



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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OFFICIAL RECORDS

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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 the Cameroons under British administration: (a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1140, T/1147 and Add.1, T/1150, T/1152); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/PET.4 and 5/L.6 and Add.1) (*continued*)

[Agenda items 3 (c) and 4]

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*)

Economic, social and educational advancement (concluded)

1. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that

he would go over the questions which had been asked at previous meetings and give the further information which the United Kingdom representative had promised.

2. The representative of India had asked how much financial support the Federal Government of Nigeria was expected to have to accord to the Government of the Southern Cameroons and the terms upon which such assistance would be given. The first principle was that the central Government was going to make sure that all the revenue derived from the Southern Cameroons would go back into that Territory. Then, when the expenditure of the Federation itself in the Southern Cameroons exceeded the estimated revenue coming in from that Territory, the difference would be handed over to the Southern Cameroons Government, by way of a statutory grant. Over a long term of years it would probably turn out that there would not be a permanent deficit, but it was quite likely that there might be a deficit in one particular year, as it seemed would be the case in the current year. The Federation would then be in a position to make the deficit good without the application of any particular terms. Before the budget was passed in the Southern Cameroons, it must already have been approved by the Governor-General of Nigeria.

3. In order to increase revenues, a production tax had been imposed upon the major commodities handled by the Marketing Boards; that was a tax which would be very easy to collect and would not inconvenience the public very much. Another decision had been to make a genuine effort to stop the evasion of payment of customs duties upon commodities imported from the Cameroons under French administration. A number of other means of increasing the revenue of the Territory were under consideration by the Government, but it would not be proper for him to speak about them in public until they had been placed before the Territory's legislature, which would be done in March of that year.

4. Expenditure on the social services in the Southern Cameroons could be maintained at the present level and probably extended steadily, but the Administering Authority would certainly not be able to produce any spectacular improvement in those services as yet, until more revenue had been found with which to do so.

5. The Administering Authority was well aware of the lack of technical skill from which the Territory was suffering and upon which the Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had commented in its report.¹ The situation had been a matter of concern to the Administering Authority for many years and it had been taking definite steps to improve matters. A considerable programme of scholarship awards for the University College of Ibadan and various universities in the United Kingdom, the United States and India had been instituted. As a local step, a

¹ *The Economic Development of Nigeria*, Report of a Mission organized by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the request of the Governments of Nigeria and the United Kingdom, Lagos, Federal Government Printer, 1954.

trade-training centre had been built up at Ombe River and a complementary centre at Bambui for training teachers in all matters pertaining to the rural economy. Thus the Administering Authority was trying to improve the standard of the local people, both in technical and in agricultural matters.

6. With regard to the measures taken to encourage private investment to participate in the working out of the economic development plan, the Government was already considering one or two projects. It also aimed at giving assistance to local private enterprise by granting loans out of Marketing Board funds. There had been a gap in the award of such loans recently. They had formerly been given by a regional development board centred in the Eastern Region of Nigeria, at the time when the Southern Cameroons had formed part of that Region. A similar board would shortly be established for the service of the Southern Cameroons. During the transitional period, there had been a time when the Eastern Regional authority had rather lost interest in the development of the Cameroons and the Southern Cameroons Government itself had not yet established its own authority. That explained why, during the past year, no loans had been made to Cameroonian farmers from that type of organization. The situation would, of course, be remedied as soon as the necessary legislation had been approved to enable the Southern Cameroons Government to handle the question itself.

7. With regard to hydroelectric power, one plant had recently been completed between Buea and Kumba; it supplied a very great part of the electric current required for lighting and industrial purposes in the triangle Kumba-Buea-Victoria. To meet future needs, there was a plan for the construction of another hydroelectric plant which would be able to produce more power at a cheaper rate. In the meanwhile, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria was proposing to establish some diesel power stations to meet the needs of the next few years.

8. In connexion with terms of trade, the representative of India had remarked that the balance of trade appeared to be extremely favourable: imports in 1953 had amounted to £1,500,000 and exports to £5,500,000, according to the tables annexed to the Administering Authority's annual report²; he had asked whether the Government had plans for the utilization of foreign exchange, for instance, by encouraging imports of capital equipment to develop the Territory. In reality the position was not so favourable as it might appear to be from the tables; on the one hand, imports from Nigeria, which did not appear in the table, had to be taken into account, while on the other hand the operating costs of the Corporation and the firms which shipped the exports had to be paid.

9. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked what was the position with regard to balance of payments.

10. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) had not the necessary figures to provide that information but he would see that the situation was thoroughly described in the following year's report.

² 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 Administration of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the Year 1953, London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1954, Colonial No. 309.

11. The USSR representative had asked whether the land used for the coffee plantations established by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board in the Bamenda area had been alienated from the inhabitants who had been in possession of it or whether it had been fallow land. The local inhabitants could have acquired a traditional right of user of the land, but it had not in fact been under cultivation. When they had been consulted on the matter, they had agreed that it would be in the interests of all that the Production Development Board should establish the estate there. The Governor had then granted a certificate of occupancy to the Production Development Board for a term of years.

12. The USSR representative had then asked a question of the greatest interest concerning the accounts of the Cameroons Development Corporation. He had said that it appeared from the Corporation's balance sheet that £888,000 had been written off to cover losses incurred as a result of disease among the banana trees. The question of the Corporation's balance sheet had been discussed at considerable length by the International Bank Mission. The amount written off had been intended to cover depreciation and a very large item called "improvements to concessions". The reason for that type of accounting was that, unlike a commercial concern that had sufficient share capital to cover its development, the Corporation had begun with practically no capital but simply with a certain amount of fluid cash to enable it to pay its way from month to month. It had therefore adopted the policy of writing off its improvements quickly, so that it would not give in its balance sheet any inflated impression of its actual financial position. The International Bank Mission had appreciated that policy and had, in general terms, given its commendation to it. At the same time, it had raised the same point as had the Soviet Union representative and had inquired whether it would be wise for the Corporation to continue that policy in the future. In connexion with that question, members of the Council could turn to pages 117 to 121 of the International Bank Mission's report, *The Economic Development of Nigeria*, copies of which were available in the library of the Council.

13. The representative of Haiti had asked whether the two overseas members of the Corporation were regarded as irreplaceable by the Administering Authority and whether their duties could not be performed by indigenous inhabitants. It was unlikely that indigenous representatives could fill the places occupied by the overseas members so efficiently. In order to conduct the business of so very large an exporting organization, it was necessary to have at least one or two members who were familiar with world markets and who were constantly in touch with London, New York and the European capitals.

14. The representative of El Salvador had discussed the budgetary position of the Southern Cameroons and had recalled the special representative's statement that, although the interim budget for the end of 1954 and the beginning of 1955 had balanced, the financial situation for 1955-1956 would present difficulties. One of the largest items of revenue accruing to the Southern Cameroons was the companies tax paid by the Corporation and other commercial concerns. Generally speaking, that tax was paid during the second half of the financial year. When the present Government had come into existence on 1 October, there had been only

six months of the financial year to run and it had consequently been in a very favourable position. It had therefore been able to budget for a surplus while incurring heavy expenditure on new capital works. The problem now was to budget for an entire financial year from 1 April 1955 to 31 March 1956. As expenditure would be twice as big and revenue would not be doubled, it would be difficult to solve that problem during the coming year.

15. The French representative had asked whether the Administration proposed to establish regulations about the bride-price. The special representative had recently taken the opportunity of consulting some Africans in the Southern Cameroons Government on that subject. In their opinion, there was no cause for the Administration to interfere in bride-price rates, which varied between one place and another, from £20 to £40. Politicians in the Territory did not think there was any point in the Government's taking up the question and felt it better to respect popular custom.

16. On the question of vaccination in the schools, all new pupils were vaccinated. Generally speaking, vaccination was freely available to all inhabitants of the Territory, but the Administration did not intend to make it compulsory.

17. The French representative had asked whether the unsatisfactory state of trade-union organization was due to a lack of trade-union leaders or to other causes. It was true that the annual report gave a rather modest account of the trade-union movement in the Trust Territory. Nevertheless, the main trade union of the Cameroons — the Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union — compared very favourably with any other trade union of which he himself had had experience in British West African territories. It had shown great restraint in negotiation and a very high sense of responsibility. It probably lacked the quality of leadership that would be desirable, but the leaders were gradually improving; some of them had recently had the opportunity of attending international trade-union conferences. The outlook was promising.

18. The Syrian representative had referred to a passage in the annual report which stated that in Moslem areas the law permitted parents to coerce an unmarried daughter into a marriage of their choice, and had asked whether that was a Moslem, indigenous or general law. It was a Moslem law. The Syrian representative had said that such a marriage seemed to him illegal and he had expressed surprise that the Administration should countenance such a state of affairs. While it was impossible to feel that a situation in which a daughter could be married against her wishes was satisfactory, it was difficult to do other than respect the social system of the people concerned. It would be absolutely impossible in the Northern Region of Nigeria to put through the House of Assembly any legislation which would terminate the authority exercised by a Moslem father. It would be so much against the feelings of the population that no single vote would be cast in favour of such legislation. All that could be done was to await the development of public opinion.

19. In reply to other questions by the Syrian representative, he explained that the Administering Authority was making continuous efforts to improve the status of women, and had met with a certain degree of success. The percentage of female children in school enrolment had increased; the Administration employed

women education officers, who had a direct influence upon the women of the Territory; domestic science centres had been opened, with the idea of giving women a feeling of the dignity of the tasks they carried out. The institution of child marriage was by no means so repellent locally as it might seem to those who knew little about it; indeed it was often socially advantageous. It enabled a well-to-do man to provide his wife with a standard of education which her parents could not give her. There was, of course, no suggestion of any physical connexion between the parties until the girl had reached the proper marrying age. He had already mentioned the views of the unofficial members of the Government in the Southern Cameroons on the question of the bride-price. The Administration had no intention of abolishing that custom, which ensured social stability in Africa and gave the African woman a feeling of personal value.

20. Legal aid was given to needy persons in capital cases but not in civil actions. It could not be made available in all criminal cases because the number of Assize lawyers was small.

21. The Administration was not yet in a position to keep a compulsory register of births and deaths. It hoped to make a start with simple vital statistics in the larger centres of the Territory and work outwards from them to the more difficult rural areas. The new representative Government was taking a vital interest in the problem and would probably take some steps during the next year. It would not, however, be possible to establish complete registers of births and deaths rapidly throughout the Territory.

22. In reply to Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the elected representatives of the population of the Southern Cameroons had been informed of General Assembly resolution 843 (IX) recommending that the Administering Authorities should abolish the custom of bride-price, but they had no wish for the system to be interfered with. The Administration would naturally follow the freely expressed wishes of the people.

23. Replying to a further question from Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that it was impossible to divide the Territory into parts which were cultivated according to old-fashioned methods and parts which were cultivated according to new methods. Agriculture was in the hands of small holders. As newer agricultural techniques were introduced through the agency of the Government Agricultural Department farms and demonstration centres, the peasants acquired new ideas and applied modern techniques in their holdings. There was a general improvement along new lines of cultivation throughout the Territory.

24. Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria) recalled that in the preceding year the Administration had contemplated the possibility of amending the land ordinance. He asked whether anything had been done in that respect.

25. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) replied in the negative. The problem had been overtaken by the new constitutional arrangements. Moreover, whereas it had been the Central Government of Nigeria that had dealt with the matter the previous year, it was now for the Government of the Southern Cameroons

and the Northern Regional Government to study it. The Southern Cameroons Government had more urgent matters before it and would be likely to leave the land laws until a later stage.

26. In reply to a comment the Indian delegation had made, he explained that the Native Authorities were already largely providing for the social services, particularly in the north, where they spent more upon them than did the Government. The relevant tables were to be found on page 175 of the report of the Administering Authority. It was doubtful whether the Native Authorities could expand the existing services; the cost of education was constantly rising and any increase in revenue which those Authorities could achieve would probably be required to offset that increased expenditure.

27. The Salvadorian representative had inquired about the steps taken by the Administering Authority to increase the number of doctors. It should first be pointed out that, although the number of doctors practising in the Territory might appear very low by metropolitan standards, it was very high by West African standards. In the Cameroons under British administration, the medical facilities offered were considerably in advance of those in the neighbouring Territory of Nigeria. It was therefore not right to suppose that there was a great shortage of medical personnel. As for the recruiting of further personnel, the Administration hoped that the indigenous people would themselves become qualified, so that they could take up the vacancies which existed for them. Some indigenous inhabitants were at present studying medicine in the United Kingdom.

28. Turning to the subject of labour, about which various questions had been asked, he told the Haitian representative that the Cameroons Development Corporation employed about three-quarters of the labour force employed by all the commercial concerns in the Territory. Accordingly, the total labour force was about 32,000 and the number of labourers in the plantations represented only a very small fraction of the population. Generally speaking, the population carried on with its traditional economic activity, subsistence farming. There was no such thing as unemployment; the labourers who left the plantations went back to their farms. The reason why the wages of plantation workers were paid partly in kind and in facilities was that all the plantations were concentrated round the coastal fringe, where there was little food production and where increases in the workers' cash wages were absorbed by the local markets, causing inflation. Hence, after studying the matter, the union and the management of the Cameroons Development Corporation had agreed that it would be better to raise wages by giving additional facilities and privileges rather than by cash increases. The other firms had followed that lead. He felt that that decision had been correct and he hoped that the standard of living would be improved in the future by the provision of facilities rather than by increases in cash wages which would be neutralized by the resultant rise in prices.

29. He informed the Chinese representative that there were at the moment many Cameroonians in the skilled labour force, although it was still necessary to rely on immigrants from the Cameroons under French administration and Nigeria for certain technical work. Active steps were being taken to improve and expand technical education in the Southern Cameroons and the results would certainly be evident in one or two years.

30. The USSR representative had calculated that, in view of the cost of food, the wages of a day labourer would only suffice to feed two adult members of a family. The labourer's work was not, however, the only source of family income; his wife and his children, when not in school, worked on the family farm, from which there was considerable production. The families also engaged in some petty trading, the profits from which were added to the labourer's wages.

31. The USSR representative had also pointed out that compensation for damages had been paid to only 124 out of 3,500 victims of accidents. The reason was that compensation was paid only when the accident occurred in the service of a commercial concern, which was then obliged to pay the compensation. Many accidents took place in other circumstances.

32. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) understood that the table on page 204 of the report referred to the number of accidents which had occurred at work. He would like some explanation.

33. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) thought that the figures referred to the total number of accidents reported; the number of accidents in the plantations was probably close to the number of persons compensated. He would see that the relevant figures were analysed in greater detail in the next report, so that the members of the Council would know where the accidents happened and what was their nature. The figures given included a very large number of farmers who had sustained accidents on their own farms in tapping palm oil or palm wine.

34. The USSR representative had referred also to corporal punishment. That form of punishment had not been administered for over two years, except in the case of juvenile delinquents, so that the question of abolishing it scarcely arose. In any case, that was a matter for the Cameroonian legislature. The Cameroonians themselves did not seem particularly desirous of abolishing that form of punishment, but their opinion would certainly change in time.

35. The Belgian representative had raised some questions about education, which called for the following particulars. All of the schools in the Benue and Bornu areas were Native Administration schools. The Administration's policy was to have primary education imparted by the missions and the Native Authorities so far as possible, with financial assistance from the State. In the Southern Cameroons, the greater part of primary education was carried out by the missions and in the Northern Cameroons by the Native Authorities. The Belgian representative had rightly noted that there appeared to be little desire for education in the northern part of the Territory and that the Native Authorities seemed to show little enthusiasm. There was, however, one interesting trend in public opinion: whereas the Native Authorities had formerly recognized the situation, they now maintained that the indigenous inhabitants were eager for education and that the only problem was the shortage of schools. In reality the enthusiasm of the indigenous inhabitants in that connexion was much less strong than the assertions of the political leaders would indicate. The fact that those leaders felt that the people ought to want education would probably result in a gradual infiltration of that feeling among the population itself.

36. In reply to the Indian delegation's comments, the special representative said he was surprised that the

percentage of the budget spent on education had declined; actual expenditure on education had considerably increased in recent years. One of the Administration's greatest difficulties was to find funds to meet the steadily increasing cost of education.

37. He would be happy to transmit to the unofficial member of the Executive Council the suggestion that a fact-finding commission should be appointed, but he felt that the Administration already had an adequate knowledge of the situation. The sparsity of the population was the cause of its comparative apathy towards education. The children had to cover great distances to go to school; if, on the other hand, the Administration wished to bring the schools to the children, it would have to undertake the construction of a considerable number of schools. The question continuously engaged the attention of the Southern Cameroons Government, which would like to be able to devote to its solution much larger funds than it had at its disposal.

38. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the conference on African education held in Cambridge a few months before had considered education in the Cameroons.

39. Brigadier GIBBONS (Special representative for the Cameroons under British administration) said that the conference had not dealt especially with education in the Cameroons but had considered African education in general, concerning itself solely with questions of principle.

40. In answer to earlier comments by the Indian representative, he said that in the Southern Cameroons, children entered school very late and were therefore well over the age of 14 or 15 when they finished their education. That was most probably the case for the boys who became probationary teachers immediately after leaving school. Such a method of recruiting teachers left much to be desired, but it was only a temporary measure. The Administration was now establishing centres for the training of really qualified men and women teachers.

41. The Syrian representative had asked why the number of qualified women teachers had fallen from 206 to 186 in 1953. That was purely fortuitous and was due to the fact that women officials had a tendency to get married as soon as they were in a position to be really useful. The Administration felt that the number of women teachers should be increased. The Roman Catholic Mission's training centre would provide an appreciable number of extra teachers.

42. The Administration was paying the greatest attention to the Trusteeship Council's recommendations concerning mass education projects in the Cameroons. Remarkable progress had been made in the north of the Territory, but it had been somewhat less rapid in the Southern Cameroons.

43. The curriculum of all primary schools was laid down by ordinance. That held good in all schools, whether they were managed by the missions, the Government, or the Native Administrations. The subjects taught included religious instruction. The Moslem faith was taught in nearly all schools in the northern part of the Territory. In the south, most schools were either Catholic or Protestant.

44. Correcting two mistakes which had appeared in the annual report, the special representative stated with regard to table 81, on page 216, that there were two secondary schools in the Territory, instead of three;

and with regard to table 83 on page 218, that the number of children frequenting those schools was 385, not 255.

45. The representative of El Salvador had asked what the boys who had left St. Joseph's College were now doing. Most of the pupils of secondary schools in the Southern Cameroons entered government service or the employment of the Cameroons Development Corporation. The most able obtained scholarships to the University College at Ibadan or universities in the United Kingdom, but he did not know how many scholarship-holders there were at present.

46. Replying to a question by the USSR representative, he stated that school fees could not be reduced without increasing taxation and making larger grants-in-aid to the secondary schools. More than half the pupils attending secondary schools held scholarships granted by the Government, the Native Administration or the Cameroons Development Corporation. He had no figures which would enable him to give an exact answer to the USSR representative's question concerning the number of Cameroonians who had received some form of higher education and were now working in one of the liberal professions. The Administration was preparing a survey to be published some time next year which would provide an answer to that question.

GENERAL DEBATE

47. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that the Administering Authority's report on the Cameroons under British administration showed that there had been progress in all fields. He would not dwell on the question of political organization, as the new reforms could better be judged by their results.

48. The special representative had said that the Administering Authority had adopted the principle of not interfering in matters that were within the jurisdiction of the Native Authorities. But the local authorities sometimes held concepts which were not in harmony with the objectives of the Trusteeship System or ran counter to the best interests of the population. That would appear to be so, in particular, with regard to education, the status of women, and the improvement of agricultural techniques. When, for instance, the indigenous inhabitants and their chiefs opposed the application of a 1950 Bill forbidding a man to have carnal knowledge of a wife under 15 years of age, or when they took no interest in education or in improving agricultural techniques, it was obvious that the Native Authorities had been given powers which they were not ready to exercise in the spirit of the Charter and the Trusteeship System. In such a case, it would appear to be the duty of the Administering Authority to intervene, even against the wishes of the local authorities. The question had a bearing on over-all policy and should be given very careful consideration by the Administering Authority.

49. In the economic field, production had increased and become more diversified. With regard to palm oil, it would be advisable to sell the surplus production in order to prevent its being lost to the economy of the country. The Council would certainly note with satisfaction the development of the Bakweri Farmers' Union and of co-operatives in general. With regard to the Cameroons Development Corporation, whose importance to the economy of the country he had already emphasized, he expressed the hope that it would be

able to adopt a manpower policy that would ensure stability and the training of skilled workers.

50. Progress had also been made in the field of health.

51. He thanked the special representative for the untiring patience with which he had answered the numerous questions put to him by Council members.

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

Examination of petitions (continued)

[Agenda item 4]

PETITION FROM THE TANGANYIKA AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (T/PET.2/192)

52. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to examine a petition from the Tanganyika African National Union (T/PET.2/192), which wished to send a delegation to the meetings at which the Council considered the report on Tanganyika submitted by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954 (T/1142). The report would be taken up at the same time as the report of the Administering Authority, that was to say, according to the Council's schedule, probably between 23 February and 1 March.

53. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) understood that the Visiting Mission's report had not been well received in the Territory, where it had been somewhat sharply criticized in the Press. The Tanganyika African National Union, on the other hand, appeared to find the report very satisfactory. The Haitian delegation felt, therefore, that the Council should grant the organization the hearing it requested, not so that its representatives might defend the members of the Mission or the report, but because it might be in the Council's interest to hear them, if only for the purpose of sifting the truth from what had roused indignation in certain circles in the Territory.

54. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that the question was not as simple as might appear at first sight. Although the Secretariat had called the document a "petition", it was in fact a request from the Tanganyika African National Union to participate in the Trusteeship Council's debate on the Visiting Mission's report, and the rules of procedure did not provide for the participation of local political organizations in the Council's debates.

55. He had been unaware of the fact mentioned by the Haitian representative, that although the Tanganyika African National Union approved the Visiting Mission's report, others did not share that view. In the circumstances, if the Council allowed the Tanganyika African National Union to participate in its debate on the Visiting Mission's report, it would obviously be obliged to grant the same privilege to other persons or organizations in Tanganyika, which might lead to a debate between representatives of the various organizations and direct the Council's deliberations into channels certainly not envisaged by the authors of the Charter.

56. For those reasons, he considered that the Tanganyika African National Union should not be allowed to participate in the Council's debates. Should a majority of members take a different view, he would request the Council to defer a vote on the question, which was an important one and had been the subject of discussions and resolutions in the General Assembly, in order to enable him to obtain instructions from his Government before voting.

57. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) supported the Haitian representative.

58. The Belgian representative's arguments concerning the legal nature of the Tanganyika African National Union's request had not convinced him. While it was true that the United Nations had not completed its consideration of the question of the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the work of the Trusteeship Council, the Tanganyika African National Union did not ask, in paragraph 2 of document T/PET.2/192, to be allowed to participate in the work of the Council, but merely to be represented when the Council considered the Visiting Mission's report so that it could express the views of the Africans of Tanganyika. If the organization had requested that its representatives should appear before the Council as observers, the Council would have had to deny the request under its rules of procedure. However, the organization came before the Council as a petitioner. Hence, in order to respect the right of petition provided for in the Charter, the Council must grant the organization a hearing.

59. With regard to reactions in the Territory to the Visiting Mission's report, the Syrian delegation would be prepared to hear the views of any organization which had criticized the report and wished to be heard, not as an observer or as an indigenous organization participating in the work of the Council, but as a petitioner.

60. The Syrian delegation would therefore agree to the Council's granting a hearing to the Tanganyika African National Union and to any other organization or individual in the Territory wishing to come at its own expense.

61. The Belgian representative's request that the Council should defer the vote on the question was quite proper. However, the matter should not be held in abeyance for long. The Council's decision must be taken early enough to enable the Tanganyika African National Union to appear in good time if its request for a hearing were granted.

62. The Syrian delegation's vote to grant a hearing to the organization concerned should not, however, be construed as prejudging its position with respect to the report of the Visiting Mission.

63. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) said that he had just seen document T/PET.2/192 and needed time to consider the matter and, if necessary, to refer to his Government for instructions. He accordingly supported the Belgian representative's request that the vote should be postponed for a few days.

64. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that he had noted with interest the observations of the Tanganyika African National Union on the report of the Visiting Mission. He had read the articles in the *Tanganyika Standard*, which were critical of the report and used rather strong language, going so far as to assert that the African in Tanganyika was still in a primitive stage. It must be noted that the newspaper, although of some standing, was non-African in ownership.

65. The question would appear to be fairly important to the Tanganyika African National Union, since it was collecting funds to send a delegation to the Council. The Council must not give the impression that it was gagging any section of opinion in Tanganyika. The right of petition was the only right that the indigenous inhabitants of a Trust Territory had *vis-à-vis* the United Nations. His delegation respected that right and would not lightly deny it to anyone. It would therefore support

the request of the petitioners to appear before the Council.

66. With regard to the Belgian representative's observations, there was no question of the petitioners participating in the work of the Council; they asked only to be heard and had not indicated a desire to take part in the deliberations. There was no need to consider unlikely contingencies.

67. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) said that he was reluctant to take part in the debate because his country had been a member of the Visiting Mission. However, as it was an African organization that wanted to present its views when the Council examined the reports of the Visiting Mission and the Administering Authority, and as the arguments advanced by the representatives of Haiti and Syria were most convincing, the delegation of El Salvador, which always defended the right of petition, believed that the petitioners' request should be granted.

68. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) felt that it would be in order to defer the vote for a few days to enable delegations to receive instructions from their Governments.

69. The PRESIDENT inquired whether the Belgian and United Kingdom representatives desired postponement *sine die* or until a certain date. In the latter case he would wish to know what date would be convenient.

70. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) replied that his Government might not consider the request a petition and might feel that it was more of a request to participate in the Council's work. In that case he might ask that the question should be deferred until the Council examined the question of the participation of the indigenous inhabitants of Trust Territories in the work of the Trusteeship Council, which was an item on the agenda. If the Council decided on a certain date and if he had received no reply by that time, he would vote without instructions.

71. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) said it would not be possible for him to obtain any instructions for three days; he asked the Council to defer any decision on the matter for that period.

72. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought it was the Council's duty to grant a hearing to indigenous representatives. He doubted whether the representatives of the Tanganyika African National Union knew the rules of procedure as well as the members of the Council: their use of the words "to support the ... Visiting Mission's report" did not necessarily imply that their only purpose in coming was either to defend the report or to give evidence contradicting certain passages in the report.

73. The Council should therefore decide to hear the delegation and to point out in its reply to the petitioners that the representatives of the Union would be coming not as participants in the Council's discussion but as ordinary petitioners having the right to state their views.

74. The USSR delegation would oppose any postponement *sine die*; the three-day period requested by the United Kingdom representative to receive instructions was entirely reasonable.

75. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should reconsider the question on Friday, 11 February.

It was so agreed.

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)

[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.

OPENING STATEMENT

76. Mr. APEDO-AMAH (Special representative for Togoland under French administration) said that the progress made in previous years had been consolidated and developed in 1954. In the political field, important reforms studied in 1952 and 1953 had taken shape in 1954. Like 1953, 1954 had been a year of economic prosperity.

77. In the field of public health and education the existing programme had been successfully continued. The index of new cases of trypanosomiasis was steadily falling. It had declined from 2.2 per cent in 1937 to 0.05 per cent in 1954. The campaign against malaria had also borne fruit. In primary education eighty new classes had been opened in 1954, bringing the number of school children to 57,409 as compared with 52,697 in 1953. The percentage of children attending school was now 37.43 as compared with 34.4 in 1953 and 32.2 in 1952.

78. He was prepared to answer any questions members of the Council might wish to put.

Request concerning distribution to the Trust Territories of publications of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

79. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) referred to an FAO publication mentioned in the *Lettre hebdomadaire des Nations Unies* just received by his delegation. The publication dealt with small farm implements developed over the centuries in a number of countries that were most useful but had remained unknown outside the particular region. He asked whether such pamphlets, which might be of great value to Trust Territories, were included in the United Nations documents that were sent to the governors of Trust Territories, in particular to the Governor of Ruanda-Urundi.

80. The PRESIDENT asked the Secretariat to inform the FAO representative of the Belgian representative's question.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.