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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; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Examination of petitions (*continued*)

[Agenda item 4]

REQUEST FOR HEARINGS (T/PET.5/L.84 and Add.1 and 2) (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document T/PET.5/L.84/Add.2. and suggested that the hearing the Council had decided (654th meeting) to grant to the Chairman of Ngondo, Traditional Assembly of the Doula People, should be postponed until the eighteenth session.

It was so decided.

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

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1208, T/1222, T/1223);
- (ii) Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.4/L.1 and Add.1, T/PET.4/L.2 and 3);
- (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/1226, T/1234)

[Agenda items 3 (c), 4 and 6 (a)]

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.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (*concluded*)*Social advancement (concluded)*

2. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) asked whether the new government hospital at Bamenda had been completed and opened, and whether the special representative could give the Council any later information on the work in progress on the new hospital at Bama.

3. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that there had been an unexpected delay in the opening of the hospital at Bamenda. Although the hospital buildings had been completed at an early stage, work on the ancillary buildings had been held up for lack of the necessary funds, which had to be authorized by the Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. The delay had occurred just before the new Constitution had been introduced, when the Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, aware that it was relinquishing responsibility for the Southern Cameroons, had been reluctant to give the necessary authority. Work on the ancillary buildings was now nearing completion and the hospital should be opened within a month or two. The northern regional authorities were pressing on with the construction of the new cottage hospital at Bama and it would be opened as soon as possible.

4. Mr. ASHA (Syria) noted that the people of the Northern Cameroons considered the people of the Southern Cameroons aggressive, while the latter regarded the people of the North as strangers. He asked what practical steps were contemplated to reconcile the two factions so that they could work hand in hand towards the improvement and development of the Territory.

5. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that, in view of the very wide difference in outlook of the peoples of the two parts of the Territory, it was hard to conceive of their being

amalgamated into a single organization. The Administration had tried to get them to work together in a practical manner on the question of the allocation of Cameroons Development Corporation profits, but it had not yet succeeded in breaking down their mutual distrust.

6. Mr. ASHA (Syria) asked whether federation of both parts of the Territory with Nigeria might not help to bring about better understanding between the North and the South and, if so, whether the Administration should not pave the way for such a solution.

7. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) pointed out, to begin with, that the whole question of the Territory's political future was to be reviewed by the elected representatives of the people during the forthcoming year and would be settled in accordance with their freely expressed wishes. As matters stood, the people of the northern part of the Territory did not want to form a separate entity in a Federation of Nigeria but to integrate very closely with the Northern Region of Nigeria, to which they felt they belonged. As far as he could judge, the people of the South considered it expedient to belong to the Federation of Nigeria but hoped to achieve the greatest possible measure of political autonomy within that Federation.

8. Mr. ASHA (Syria) asked the Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 1955, to clarify a statement in paragraph 230 of the Mission's report (T/1226) to the effect that, whereas the people of the North seemed to cling to the social customs that stemmed from their traditional institutions and from their professed Islamic religion, the people of the extreme South seemed more inclined to adopt a social pattern closer to that of the Western world. The implication seemed to be that the backwardness of the people of the North could be attributed to the Islamic religion.

9. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Chairman of the Visiting Mission, said that, in its desire not to offend those professing the Islamic faith or to imply any criticism of the Moslem religion, the Mission had considered the matter from every angle and had phrased the sentence in question with the utmost care. The fact was that social organization in the North was dominated by a ruling class consisting of people practising the Moslem religion. Representatives of that group whom the Mission had interviewed had appeared to approve of certain practices which had a great influence on social advancement. As the Mission had pointed out in paragraph 262 of its report, Moslem women did not appear in public; moreover, certain representatives of the Northern People's Congress appeared to believe that Moslem law was opposed to giving women the right to vote. When the Chairman of the Visiting Mission had recalled that Moslem members in the Trusteeship Council and in the General Assembly had said that it was a misconception of Islamic law to claim that it denied women equal rights with men, a representative of the Northern People's Congress had retorted that Moslem law did indeed forbid women to appear in public. In the circumstances, the Mission felt that it had accurately reported the reactions of representative elements of the ruling classes in the northern part of the Territory.

10. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that what the people of the Northern Cameroons had said about the appearance of Moslem women in public and their right to vote was an incorrect interpretation of that law which had led to the adoption of certain traditions. Those traditions did not exist in most Moslem countries, where women not only appeared in public but enjoyed the right to vote and could hold positions in government service. Accordingly, the statement in paragraph 230 of the Mission's report should be corrected by the deletion of the words "as well as from their professed Islamic religion".

11. He proceeded to ask whether the minimum wage in the Territory was adequate to meet the needs of the workers.

12. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that wages in the Territory were in reasonable relation to the cost of living and adequate for the present needs of the population.

13. In reply to a final question from Mr. ASHA (Syria), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that representatives of the International Labour Organisation had visited the Trust Territory with a view to inspecting labour conditions there and collecting information, rather than assisting in the organization of trade unions. The Nigerian Labour Department, on the other hand, had provided ample advice and direction for the trade-union movement and the Administration had provided opportunities for trade-union leaders to visit the United Kingdom and study the operation of the unions there.

14. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what steps the Administering Authority was taking to eliminate the institution of bride-price, the marriage of very young girls and the law permitting parents to coerce their daughters into marriage.

15. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that the question of bride-price was an important one in the southern part of the Territory and it had been very carefully considered by the representative Government of the Southern Cameroons. The representatives of the people had decided that the Administration should continue the policy which had been commended by various Visiting Missions, namely to rely on public opinion to discourage the practice, as more modern ideas began to take root in the country.

16. With regard to the marriage of very young girls, the Administering Authority had tried to persuade the Legislature in Nigeria to make laws on the subject, but public opinion had been strongly against legislating on a matter which was governed by all kinds of traditional and religious principles. Once again, therefore, the situation was, perforce, being left to the gradual development of public opinion.

17. In the northern part of the Territory a father had the right, by tradition, to make his daughter marry whom he wished. That tradition was based upon a local, and possibly incorrect, interpretation of Moslem law. While the tradition might, on occasion, be enforced in the Kadi's courts, it was unlikely that there was ever any need for court action. In practice, there was a general understanding of what could be done and a general compromise by all the elements of society to see that it was done in a way which respected the wishes of the individual.

18. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concluded that in practice, it meant that

the Administering Authority did not intend to take steps to put an end to those practices, but would leave the matter to follow its rational course.

19. Both the Administering Authority in its annual report¹ and the Visiting Mission reported the existence of some prostitution in the Territory. It would be interesting to know whether it was legal and, if not, what steps were being taken to eradicate it.

20. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that a situation similar to prostitution arose in the neighbourhood of the plantations near the coast, where a very considerable number of unmarried workers with a great deal of money in their pockets lived side by side with a community that was not particularly well off. As a result there was, inevitably, a temptation for girls to form temporary liaisons with comparatively well-to-do workers on the plantations. The Administration was well aware of the social dangers of the situation and was awaiting a report, compiled under the aegis of the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research, upon that and other matters affecting the social conditions of the labour force on the Victoria-Kumba plantations. Interim steps to relieve the situation had been taken, but the real answer lay in improving the standard of living of the local communities surrounding the plantations, so that there was not the same temptation for the women to leave the community, and in encouraging the introduction of married workers so that there would be a healthier type of society on the plantations. Generally speaking, the solution should be positive action in improving the social background rather than police action which, experience had shown, would be ineffective and would merely aggravate the existing situation.

21. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how the Administering Authority accounted for the sharp rise in offences against property in 1954 as compared to 1953.

22. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) pointed out that the figures for offences against property were subject to violent fluctuations: 777 such offences had been committed in 1952, 394 in 1953, and 586 in 1954. He could not give any particular explanation; possibly the police had been more successful in their investigations in one year than in another. In any event, the figures did not indicate any significant trend of social development.

23. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that there were neither voluntary nor official social welfare services in the Territory. He wondered whether the Administering Authority intended to establish such services.

24. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that that was a matter for the representative Government of the Territory; it had not yet been closely considered and he could not say what the Southern Cameroon Government's decision would be, although he felt that its reaction would be that social welfare was still adequately cared for by the particular

social structure of the under-developed society in the Territory and that there was no particular point in trying to introduce any government welfare system.

25. In reply to a further question by Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) expressed regret that he had not with him a list of the subversive publications that had been banned by the Order in Council of 1954. The ban had been imposed because dissemination of the literature in question might cause breaches of the peace in the country. Lists of the publications affected could probably be included in subsequent annual reports.

26. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would be grateful if that could be done.

27. He noted from page 144 of the Administering Authority's annual report that there had been a two-day strike of workers engaged on road construction. The police had intervened and there had been no change in wage rates. It would be interesting to know why it had been necessary for the police to intervene and whether the strike had ended as a result of their intervention.

28. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that the police intervened in the case of strikes only when they feared that a breach of the peace might be committed. As soon as a strike occurred the police were alerted to see that there would be no trouble. The most likely cause of trouble was physical violence between the strikers and the people who wanted to go back to work. In the case in question, the police had intervened because there seemed to be a likelihood of riotous trouble.

29. He emphasized that there was no connexion between the police intervention and the fact that there had been no change in wage rates. The two statements were two pieces of unconnected information. Police intervention in an industrial dispute in the Territory bore no relation whatsoever to the subject of the dispute; neither the Government nor the police were concerned whether or not a strike was successful in bringing about an increase in wages.

Educational advancement

30. Mr. RAMAIAH (India) observed that the period from 1953 to 1954 had not shown the progressive increase in school attendance which had been a consistent feature of earlier years. He asked whether that phenomenon could be explained by reluctance on the part of the Administration to embark upon capital expenditure.

31. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that it was the hope of the Administration, through steady propaganda, to stimulate sufficient enthusiasm for educational development to produce more revenue from taxation and education rates for the financing of more schools and more qualified teachers and at the same time to encourage the population to send their children to school.

32. In reply to another question from Mr. RAMAIAH (India), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that although there was not sufficient demand to warrant it, the Southern Cameroons Government had decided to open a secondary school for girls in 1957. Its construction would be financed from the United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

¹ Report by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration for the year 1954, London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1955, Colonial No. 318. (Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1208.)

33. Mr. RAMAIAH (India) stressed the importance of increasing the number of scholarships and fellowships for higher education. He asked the special representative how the decrease in their number in 1954 was to be explained.

34. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that the decrease might have been the result of a transition period of some months before the system of granting scholarships had been reorganized in order to bring it into line with the new constitutional arrangements. A new scholarship board had been established during the financial year 1955/56; up to the time he had left the Territory, the Board had granted scholarships at universities for 35 people and was expecting to award another 14 before the end of the year. It had also granted scholarships for secondary education to 32 girls and 111 boys.

35. Mr. RAMAIAH (India) inquired whether the Administration had taken any steps to comply with the Council's recommendation made at its fifteenth session that higher educational facilities should be established in the Territory as soon as practicable.

36. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) pointed out that such action was not likely to become practicable in the foreseeable future. The Territory was too small and too poor to afford it and the number of people ready to benefit by higher education was too small to make it worth while. Such students were adequately catered for by the University College at Ibadan and by the higher educational facilities made available to them in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Australia and elsewhere.

37. Replying to a query from Mr. RAMAIAH (India) regarding the prospects of establishing Hausa as the common language of the Territory, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that Hausa was widely spoken in the Northern Region of Nigeria, particularly among the Moslems, and that its use was spreading among the pagan population of the northern part of the Territory. There was no prospect, however, that the language would spread to the southern part of the Territory. It was perhaps attributable to the policy of the Government of using Hausa as the language of instruction in the primary schools in the Northern Region that the use of the language was spreading.

38. Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala), noting from the annual report that it was not possible to determine the number of illiterates in the Territory, asked whether there had been a general census.

39. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that a census had recently been taken and it showed the number of persons who were literate in either Arabic or English.

40. In reply to a further question from Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that the Administration was continuously concerned with the lack of interest in education shown by the inhabitants and was seeking ways of overcoming it.

41. Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala) asked whether primary education had to be paid for.

42. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that the major part of the cost of education in the Territory was met by public funds derived from taxation, but a small part came from fees paid by the parents of the children using the facilities provided.

43. Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala) asked whether there was a system of adult or community education throughout the Territory and whether the lack of secondary schools in the northern part of the Territory was a great hardship for those who had to go to Nigeria to obtain secondary education.

44. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that adult education had advanced most spectacularly in the northern part of the Territory, although some progress had also been made in the South, especially among the people living on the plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation.

45. It was unlikely that the demand for secondary education would become sufficiently great in the near future to warrant the establishment of secondary schools within the Trust Territory. The long-established secondary institutions in Nigeria, at Maiduguri and Yola, were, however, only a short distance from the Trust Territory.

46. Mr. ASHA (Syria) asked the special representative to comment on the Visiting Mission's observation (para. 319) that the levying of local education rates should be only a temporary matter and that the ultimate goal should be to provide free education at the primary level.

47. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that he had noted the Visiting Mission's advice, which would certainly be given very careful consideration by the Southern Cameroons Government when it was developing its educational policy. The present policy, which had been worked out very deliberately, was to finance the educational system from three sources: first, from general taxation; secondly, from fees paid by the parents of children attending the schools; and thirdly, from rates levied in local government areas where the people had sufficient interest in educational development to impose such rates upon themselves. The Government felt that by exploiting all three sources simultaneously it was getting the maximum contribution from the public and making the most of such interest in educational progress as the people had. It was more than likely that, after careful consideration of the matter, the Southern Cameroons Government would decide to abide by its present policy.

48. Mr. ASHA (Syria) was glad to hear that the Southern Cameroons Government would give careful consideration to the Visiting Mission's suggestion and hoped that further information on the matter would appear in the next annual report. He noted that the special representative had referred only to the Southern Cameroons Government and wondered whether there was any special reason why he had not referred to the North.

49. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that the situation in the North was very different. There, the reluctance to accept westernized education was such that the cost of the educational system was exceedingly low and it was met entirely from the normal revenues either of the Native Administrations, which generally paid for primary education, or of the Northern Regional Government, which paid for secondary education. The whole primary educational system was financed without either the payment of fees by parents or the contribution of local rates.

50. Mr. ASHA (Syria) observed that the number of students was appallingly low in the Northern Region compared to the South. He wondered whether educa-

tional or social workers in whom the people had confidence could not be brought from Northern Nigeria to explain to the Northern Cameroonians the importance of educating their children.

51. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that the Administration had already gone further than that. The first task had been to convince the Native Administrations that the matter deserved vigorous prosecution. The educational experts that the Administration had sent to the Trust Territory in the past had concentrated on convincing the Native Authority Councils that the time had come to adopt modern educational methods. That procedure had been successful and there was now a much more vigorous and realistic approach to the matter on the part of the Native Authority Councils. The next step was for them to convey to the parents their conviction that the Territory must advance educationally. The Administration had performed its part and the matter was now in the hands of the Native Authority Councils, which were already working on it.

52. Mr. ASHA (Syria) noted from the Secretariat working paper (T/L.639) that there had been a decline in the number of students attending schools in the Southern Cameroons during the year under review. It would be interesting to know the reason for that decline.

53. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) had only the figures for the Territory as a whole, which showed an increase from 37,862 to 38,429. He knew of no reason for the apparent decline in the South.

54. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that he would be grateful for further information on that point.

55. He wondered whether any steps had been taken to request the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) to supplement the school children's diet by means, for instance, of free milk. Such assistance might act as an incentive to parents to send their children to school.

56. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that no offers of gifts of foodstuffs for school-children had been received from UNICEF, which had been giving assistance to the Territory in the form of free drugs and transport facilities for use in the anti-yaws campaign in the Bamenda area. In the past, free meals had been provided for children attending the primary schools run by the Cameroons Development Corporation, but, as part of a recent award in an industrial dispute, that was coming to an end and the pupils were beginning to pay for the meals provided by the Corporation. He did not think that the provision of a glass of milk at school would be an effective incentive to school attendance in the North.

57. In reply to a further question by Mr. ASHA (Syria) on the dissemination of information about the United Nations, Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) drew attention to chapter VI of the Visiting Mission's report. The Mission had been interested to see the volume of literature regarding the United Nations in circulation in the Territory. The Cameroons under British administration received greater quantities of such information than did other Trust Territories, because the Administration had always been insistent in asking for it. The information was disseminated to the public through reading rooms, community halls, schools, teacher-training cen-

tres, trade-union organizations, welfare organizations and other institutions.

58. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the special representative to comment on the observation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the Cameroons under British Administration that, at the rate of expansion shown by enrolments from 1950 to 1954, it would require over a century before all the Territory's children of school age were at school (T/1223, chap. IV, para. 10).

59. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that the Administering Authority sought to achieve the speediest rate of expansion possible. A number of authorities which had no responsibility in the matter had made estimates of what the rate should be: the mission organized by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development², for example, had decided that the target should be an expansion of the school population at the rate of 8.5 per cent per annum. The present rate of expansion was somewhat faster than that, but it was not sufficient to put all the children in the schools within the next generation. He could not tell whether there would be a sufficient change in the attitude of the people and in the financial structure of the country to make any marked acceleration possible.

60. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why it was that only one Government or Native Administration school had been built between 1952 and 1954.

61. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) said that the Administration had no intention of enlarging the number of schools owned by the Government or the Native Administrations if it could avoid it. The establishment of a Government or a Native Administration school was a last resort if more profitable methods had proved unsuccessful. There were still a large number of Government and Native Administration schools, because they had to be used as pilot projects to interest the population in the extension of education. In the future, the primary schools would be provided by the expert voluntary agencies which already operated most of them, with assistance from government funds. No particular increase should therefore be expected in the number of schools owned and operated by the Government or the Native Administrations.

62. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concluded that the Administering Authority intended to leave the expansion of educational facilities for the indigenous inhabitants to voluntary agencies.

63. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) emphasized that education was the responsibility of the Southern Cameroons Government and of the Government of the Northern Region. It was the policy of those Governments to obtain the fastest possible expansion of the educational system at the lowest possible cost to the people by using the established voluntary agencies and financing their activities from government sources.

64. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted from the Visiting Mission's report (para. 345) that entrance examinations to the sec-

² See, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *The Economic Development of Nigeria*, Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1955.

ondary schools revealed that many of the large number of applicants for admission were below the required academic standards. Furthermore, in its observations on the Visiting Mission's report (T/1234), the Administering Authority stated that it was considered that the present facilities for technical training were "quite as much as the quality output of the primary schools can utilize". Those two statements would appear to indicate that the standard of teaching in the primary schools was so low that the pupils had not sufficient education to enter either a secondary or a technical school.

65. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) replied that the output of the primary schools was not sufficiently large to provide as keen competition for entry into the secondary schools as there was in Nigeria, where education had reached a more advanced stage. The Administration sought to bring as many people as possible into the secondary schools in the Southern Cameroons without lowering the standard below that of the secondary schools elsewhere in the Federation. The position with regard to entry into technical training institutions was similar. The core of the problem lay in the attendance at the primary schools. If a much higher percentage of children attended the primary schools and if success there was more important to the prospects of every individual in the Territory, there would be much keener competition and the output of the primary schools would be of infinitely higher quality. That would result in considerable competition among children with real potentialities for places in the secondary schools and the technical training institutions and the whole quality of the educational output of the country would immediately rise. Existing facilities for secondary and technical education were adequate to handle the quality output of the existing primary schools.

66. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) drew attention to paragraph 364 of the Visiting Mission's report and asked the representative of UNESCO to comment on the Administration's policy of teaching a foreign language—Hausa—before pupils went on to English as the medium of instruction.

67. Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) replied that the observations of UNESCO on educational advancement in the Trust Territories were formulated by the Executive Board in Paris. The Visiting Mission's report had not yet been discussed by the Executive Board, but he assured the Council that the paragraph in question would be taken into account in UNESCO's next observations.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

GENERAL DEBATE

68. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) said that his delegation found developments in the Cameroons under British administration satisfactory in almost every respect. There was evidence of a marked increase in political consciousness in both parts of the Territory. The two parts were not, however, resolving into a single entity and the Council would do well to recognize that fact, as also the value to both regions of an association with the larger Territory to the west. His delegation had been pleased to note from the Visiting Mission's report that an atmos-

phere of freedom prevailed throughout the Territory; that was a sure sign of the political and social maturity of the people and, indeed, it was clear that a large measure of self-government was already in being.

69. The Administering Authority was to be congratulated on the granting of quasi-federal status to the Southern Cameroons in 1954. His delegation endorsed the Visiting Mission's view that the people of the South had made notable progress towards complete political responsibility and that all, in high and low position, bore themselves fitly and in a consciousness of their new status. The Administering Authority had been wise to appoint a woman to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly and he hoped that further means would soon be found to increase the number of women voters in the South. With regard to the Northern Cameroons, the Administration was to be congratulated on the setting up of a ministerial post with responsibility for the affairs of that part of the Trust Territory. His delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that any precipitate decision regarding the Territory's future should be avoided and that the Administering Authority should concentrate on educating the people so that they might later decide on their future in full knowledge of the facts.

70. His delegation welcomed the Administering Authority's statement that the whispering method of voting was to be discarded in favour of a secret ballot; it welcomed, too, the further democratization of local government and the complete separation of the executive and judicial branches in the Southern Cameroons.

71. While political progress was proceeding apace, his delegation noted that the Territory needed more assistance in the economic, social and educational fields. The Administering Authority was aware of the needs and was to be commended on its efforts to meet them, as, for instance, its measures to increase agricultural resources, to extend the co-operative system and to raise the standard of living of the less developed peoples. Increased medical facilities were required in the North and he hoped that they would be provided as the money became available. The Cameroons Development Corporation and the various companies active in the Territory were to be congratulated on what they were doing for their employees, particularly in the matter of adult education and technical training. The Administering Authority's efforts to interest the indigenous population in community development were to be commended.

72. His delegation noted that the Government of the Southern Cameroons had gained some autonomy in the matter of its educational development. That was to the advantage of the inhabitants: the new Government had, for instance, already instituted scholarship schemes for young people. There had been a praiseworthy extension of teacher-training in the Southern Cameroons. The Administering Authority's campaign against illiteracy in the North had evidently met with considerable success. His delegation looked forward to the results of the survey of adult literacy to be undertaken in the South with the help of an expert from UNESCO.

73. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that the appearance before the Council of two distinguished elected representatives of the Cameroonian people was a sig-

nificant event in the Territory's history. It was regrettable that they had had to leave so soon, for his delegation would have liked them to participate to the fullest possible extent in the Council's deliberations.

74. He paid tribute to the work accomplished by the Visiting Mission and welcomed the special representative's statement that the Mission's advice and recommendations would be closely studied by the Governments of the Southern Cameroons and the Northern Region of Nigeria.

75. His delegation felt some concern at the continued existence of two separate entities, the South and the North, with two separate administrations, and at the difference of political opinion between the two, particularly on the objectives of their political future. He had been glad to hear that unity of purpose between the two parts was not impossible. Improved communications and a large-scale educational campaign would go far to promote the better understanding essential for progress in all fields. The Council should recommend to the Administering Authority and the peoples of both the South and the North to exert every effort to that end.

76. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's view that the Council should recommend that the energies of the two groups should be concentrated on economic, social and educational developments; without considerable progress in those three fields it would be difficult for the people to express an intelligent opinion on their political future.

77. The need for better roads was of the utmost importance both as a means of promoting unity between the North and South and for the Territory's economic development; such roads would also attract the foreign investments which were badly needed, particularly in the South.

78. In principle, his delegation shared the Visiting Mission's view that for the Territory as a whole and for the Southern Cameroons in particular, the new institutions of local government represented a significant political advance. He welcomed the establishment of the Consultative Committee in the Northern Cameroons, though it was as yet too early to pass judgement on it. It was to be hoped that ample information about the Consultative Committee would be included in the next annual report. It was rather disquieting to note that the Visiting Mission foresaw the possibility of some incompatibility in the simultaneous performance of the functions of Minister for Northern Cameroons Affairs in the Government of the Northern Region of Nigeria and of Chairman of the Consultative Committee. The Visiting Mission had, in fact, received a communication from the Dikwa branch of the Northern People's Party requesting additional representation of the Dikwa Emirate in the Northern House of Assembly, on the grounds that the present representative could not continue adequately to represent his constituents because he had become Minister for Northern Cameroons Affairs. The special representative had discounted the possibility of a conflict of interests. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that the Administering Authority would look into the matter and report to the Council in 1957.

79. He had learned with interest that the next revision of the Constitution would take place at the end of August 1956. He had noted the wishes of

the various political parties in the South and hoped that, whatever form the revision took, it would be in the Territory's best interests.

80. He welcomed the progressive development of political consciousness in the South, but he was discouraged to hear that there was as yet little interest in political life and political parties in the North. The Administering Authority should make every effort to develop political consciousness in the peoples of the North. He was confident that, in co-operation with the leaders, representatives and people of the North, it would strive to achieve that objective, which was the basis for whatever future political life the Territory might have.

81. He noted with appreciation that the relations of the Northern Cameroons across the international frontier were very satisfactory. Conditions in the Southern Cameroons were equally satisfactory, and he hoped that they would continue so.

82. He fully shared the Visiting Mission's opinion that the indigenous people should not be irrevocably persuaded to accept hasty political decisions. They should be educated and contacts between them encouraged so as to develop a spirit of solidarity which would enable them to take an informed decision on their future.

83. The franchise should be extended to women, who should be encouraged to play an active role in the Territory's political life. Regardless of the arguments put forward by the special representative, he held that even illiterate women should vote, since many illiterate men exercised that right. The Council should reaffirm the recommendations made at its fifteenth session and express the hope that the participation of women in political life would be hastened and that the legislative bodies in the Territory would extend the franchise to women. He fully agreed with the remark of the representative of the United States that the whispering method of voting was outmoded and should be abolished.

84. In the North, local government power still devolved upon the Native Authorities, i.e., strong hereditary chiefs, councils of elders and other traditional leaders. The time had come to institute more democratic organs of local government. The new developments in 1954 and 1955 were welcome but they were not enough. The establishment of fifty-eight village councils in one region was encouraging and he hoped that it would be followed by many bolder and more energetic steps. In particular, he endorsed the view that excessive centralization in the large statutory Native Authorities should be corrected by the devolution of authority upon the subordinate district councils and by ensuring that the latter were firmly based on local government at the village level.

85. The picture in the Southern Cameroons was much brighter. There had been a number of commendable reforms and he particularly welcomed the complete reorganization of the Native Authorities in the Kumba Division on an elective basis and the creation of the Mamfe Town and Area authority.

86. While he recognized the difficulty of attracting qualified candidates to the Civil Service, he felt that indigenous participation in responsible positions was not altogether satisfactory. There were only eighteen African officers in the senior government

service in the Southern Cameroons, of whom only five were Cameroonians. At the same time, seven Cameroonians were serving in senior posts outside the Territory. Students who had been awarded scholarships should serve at least five years in their own country. He hoped that the Administering Authority would note the Visiting Mission's recommendations to that effect. In the North the situation was less satisfactory; Africans were employed mainly by the Native Authorities of the Bornu and Adamawa Provinces. The Administering Authority should remedy the situation immediately and it was to be hoped that the findings of the Commissioner who was inquiring into salaries, emoluments and conditions of service would be communicated to the Council at its nineteenth session.

87. His delegation had constantly suggested that there should be complete separation of powers between the judicial and administrative departments. He awaited with deep interest the promised reorganization which would bring about that separation and he hoped that the necessary funds would be made available to ensure an efficient judicial system.

88. Economically speaking, the Territory had made great progress in the plantation areas through the Cameroons Development Corporation but as a whole it was still under-developed and much remained to be done to exploit its agricultural resources. The standard of living remained at the subsistence level. According to the Visiting Mission, the economic potential of the Southern Cameroons was rather promising; he joined with the Mission in expressing the hope that the Administering Authority would find ways and means of expediting the economic development of the Territory as a whole. The co-operative societies in the Southern Cameroons were doing excellent work. The Administering Authority should be urged to intensify further its efforts to introduce similar societies in the North. He welcomed the diversification of cash crops, the increase in the quantity of foodstuffs grown, the improvement in pasturage and cattle-raising, the exploitation and preservation of forest resources and the excellent work done on the Santa Coffee Estate. The Administering Authority should be commended for its bold step in introducing the neem tree into the northern areas; further information in that connexion would be welcome. His delegation shared the Visiting Mission's opinion that far more qualified technicians were needed and he urged the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts to train additional technicians in the Territory and, pending that, to recruit technicians from abroad.

89. The Administering Authority was to be commended on the social and educational progress achieved so far. Nevertheless, the situation in the North still required careful attention and the Administering Authority should try to bring development there at least up to the level in the South. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's view that the present policy of charging fees for primary education should be regarded as a temporary measure. He would like to see free and compulsory primary education in the Territory as soon as possible.

Brigadier Gibbons, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British Administration, withdrew.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Tanganyika (*continued*):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1954 (T/1205, T/1221, T/1223);**
- (ii) **Petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.2/L.4, T/PET.2/L.6)**

[Agenda items 3 (a) and 4]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Grattan-Bellew, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Tanganyika, took a place at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

90. Mr. MENON (India) did not wish to reopen the debate on Tanganyika but felt compelled to comment on some of the remarks addressed to the Indian delegation by the United Kingdom representative and the special representative at the 681st meeting.

91. It was true, as the United Kingdom representative had said, that the Administering Authority's responsibilities with regard to General Assembly resolutions were necessarily modified by its other obligations towards the Trust Territory; but that applied principally to obligations flowing from the Trusteeship Agreement, whereas the United Kingdom representative's statement that the Administering Authority could not comply with the wishes expressed by the General Assembly in resolution 558 (VI) was in flat contradiction to the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and consequently of Article 87 of the Charter, which listed the functions of the Trusteeship Council acting under the authority of the General Assembly. It was not, of course, essential to establish a timetable: what was essential, however, was to attain the objectives of the Trusteeship System. His delegation had suggested that some attempt should be made to take the Territory at least one step nearer the objective within the period of tenure of the present legislature. He had pointed out that the pace so far had been deplorably slow: the Legislative Council had been created in 1926; the present structure had been introduced in 1945, since which date no positive constitutional progress had been made. It was high time, in his delegation's view, for a speeding up in the rate of advance.

92. His main concern was with the exact nature of the present Executive Council. It was, of course, true, as the special representative had said, that an executive council was an advisory body; his delegation's objection had been that under the present arrangement in Tanganyika the unofficial members were merely advisers to advisers—the eight official members. They were not in any sense executives but merely performed the functions of parliamentary private secretaries. The official members, he maintained, were appointed as officials and consequently as the heads of their departments and they acted in the Executive Council accordingly.

93. The special representative had said that it would be improper to incorporate in the constitutional instruments any machinery for automatic constitutional advance. He would point out, however, that parliamentary procedure was distinct from substantive legislative action. It should not be impossible, given the United Kingdom's relatively flexible system, to provide

some procedure for the confirmation of constitutional advances as they were introduced in the Territory. Constitutional advance should be, as it were, self-generated and should not consist in a series of isolated acts deriving from an external source. He hoped that the United Kingdom representatives would accept his comments in the spirit in which they were made: he did not wish to cavil at trivialities; his sole concern was that the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement should be properly observed.

94. His delegation had been glad to note, from the special representative's statement, that the Administering Authority did not intend to perpetuate the tribal system in Tanganyika; it was still at a loss, however, to comprehend the purpose of the African Chiefs and Chiefdoms Ordinance, 1953, and feared that it might conflict with the democratization of local government.

95. Nor was his delegation satisfied that the Territory's immigration laws were not operated in such a way as to discriminate against Asians. It was important to prevent the occurrence in Tanganyika of a situation similar to that which had arisen in the Union of South Africa. Again, the regulation preventing a man not resident in the Territory from joining his wife resident there clearly had an adverse effect on the Asian communities in Tanganyika; that was wrong, in his delegation's view, because the Territory belonged equally to all the nationalities resident in it.

96. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) said that he had nothing to add to the statement he had made at the 681st meeting.

97. Mr. GRATTAN-BELLEW (Special Representative) admitted that constitutional change had been slow in coming to Tanganyika: the first change had taken twenty years and the second ten, but the third, it appeared, would take no more than five; the Governor would be more explicit on that point when he made his statement to the Legislature Council in April.

98. The Indian representative was still not correct in his interpretation of the functions of members

of the Executive Council. Whatever their functions outside the Council, the fact remained that within it, all its members, whether official or unofficial, were equal: they were all advisers to the Governor in the making of policy. Views opposing the Government's were given full weight and often served to change policy.

99. In the matter of automatic constitutional advance, it was quite clear that the United Kingdom Government had the power to adopt any procedure whatever but he still contended that to give the Governor and Legislative Council the power to confer a constitution upon Tanganyika would be improper and undesirable from the point of view of constitutional law.

100. The African Chiefs and Chiefdoms Ordinance need give rise to no alarm: it merely organized and controlled the present position of the chiefs, who would continue to perform an essential task of administration in rural areas during the transition period. It was the Government's full intention eventually to replace the indigenous system of local government by a modern democratic system.

101. He would say again: there was no discrimination against Asians in the way the Territory's immigration laws were enforced. It was clearly not in the Territory's interest to admit large numbers of clerks, manual workers and semi-skilled labourers, and the people themselves, particularly the Africans, were opposed to it. It was simply a coincidence that the majority of applicants in those classes happened to be Asians. As to the regulation regarding husbands and wives, the number of husbands to whom it had applied had never been very high and the only reason why the privilege had been rescinded was that grave abuses had taken place. The new regulations shortly to be introduced would permit husbands to join wives who were permanent residents of Tanganyika, while preventing any abuses.

102. He assured the Indian and other representatives that their views on all those matters would be communicated to the Administering Authority and would be given every consideration.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.