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**President:** Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, France, Haiti, India, 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 conditions in the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration: (a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1136, T/1150, T/1156, T/1160); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.7/L.6, T/PET.7/L.8 and 9) (continued)**

[Agenda items 3 (f) and 4]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Georges Apedo-Amah, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration, took a place at the Council table.*

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (continued)

*Political advancement (concluded)*

1. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) noted that the tempo of political advancement in Togoland under British administration was much faster than in Togoland under French administration, where the Administering Authority seemed to be marking time. He wondered whether the explanation was that the inhabitants of the French Trust Territory were less gifted than their kinsmen in Togoland under British administration.

2. Mr. BARGUES (France) replied that he was not prepared to comment on the United Kingdom Government's policy in its Trust Territory. In Togoland under French administration, as in all the under-developed African territories, the difficulty was that there was no ethnic unity and hence that different groups of the

population were at very different levels of development. In the coastal areas, the people were very advanced and had been in contact with European civilization for approximately four centuries; they were capable of fairly rapid political progress. The peoples in the North, however, were far less advanced. It was very difficult to adjust the rate of progress to the needs of both categories. Moreover, while the Administering Authority obviously believed that Western democratic political institutions were better than the African tribal and customary institutions, the transition from one type of society to another must necessarily be a gradual process and the population must be thoroughly prepared for each new stage.

3. In reply to a further question from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Mr. BARGUES (France) said that the bill adopted by the French National Assembly on 3 November 1954 would mark a considerable step forward in the evolution of the political institutions in the Trust Territory. It was one more proof that the Administering Authority could not really be accused of marking time. With regard to how soon the bill would become law and be promulgated in the Trust Territory, he pointed out that parliamentary processes were inevitably slow. The French Government was second to none in its anxiety to see the bill adopted as soon as possible. After the vote in the National Assembly, the bill had been submitted to the Council of the Republic, which had introduced certain amendments. It had now come before the Assembly for a second reading; as it had been amended, it would have to be resubmitted to various parliamentary committees. The date set for its subsequent discussion in the Assembly would depend on the urgency of the other business pending.

4. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) pointed out that the question of amending the political structure in Togoland had been before the Council for the last three years. At the ninth session of the General Assembly the petitioners from the Trust Territory had told the Fourth Committee that the proposed bill would considerably improve the political institutions in Togoland. The Council had already recommended that passage of the bill should be expedited. It might help if the French representative were to inform his Government of the Council's interest in the matter. He was sure that he was speaking for all the members of the Council in making that suggestion.

5. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that he would certainly transmit the Haitian representative's comments to his Government and urge it to expedite matters. He would do so the more willingly as he had himself helped to draft the bill.

6. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether the Togoland representatives in the French Parliament had suggested that in the mixed communes, category III, the administrator-mayor as well as the members of the municipal commissions should be indigenous. The idea of having a French official as administrator-mayor was

apparently to give the indigenous commission members the benefit of his technical advice and assistance. It should be possible for the Administration to place the same advice and assistance at the disposal of an indigenous administrator-mayor.

7. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that there were three categories of mixed communes: category I, where the municipal commission was appointed, not elected; category II, where some of the commission were appointed and some elected; and category III, where the commission was entirely elected. In all categories the administrator-mayor was ex-officio chairman. Under a new Act adopted by the National Assembly in July 1954, a number of *communes de plein exercice* would be established in the Territory. Under that system, the elected members of the municipality would elect their own chairman, who would thus be the mayor of the commune. With regard to the racial origin of the administrator-mayor, the *commandant de cercle* or the chief subdivisional officer was ex-officio administrator-mayor, regardless of whether he was an African or from metropolitan France. No racial discrimination was permitted in French administrative practice.

8. In reply to further questions from Mr. DORSIN-VILLE (Haiti) Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) stated that, as chance would have it, the seven *circonscriptions* in which there were mixed communes, category III, were all under officials from metropolitan France. Hence, there were at present no African administrator-mayors at the head of such communes.

9. The new Act concerning municipal reform had already become law and the *communes de plein exercice* would begin to function as soon as the regulations to give effect to the Act in the Territory had been prepared. He hoped that would be in the very near future.

10. The electoral law specifying which categories of the population were entitled to vote was a general text applicable to other Territories besides Togoland under French administration. According to paragraph 23 (b) of the annual report,<sup>1</sup> that law extended the suffrage *inter alia* to persons at a certain level of social advancement (*notables évolués*) whose status was defined by regulation in each Territory. While regulations defining the term "at a certain level of social advancement" existed in French West Africa, French Equatorial Africa and perhaps in the Cameroons under French administration, they did not exist in Togoland.

11. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that a number of the petitions before the Standing Committee on Petitions pleaded for the unification and subsequent independence of the two Togolands. Nine petitions contained the same plea. It would be interesting to know whether the majority, or at least a significant section, of the population in Togoland under French administration still refused to abandon the idea of unification and independence.

12. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) pointed out that most of the petitions referred to came from Togoland under British administration. In Togoland under French administration there was complete freedom of

expression and certain political parties, such as the Comité de l'Unité togolaise and Juvento, favoured the unification of the two Togolands. At the moment they were in the minority.

13. When Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why they were called the minority parties, Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that in the 1952 elections to the Territorial Assembly the Comité de l'Unité togolaise and its subsidiary Juvento had won 5 seats as against 23 seats won by other parties and 2 seats won by independent candidates.

14. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that in the last elections two of the main parties had received some 10,000 votes each and the third main party had received 20,000 votes. He wondered, therefore, whether it could really be said that any one of the parties expressed the majority or conversely the minority point of view of the population as a whole.

15. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the Comité de l'Unité togolaise and the Parti togolais du progrès were balanced in the south and centre of the Territory; they had each obtained 10,000 votes. In the north, however, the Union des chefs et des populations du Nord had obtained 20,000 votes. As the Union was affiliated to the Parti togolais du progrès, that bloc had obtained 30,000 votes as against 10,000 for the Comité de l'Unité togolaise and Juvento. The results faithfully reflected the people's views.

16. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered whether 30,000 votes could be said to represent the people's views faithfully when the total number of registered voters in 1952 had been only 152,000 out of a population of 1,052,000, and the total number of votes cast about 41,000. In that connexion, it would be interesting to know whether there was any index of the people's views, apart from elections, such as demonstrations, meetings, resolutions and so on.

17. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the registration of voters was a problem. Many people who were entitled to vote did not apply for registration and it was difficult for the Administration to seek them out; the identification of applicants for registration was another problem. Every effort was being made to encourage the people to exercise their voting rights and the lists of registered voters were constantly growing. Despite the small number of voters, the 1952 elections had been a very significant indication of the people's views, as the voters had come from every stratum of society and every region of the Territory.

18. The people had also been able to express their views in the popular consultations undertaken jointly by the United Kingdom and France on the reconstitution of the Joint Council for Togoland Affairs. The consultations had not been restricted to the electorate; all sectors of the population had been approached. There, too, the majority had come out in favour of the Parti togolais du progrès and the Union des chefs et des populations du Nord. Other indications, such as attendance at meetings, confirmed the relative popularity of the various parties.

19. In reply to a further question from Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

<sup>1</sup> *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Togo, placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1953*, Paris, Imprimerie Chaix, 1954.

Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that he could not give exact figures of the number of adults who would not fall into one of the sixteen categories of voters, but he felt that it would be very low indeed. He pointed out that, because of the registration difficulties to which he had already referred, the number of registered voters did not reflect the total number of persons entitled to vote.

20. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the question whether the customary chiefs were or were not officials had been discussed at length in the Council. The village chiefs obviously discharged certain administrative functions; it would be interesting to know whether they were the only representatives of the Administration in their villages.

21. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the village chiefs were the representatives not of the Administration but of the population, although they were a link between the population and the Administration. The Administration gave them certain directives, but they retained paramount authority in their villages. If there were other officials in the village, they would be members of the technical services, such as nurses and veterinary nurses.

22. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the fact that the village chiefs acted as administrators and were responsible to the Administration for carrying out certain tasks might cause difficulties.

23. He would like to know whether the cantonal chiefs also exercised administrative functions and, if there were any overlapping of jurisdiction, the exact distribution of functions between the cantonal chiefs and the administrative officers in their area.

24. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) could not see why the fact that a village chief exercised administrative functions should cause any difficulty; his role in the village was something like that of a mayor in France, who had administrative duties but was not an official.

25. The situation was much the same in the case of the cantonal chiefs. Each cantonal chief administered the village in which he lived and was generally responsible for all the villages in his canton; there was no official above the cantonal chief. The functions of the cantonal chief and the representative of the Administration in the area were very clearly defined and could be compared to those respectively of a mayor and a prefect or sub-prefect in France.

26. In reply to further questions from Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the village chiefs and cantonal chiefs were not actually mayors; he had used the term "mayor" as a point of comparison. It would be quite incorrect to refer to the chiefs as elected officials. There were no elected officials in the French Administration. The chiefs were the representatives of the population.

27. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the chiefs were generally elected, but wondered whether the hereditary principle might not apply in certain cases.

28. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) emphasized that in most tribes, particularly in the south, the hereditary transmission of authority from father to son was specifically prohibited. In certain tribes, such as the Chokosis and the Ashantis, it was retained as a relic of the past, but the successor to the throne had to receive the people's approval. In other cases the choice of chief might be restricted to two or three families, known as royal families, or a son might be chosen by the customary council to succeed his father. In every case, the choice had to be endorsed by the population.

29. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) noted that the requirements for eligibility to vote were complicated and asked what steps had been taken to ensure universal suffrage in the Territory, as the Council and the General Assembly had recommended.

30. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that all adults were eligible to vote, with the exception of men who, among other things, were not notables or had no occupation, and women with fewer than two children. Despite repeated appeals by the local administration, there were still a number of persons who neglected to register on the electoral lists. As they could not be identified, the franchise had not been granted them.

31. Mr. BARGUES (France) added that the progress towards universal suffrage was reflected in the increase in the number of persons on the electoral rolls, from 8,000 in 1948 to 152,000 in 1954. The progress had been extremely rapid, especially when it was recalled that in France universal suffrage had existed for only little more than a century. The French Parliament had endorsed the principle of universal suffrage for the Territory. Its full implementation must await the development of a greater political consciousness among the inhabitants and the surmounting of such practical difficulties as the special representative had mentioned.

32. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) welcomed the information that six scholarship students from the Territory were continuing law studies in France during 1953, and wondered whether the shortage of trained personnel for judicial posts was the only obstacle to a complete separation of judicial and administrative powers.

33. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) pointed out that the separation of powers had been a reality for at least two years, with all judicial functions being carried out by career magistrates, at any rate in criminal courts. The courts of the first and second degrees, handling civil and commercial cases, applied customary law and were presided over by the *commandant de cercle* or the chief divisional officer. That procedure would remain in effect for some time, pending the establishment of a single judicial system for the Territory applying the French Civil Code.

#### *Economic advancement*

34. Replying to a question from Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) about tax exemptions for polygamous men with family dependants, the special representative explained that such exemptions were granted provided the taxpayer could convince the police commissioner that all the children for which he claimed exemption resided under the same roof as he did and were in fact wholly dependent upon him for support. While in theory, the provision might appear open to abuse, in practice it was very restricted.

35. In reply to another question from Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) about corporation taxes, Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) and Mr. BARGUES (France) said that companies incorporated in France but operating in the Territory, or operating partly in the Territory and partly in France, paid tax on the income realized in Togoland to the Togoland Administration and tax on the income realized in France to the French Government. To prevent double taxation, special regulations had been worked out jointly by the Minister for Overseas France and the French Minister of Finance.

36. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) then asked a series of questions about the stabilization fund (Fonds de soutien et d'équipement de la production locale). As the fund actually represented producers' contributions, to be used for protection against possible losses resulting from a drop in market prices, he wanted to know whether funds drawn from it for public works or improvement of equipment were eventually restored to it.

37. He inquired also whether exporters knew in advance what percentage they would have to contribute to the fund when the market price reached a particular level.

38. Mr. BARGUES (France) explained that the stabilization funds in Territories under French administration operated very differently from the marketing boards in the Territories under British administration. They were used to develop and improve production, rather than merely to stabilize or maintain commodity prices. They were maintained by percentage contributions, sometimes in the form of a tax on exports when the market price of a given commodity was high, and by subsidies from the local budget. They were drawn upon for purposes of scientific research in plant diseases, improvement and expansion of output, establishment of pilot plantations and improvement of crop transport. Only incidentally did they provide direct financial aid to producers when market prices dropped below a certain level. A decree was being prepared, however, to provide real stabilization funds on the same principle as the marketing boards. When prices were high on the world market, a certain percentage would be contributed to the new stabilization funds; when prices dropped below a certain level, the producer or exporter would be reimbursed. Pending enactment of that decree, it was practical to use the funds available for improving and expanding production, and to supplement those funds from the local budget, if necessary, without reimbursement to that budget.

39. The rate of tax on exports was fixed in advance, but it was subject to changes depending on the world market fluctuations. The rate was determined by a committee including representatives of the exporters, so that they were assured a normal margin of profit.

40. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) expressed surprise at the disparity between the amounts of cotton goods imported from the Gold Coast in 1949 and 1953, to the detriment of imports from France.

41. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that trade with the Gold Coast, which had been restricted in 1949, had increased considerably in the ensuing years because the Gold Coast could re-export to Togoland certain textiles which it received from the United

Kingdom, and which were very much sought after by the population; and because those re-exports had been encouraged by the reductions in customs tariffs brought about by the efforts of representatives of the population.

42. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) noted the Administering Authority's comment that the traditional system of land tenure was fraught with insecurity and uncertainty and asked what were the social implications of the land registration scheme. He felt that it was not necessarily true that the traditional system offered no security, not if the Administering Authority stated once for all that land alienation was prohibited, that indigenous occupation of land holdings was tantamount to ownership or title, that the occupant of the land could in no case be deprived of the land he occupied and cultivated, and that no claim to his land was valid. He inquired whether the very complicated system of registration after survey really gave satisfaction to the indigenous inhabitants and was as advantageous as had been anticipated.

43. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained the complications arising under the traditional land-tenure system from conflicting claims of various members of a family to the land, and sale of the land by one group without the knowledge of the other. Those complications had led the indigenous owners to prefer the registration scheme, which invalidated all subsequent claims and guaranteed title, despite the lengthy procedures involved.

44. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out, on the other hand, that the same complications could easily arise at the time of registration, and that many petitioners had complained that land holdings had been registered without their knowledge and in violation of their rights. Moreover, the land remained subject to customary laws of succession, and all the uncertainty existing before they had been registered was likely to return upon the death of the current owner.

45. Replying to two questions from Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) regarding the development of the palm-oil industry, Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that plantations sown with seeds from selected palms had been set up by the Agricultural Service. That Service distributed selected palm seedlings to planters requesting them, sometimes free, sometimes for a nominal sum. The palm-oil producing factory of Alokouégbé, to which the annual report had referred, had been functioning very satisfactorily. The growers had been eager to bring their crops and to heed the factory experts' advice. Prices had been good.

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

46. In answer to a question from Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) about paragraph 50 f of the Administering Authority's report, Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the Administration had done all in its power to encourage the development of co-operative societies, but that the response from the population had been negligible. Co-operative societies were formed, but disappeared almost immediately. The Administration deplored that state of affairs and had endeavoured to remedy it, for instance by offering fellowships for practical training to members of Togoland co-operatives, which enabled them to study the

co-operative system in France; but again the response had been almost non-existent. The Administration had also tried to stimulate interest by starting co-operatives in certain areas, while, of course, leaving their management to the indigenous population. A Togoland official who had recently returned from a visit to France was making a tour of the Territory and had succeeded in founding two planters' co-operatives.

47. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) asked whether there were in the Territory any small industries—in other words industries which had passed beyond the handicraft stage but were not full-scale industries in the normal sense—entirely in the hands of the indigenous inhabitants.

48. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) observed that the establishment of any industry, whether small or large, required a certain amount of capital which the indigenous inhabitants unfortunately did not have. He had no doubt, however, that a number of indigenous inhabitants could, if they so desired, group together to provide the means for setting up an industry. So far they had shown no interest in that direction, but should they do so, they could be sure of the immediate assistance and encouragement of the Administering Authority. The only industry belonging to the Territory at present was an oil-extracting business, but it was managed by a French company.

49. In reply to a question from Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) about the cost of road construction in the Territory, Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that, thanks to the proximity of a stone quarry, it had been possible to construct the part of the Accra-Lomé-Cotonou-Lagos road running through Togoland under French administration at something like half the cost per kilometre of the part constructed elsewhere. It had been well built, and no repairs had been necessary during the year in which it had been in use.

50. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) noted that a bonus of 10,000 francs per hectare planted had been instituted to stimulate the production of coffee; he wondered whether any special conditions were attached to the granting of the bonus in order to ensure that the plantations were well run and would contribute to the general economic development of the Territory.

51. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the bonus was given in two parts. The first was paid after the young coffee bushes were distributed free of charge, and covered the cost of transporting them from the nursery to the plantation, the purchase of the necessary fertilizers, the cost of labour and so forth. The planter was required to follow the Agricultural Service's instructions, and to use the modern, rational methods of cultivation advocated by it. If, after paying a number of visits to the plantation, the Service's representative was satisfied that the shrubs were being well cared for, he gave the planter, at some time during the third year, a certificate entitling him to receive the second part of the bonus.

52. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) asked whether it was true, as it appeared from the report, that the population was becoming increasingly co-operative with regard to the classification of forests.

53. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that,

although there had been great resistance at first, the population had gradually come to accept the fact that classification did not mean the alienation of lands, but was a measure intended to conserve the soil and preserve its water-retaining qualities.

54. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) noted from the report that deposits of phosphates and iron had been found in the Territory and asked whether extraction had been started.

55. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that prospecting had still been in progress in 1954 but that it had reached an advanced stage and certain French companies would shortly be installing equipment to begin extracting the minerals, the quantity and quality of which appeared to be excellent. The Territory would certainly derive great benefit from them.

56. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked how long it would take for the teak plantations referred to in the report to reach maturity.

57. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the variety of teak grown in Togoland reached a good size in about thirty years. Actually after eighteen years', or even sometimes fifteen years', growth, trees were large enough to be cut for posts, rafters, and the like.

58. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked whether the teak plantations would be managed by the Administration or the Native Authorities or granted to a concessionaire.

59. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that the areas planted with teak were either classified forests or areas reserved for reforestation. The lands continued to belong to the communities which had originally owned them but which were not, of course, allowed to cut down the trees without authorization, since they had not planted them. When the forests were being thinned, however, any timber cut down was automatically given to the owners of the land or, if there were no owners, to the village. An owner or a village wishing to cut down trees for domestic purposes might be authorized to do so on application to the technical service concerned, which would designate the trees that could be felled. The administration of the forests was carried out by the Water and Forestry Department. There were also a few private plantations.

60. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked whether he had correctly understood the special representative to say, in answer to an earlier question, that the mining of phosphates had only reached the prospecting stage.

61. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) confirmed that that was so. It was anticipated, however, that extracting would begin quite soon. Samples had so far been extracted for purposes of analysis only.

62. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) wondered whether the Administering Authority intended to set up establishments in the Territory to convert the raw phosphates into fertilizer, or whether they would be exported in raw form.

63. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that it was difficult to answer that question for the time being. The building of a processing plant for fertilizers was not contemplated for the present; for one reason, the

Territory did not have enough hydroelectric power for a factory of that size. If the deposits proved subsequently to be very large, the cost of installing such a factory might be justified, but at least at the beginning the phosphates would be exported raw.

64. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) had noted in the interim report (T/1160) that a substantial quantity of preserved fish was imported and that dried fish was exported, apparently to the Gold Coast. He wondered what was the explanation of that fact.

65. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that fish was eaten only in the south of the Territory and the quantity of fish caught exceeded the local demand. The surplus was therefore exported to the Gold Coast, either dried or smoked.

66. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked whether the Administration intended to encourage the consumption of fish in the northern and interior part of the Territory by the development of fish pond culture.

67. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied in the affirmative.

68. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), referring to page 89 of the annual report, asked whether the Administration intended to take any steps to encourage further capital investment in the Territory.

69. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the Administration had already taken steps to encourage capital investment in the Territory, especially by means of tax exemptions on industrial and commercial profits. New firms establishing themselves in the Territory, or firms already established there which engaged in new activities were exempt from tax for a period of five years. Furthermore, capital goods required by firms for large-scale operations were imported duty-free.

70. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) noted that there had been a decline in imports of capital goods in 1953 and wondered whether there was any other explanation for that decline besides the fact that the first phase of the development plan had been completed.

71. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) thought that the termination of the first stage of the plan was the only explanation for the decline referred to.

72. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked what proportion of coffee production was in the hands of the indigenous farmers.

73. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that all coffee producers were indigenous inhabitants.

74. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) observed that, according to the annual report, there had been no indication of swollen-shoot disease among cocoa trees in 1953. He wondered whether that was still the case.

75. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that the epidemic of swollen-shoot disease which had occurred in Togoland under British administration had not spread to Togoland under French administration. The planters co-operated with the Administration and reported the first sign of disease to the technical service concerned, which took the necessary steps immediately.

76. Mr. JAIPAL (India) noted from the report that there had been a decline in the production of tapioca,

maize, cotton and peanuts. He would like to know the causes of that decline and what was being done to improve production generally.

77. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the cultivation of manioc, from which tapioca was obtained, continued to increase. Owing to the low price obtainable for tapioca, however, the people had begun to produce *gari*, or manioc flour, instead of tapioca. The decrease in tapioca production was therefore counterbalanced by an increase in the production of *gari*, which was consumed locally.

78. In 1951, maize had been attacked by a disease known as corn-rust and there had therefore been a decrease in production. However, steps had been taken to deal with the disease and cultivation had been resumed.

79. Mr. JAIPAL (India) noted that certain industrial enterprises and new plantations had been exempted from payment of taxes during the first years of their operation and that temporary exemption had been given on industrial and commercial profits from 1954. He wondered whether that exemption applied to old industrial and commercial concerns or only to new ones.

80. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that it applied only to new ones.

81. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked what were the duties of the Togoland Mining Service.

82. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that its duties were to supervise the mining industry, to ascertain whether applicants for prospecting or exploration permits were in a position to carry out the work in question, to advise the Government and to co-ordinate the research work carried out by different companies or individuals to whom permits had been granted.

83. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the exploitation of the Territory's mineral resources would be in Government hands, in private hands, or in both.

84. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that one of the groups interested in prospecting was the Bureau minier de la France d'outre-mer. Since the Territory participated in the Bureau minier de la France d'outre-mer, it shared the responsibility for any decisions taken by that body.

85. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked how the annual subsidy to producers of textile raw materials was used in the Territory.

86. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that the subsidy was paid to the Compagnie française de développement des textiles, a semi-administrative body whose functions were to study the nature of the soil and the varieties of cotton. It had laboratories in Togoland and had introduced new varieties of plants, which were being distributed throughout the Territory.

87. Mr. JAIPAL (India) noted from the tables on pages 294 and 295 of the annual report that potatoes, fresh vegetables and fruit were imported into the Territory; he wondered whether it would not be possible to grow them locally.

88. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that potatoes had been cultivated on a small scale on the

northern plateaux but that they did not form part of the people's normal diet. The cultivation of certain fruits had been attempted, but without success.

89. The new middle class which had grown up in the Territory had adopted certain features of the European diet. That was the explanation of the imports in question.

90. Mr. JAIPAL (India) noted that rice was imported and also exported. He wondered whether the exported rice was locally grown or whether it was a re-export.

91. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) explained that the rice grown in Togoland was of inferior quality to that which was imported. Rice was imported for those consumers, who wished to obtain a better quality; some of the locally grown rice was consumed in the Territory and some was exported. There was no re-export of imported rice.

92. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the cotton grown locally was long-staple, short-staple or medium.

93. Mr. BARGUES (France) replied that two kinds of cotton were cultivated in Togoland: the indigenous cotton, cultivated in small plots near the villages, which was of poor quality; and imported cotton, which could be cultivated on either dry or irrigated land. The imported cotton had a higher yield and, although more susceptible to the climate and parasites, found a readier market. Experiments had been made in the cultivation of various kinds of cotton; medium-staple cotton from the United States had proved the most successful.

94. Mr. TARAZI (Syria), referring to page 78 of the report, asked whether the Administering Authority contemplated any system of taxation which would apply equally to farmers.

95. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that the inhabitants of the villages were taxed on the basis of their agricultural receipts. They were exempt from the land tax, since most of the huts in the villages were built of temporary materials.

96. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) asked on what basis taxes were calculated.

97. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that a fixed-rate tax was imposed. There were no large-scale or wealthy cultivators in Togoland and the head tax had been replaced by an income tax.

98. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) asked whether firms

having agricultural concessions were subject to double taxation, once on the basis of their agricultural production and once on the commercial profits derived therefrom.

99. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) was unable to answer that question. He would do so at a later meeting.

100. Mr. TARAZI (Syria), referring to page 82 of the annual report, asked whether the system of import and export permits applied to trade between the metropolitan country and the Territory.

101. Mr. BARGUES (France) replied that permits were not required except for countries outside the currency zone to which Togoland belonged. Neither export licences nor authorizations were required for exports to the franc area, except where certain temporary restrictions were imposed on commercial exchanges for economic reasons.

102. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) asked whether the Administering Authority contemplated extending the system of land registration to cover the whole Territory.

103. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the Administration did not intend to make that system compulsory, but that it would gradually come into force in the natural course of events. The people would gradually come to realize the need and desirability of registering property.

104. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) recalled that the Belgian representative had said that a system of land registration might prove ineffective after the expiration of a certain time, because successions would not be registered in the books. He wondered whether, on the death of the owner of a piece of land on which there were no buildings, the heirs could take possession immediately, or whether they had to wait until their ownership had been registered.

105. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) replied that property inheritance was regulated by customary law. According to custom, the heirs took immediate possession of property left by the head of a family. If, however, the property belonged to all the family or all the heirs, even if it had been registered, the matter would be settled by a palaver. In such cases, at least in the south of the Territory, if general agreement was not reached, the property was usually sold and the proceeds shared by the heirs.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.