question of taxes had been mentioned by several representatives. The special representative had declared that they were not excessive. His delegation could not help noticing, however, that whereas the income derived from the sale of the Territory's products had diminished as a result of the fall in world prices, taxes had at the same time risen. It believed that the Administering Authority should review its taxation system and lower taxes wherever possible.

81. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of doctors, midwives, hospitals and dispensaries in the Territory but regretted that medical facilities were unevenly distributed and that in fact there was a grave shortage in the northern area. The Administering Authority should be urged to increase the proportion of doctors to the population and in particular to take steps to train more indigenous inhabitants in medicine. In that connexion, he could not help mentioning the subject of alcoholism, which had already been brought up in the Council. It was clear that the Administering Authority should adopt legislative measures regulating the import into and sale in the Territory of alcoholic beverages and it should intensify its educational efforts to stamp out that evil. Another matter to which the Administering Authority's attention should be drawn was that of the unhealthy conditions in which the rural population lived, many of them sharing the same roof with their cattle. Housing co-operatives should be created in those localities.

82. In the matter of education, there had been a praiseworthy increase in the number of schools, classes, teachers and pupils in 1954 as compared with 1953, but the general situation could hardly be said to be satisfactory when, after ten years of trusteeship, only half the children of school age in the Territory as a whole, and in the North only 6 per cent, were actually attending school. The Administering Authority should be urged to take immediate steps to increase the rate of admission of children to primary schools so that the problem of illiteracy among children of school age might be eliminated in the next three or four years. The picture was darker in respect of secondary education. The number of pupils attending secondary schools was only 2.7 per cent of those attending primary schools, and yet it was on the output of the secondary schools that the Territory's social and economic progress depended. In higher education, the situation was worse still; there was no higher educational institute in the Territory and very few students received scholarships to study outside the Territory. The Administering Authority should be urged to rectify that situation at the earliest possible date as a necessary preliminary to the speedier Africanization of the local administration.

83. With regard to the Territory's political structure, there was little to be said, for the situation had not changed materially during the past year. Various reforms were under consideration, as they had been ever since the Trusteeship Council had first recom-

mended them at its eleventh session: they included the extension of the powers of the Territorial Assembly, the establishment of a single electoral roll and the introduction of universal suffrage (T/2150, p. 168). As the representative of Syria had pointed out, those reforms had been so long in preparation that they would be obsolete by the time they were implemented, for the people had already passed that stage in the development of their political consciousness. If the present rate were to be maintained, therefore, the Territory's political structure would always lag behind the political needs of its people. The Trusteeship Council should therefore recommend that the Administering Authority should amend its reforms even before introducing them, as for instance by extending still further the powers of the Territorial Assembly and conferring upon the members of the proposed government council powers commensurate with those of ministers.

84. The unfortunate events of May 1955 had themselves, in his delegation's view, demonstrated that the people were ready for a greater degree of independence than the Administering Authority had so far given them. The Administering Authority had enacted various measures limiting the rights of the indigenous inhabitants, particularly in the matters of freedom of assembly and freedom to set up organizations; it had also restricted the right of the inhabitants to send petitions to the United Nations. It claimed that those measures had been necessitated by the revolutionary activities of the Union des populations du Cameroun, designed to overthrow the existing order by force. The facts, however, did not confirm that claim; there had been demonstrations and other minor activities but those were merely the consequence of earlier prohibitions and arrests. It appeared that the Administering Authority had dissolved the UPC because it feared the strength of the movement towards independence in the Territory. Unfortunately it had been impossible to obtain a clear and objective picture of the events of May 1955, because the Visiting Mission had simply not studied all the written communications it had received in that connexion. It was therefore difficult to give the Administering Authority a well-founded recommendation in that matter, but it was clear that the reforms so far undertaken had been insufficient and that more satisfaction should be given to the political needs of the population in their struggle for independence, in order to prevent similar disturbances in the future. In particular, the Administering Authority should be urged to take the necessary steps to restore to the people their full rights under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement and especially the right to meet and to form what organizations they wished. The disturbances had been but a sign of the people's dissatisfaction with the general situation in their country and it was the Council's duty to urge the Administering Authority to take what action was necessary to accelerate the Territory's development and to bring it to self-government or independence at the earliest possible date.

85. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) said that the situation in the Cameroons was on the whole satisfactory, with the single exception of the activities of the UPC and its affiliated organizations. Although the UPC was

described in the Secretariat working paper (T/L.645) as one of the principal political parties of the Territory, neither the Administering Authority's annual report² nor the report of the Visiting Mission bore out that description. Neither the membership of the party nor the area of its activities was very large. It was principally distinguished by the great number of petitions and communications it had sent to the United Nations, basely making use of popular sentiment, by the tendentious nature of its propaganda and by the recourse to brutality and violence in carrying out its programme.

86. No evidence had been produced to substantiate the allegations made in the petitions from the UPC. He would mention only two examples of tendentious propaganda: the leaflet circulated by the UPC shortly after the arrival of the Visiting Mission in the Territory, which was reproduced in annex III to the Mission's report; and the advice given by Mrs. Gertrude Omog on 11 May 1955 with regard to the attitude people should adopt when appearing before the Mission, which was quoted in annex V to the Mission's report. The misuse of the name of the United Nations in the UPC propaganda had done the Organization great harm in the Territory. The UPC had also flouted United Nations regulations with regard to the use of the United Nations flag. The policy of deceit adopted by the UPC had misled the members of the party themselves. None of the numerous leaflets it had issued contained constructive advice; on the contrary, they incited the people to violence and had even gone so far as to say that the forces of law and order in a Trust Territory were forbidden to use firearms and that even if they did use them they would fire only blanks. Needless to say, when the riots had broken out the authors of those leaflets had been conspicuous by their absence.

87. The incidents that had taken place in 1954 and 1955, culminating in the riots of May 1955, amply justified the French Government's dissolution in July 1955 of the UPC and its affiliated organizations.

88. In all other respects considerable progress had been made in 1954 and 1955, thanks to the intelligent co-operation of the greater part of the Cameroonian population. He had seen for himself the high ethical and technical qualifications of the European and African members of the Administration, who continued to perform their work in spite of all difficulties.

89. The Council had undoubtedly been happy to learn of the considerable progress made in communal organization during the past two years, as shown by the increase in the number of African electors from 50,000 to 850,000.

90. He hoped that the bills mentioned by the Visiting Mission, some of which had been before Parliament for a considerable time, would shortly be passed, since it was difficult for relatively under-developed people to appreciate the reasons for delay.

91. The Administering Authority would no doubt bear in mind the important question of Cameroonian unity, which had been endangered by the activities of the UPC. Already the Northern Cameroons was being integrated in the general economy of the Territory, thanks to the introduction of cash crops in that area. There could be no doubt that that development would have a great effect on the attitude of the relatively backward people of the North. His delegation therefore had been particularly glad to learn that the Admin-

² *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1954*, Paris, Imprimerie Chaix, 1955. (Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1209).

istering Authority would concentrate its efforts in the educational field on that part of the Territory. He hoped the Administration would avail itself of the help of the Christian missions, which exercised such a good influence in the social and cultural fields.

92. The genuine progress made in all fields in the Territory was described in the report of the Visiting Mission and it was therefore unnecessary for him to expatiate further on the subject.

93. Mr. RAMAIAH (India) said that his delegation was glad to note that the Administering Authority was taking steps to increase agricultural production, to improve the cultivation of cocoa, coffee and bananas and to introduce large-scale cultivation of cotton and rice in the North. The Visiting Mission had rightly drawn attention to the widespread complaints it had received regarding the fall in the price of cocoa. He had been glad to learn that the Administering Authority proposed to institute a price stabilization fund and hoped that it would include not only cocoa but all other products of the Territory which required economic assistance of the kind.

94. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority had taken up the planned development of the Territory. In an economically backward country there must be judicious expenditure of the revenue and that was often possible only through a planned programme of expenditure.

95. The amount of capital investment was not high in relation to the total population of the Territory. At the same time there had been numerous complaints about taxation. Either the public should be educated to understand that the present taxation policy was correct or the whole position should be reviewed. In such a matter public co-operation was most desirable and the Administering Authority should take every step to ensure that the public understood the need for taxation.

96. His delegation had been glad to note the steps taken for forest conservation and to cope with the danger from bush fires, soil erosion and other dangers. The Administering Authority was doing its best to educate the people and reduce public opposition, but the number of indigenous inhabitants holding forestry licences was comparatively low. Where opportunities were equal, indigenous inhabitants should be preferred in granting licences.

97. The Administering Authority had taken steps to increase the field of activity of the co-operatives and to provide technical assistance. He hoped that co-operative activity would be increased to comprise all fields of agricultural production. The Administering Authority would do well to encourage the extension of co-operative activity to the export trade.

98. The Administering Authority had been trying to improve the status of women. His delegation realized that in that matter public co-operation was essential and it realized the influence of tribal and traditional views on the question. Nevertheless the Government should not hesitate to do what it could to mitigate the present hardships. In particular the Lamine-Gueye Act should be reviewed. The fact that it applied to all the French territories should not prevent its being reconsidered in so far as it affected the Cameroons under French administration.

99. Although the facilities for medical health had increased every year, the number of African doctors and nurses remained low. That matter should receive increased attention from the Administering Authority.

100. The Visiting Mission had drawn the Council's attention to the evils of alcoholism in the Territory. In the Indian delegation's opinion every effort should be made to reduce imports of alcohol and to impose such restrictions as would fit in with the economy and make the financial resources of the Territory available for development plans.

101. The efforts made by the Administering Authority to increase educational facilities were a matter for commendation but he hoped that it would do its utmost to remove the great disparity between the South and the North in that respect.

102. It was a matter of supreme importance for the Trust Territory to have its own educational institutions for higher studies. Without a university in the Territory there would always be difficulty in finding sufficient educated personnel for the public services and also for industry. He hoped the Administering Authority would consider the establishment of institutions of higher education in the Territory as soon as possible. In particular greater attention should be paid to the development of technical education.

103. He reserved his delegation's comments on political questions until the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.