



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Nineteenth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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*President:* Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

*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: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

**Examination of petitions (*continued*)**

[Agenda item 4]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/1303, T/L.742)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its 759th meeting, the Council had appointed a Committee composed of the representatives of India and the United States to study, with the assistance of the Secretariat, over 4,500 communications relating to the Cameroons under French administration and to report on them to the Council. That Committee's report (T/L.742) was now before the Council.

2. Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that all the communications were addressed either to the General Assembly or to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, but that under rule 76 of the rules of procedure, they might be examined by the Council since they concerned the affairs of a Trust Territory. The Committee had found that all the petitions it had surveyed concerned political problems of some considerable importance and that none of them contained specific requests or complaints. The Indian delegation felt that any delay in the consideration of those 4,500 petitions would be very unfortunate, and that there would be no point in considering them individually since they related to problems which were now being discussed by the Council. In the circumstances, the logical thing would be to take up the consideration of the petitions immediately, within the context of the questions regarding political conditions in the Territory to which the Administering Authority was to reply.

3. The Indian delegation considered that the Committee's report constituted a summary within the meaning of rule 85, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure. It did not think there was any need to circulate the full text of the petitions.

4. Mr. TODMAN (United States of America) considered that it would be inappropriate to apply the normal procedure to the examination of the communications; it would be a waste of time and effort and the questions raised would become outdated. As the petitions were available for examination in the Secretariat by any member of the Council, the United States delegation felt that there was no need for them to be translated and circulated, and suggested that the Council should study them at the same time as it considered conditions in the Cameroons under French administration.

5. U PAW HTIN (Burma), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Petitions, thanked the representatives of India and the United States, and the Secretariat. The Burmese delegation supported the two representatives' suggestion, and noted that members of the Council could obtain further information on the communications by questioning the special representative.

6. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), referring to the Committee's classification of the petitions into category A (protests against measures taken in the Territory) and category B (protests against the application of the *loi-cadre*), said he felt that since all those matters related to the general political situation in the Territory, they could be taken up in the course of the Council's current discussion on that Territory, and questions about them could be put to the special representative or the representative of the Administering Authority. The Haitian delegation therefore accepted the conclusions set forth in document T/L.742 and hoped they would meet with the Council's approval.

7. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) endorsed the Committee's conclusions and supported immediate consideration of the communications.

8. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the suggestion that the petitions should be examined rapidly by the Council, but observed that two points still required clarification: how those important petitions were going to be considered by the Council and how they were going to be published. The Council should not merely take note of them; it must examine them and make recommendations. The petitions should certainly be circulated immediately in one form or another.

9. The PRESIDENT pointed out that delegations wishing to consult the documents in question could apply to the Secretariat, which would make them available.

10. Mr. JAIPAL (India) considered that it was open to every member of the Council to put questions to the special representative or the representative of France regarding the contents of the various communications,

and, after hearing the replies, to submit a draft resolution to the Council, if he so desired.

11. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) pointed out that some questions dealt with in the petitions had already been put to the representative of France in the course of the debate and that members of the Council had only to put additional questions in the light of the Committee's report, if they thought it necessary.

12. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether examination of the 4,500 petitions remained on the agenda and whether delegations could put direct questions on them to the special representative. If the petitions could not be published in accordance with the established procedure, as stated by the Secretary-General in his note (T/1303), some other procedure should be devised; but they must be published in one form or another. If that form was a summary, that summary should mention all the questions raised in the petitions and should indicate the number of petitions and petitioners.

13. Mr. JAIPAL (India) wished to know what it would cost to circulate the petitions.

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide to examine the contents of the communications as summarized in the report at its current session in conjunction with its examination of conditions in the Cameroons under French administration.

*It was so decided.*

15. With regard to the circulation of additional information concerning the communications, the PRESIDENT stated that he would like to discuss the question with the Soviet Union representative and the Secretariat. He therefore suggested that the Council should postpone consideration of the question to its next meeting.

16. Mr. BARGUES (France) pointed out that the French delegation had refrained, out of courtesy, from taking part in a discussion which dealt exclusively with petitions emanating from a Territory under French administration. Moreover, the French Government considered that most of the petitions in question were inadmissible because they came from associations which had been officially dissolved. Furthermore, the French delegation considered that the practice followed by certain political groups of sending whole crates of petitions was actually an abuse of the right of petition. Public opinion was accurately and genuinely reflected in the use of the right to vote and not in the dispatch of pieces of paper covered with anonymous signatures. The French delegation had never felt that it should attach any importance whatever to petitions sent in that manner, which was contrary to the spirit of the United Nations Charter and likely to damage the cause of sincere and loyal petitioners.

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

(i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1955 (T/1284, T/1304, T/1307, T/L.742);**

(ii) **Hearings of petitioners from the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration (General Assembly resolution 1067 (XI))**

[Agenda items 3 (c) and 14]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Deniau, special representative of the Administering Authority for the*

*Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, took a seat at the Council table.*

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

##### *Political advancement (continued)*

17. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) indicated the main features of the *loi-cadre* and the draft statute. He asked the special representative whether it was a fact that the reforms affecting the composition of the Territorial Assembly had already been put into effect.

18. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that the Assembly had already been elected by universal suffrage and a single electoral college and that it already had seventy members. On the other hand, its powers would not be modified until the statute was put into effect. It was solely in virtue of a provision of the *loi-cadre* of 23 June 1956 that the Assembly had been given political powers to consider the draft statute.

19. In reply to another question from Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that if the draft statute was approved by the French Parliament, the powers of the Assembly would then have to be enlarged and the council of ministers established. The Territorial Assembly elected a few months previously would remain in office.

20. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what difference there was in principle between the draft statute for the Cameroons and the Statute for Togoland.

21. Mr. BARGUES (France) explained that the two drafts had been worked out on the same premises. The basic difference was that the people of Togoland, unlike the people of the Cameroons, had indicated their very clear desire for an end of the Trusteeship System. There were other differences of detail corresponding to the views expressed in the two Assemblies. For example, the composition of the Government was not the same in the two Territories. However, any comparison between the two statutes was premature since the statute for the Cameroons was still in draft form.

22. In reply to a further question from Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) gave the following figures: Bomba-Ngoko had 24,787 inhabitants, 13,393 of whom had been registered on the electoral rolls and 9,923 had voted. The population of Mungo was 103,000 and the number of registered voters 63,000 41,000 of whom had actually voted. The Sanaga-Maritime had a population of 166,000; there were 78,786 registered voters, of whom 4,500 had voted.

23. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the reason for the small percentage of electors and the even smaller percentage of voters in the Sanaga-Maritime.

24. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) admitted that the proportion of registered voters in that region (only 46 per cent) had been lower than the average. The percentage of registered voters had varied according to local conditions in each region of the Territory. In the Sanaga-Maritime, the elections had been held in normal conditions in only one subdivision out of three. Only 32,000 out of 78,000 registered voters had really had an opportunity to go to the polls, which explained the low percentage of voters.

25. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether elections which had taken place in regions where the number of voters had not exceeded 20 per cent, as had been the case in the Wouri, Nkam and Sanaga-Maritime regions, could be considered as final.

26. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) pointed out that the true figures had been 40, 22 and 15 per cent respectively. Owing to events which had occurred in the Sanaga-Maritime, new elections would be held in that region.

27. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) turned to the question of the administrative services, as described in the working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.736). He wished to know what exactly "*cadres généraux*" meant and what were the proportions of Africans and Europeans in that category.

28. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) referred the Soviet Union representative to pages 266 and 267 of the annual report.<sup>1</sup> He pointed out that the distinction between African and European officials had been drawn at the request of the United Nations and did not imply any difference in status. The general category (*cadres généraux*) consisted of officials who might be called on to serve in any territory under the authority of the Ministry for Overseas France. The distinction between Europeans and Africans had not been drawn in that category, because it was not confined to the Cameroons alone.

29. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was surprised that the various rights and freedoms mentioned in the working paper as having been guaranteed to certain officials by a series of special statutes applied only to the senior category (*cadres supérieurs*).

30. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that the working paper indicated the principal features of the statutes for certain categories, drawn up in 1955. The statutes for the other categories had been prepared either before or since that time. The guarantees of rights to freedom of thought and of political or religious beliefs, and the right to organize in trade unions were included not only in the statutes of the senior category, but in all the statutes drawn up with a view to the organization of the public service in the Cameroons.

31. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) inquired as to the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Dr. Delangué, since according to the special representative's statement at the 760th meeting the doctor had been very popular in the region where he had served.

32. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) explained that the judicial inquiry had not yet been completed, but that as a whole, the statements made by the witnesses had shown that Dr. Delangué's popularity had been one of the chief reasons for his assassination. As chief medical officer in the Edéa region, one of the most important posts in the Cameroonian health services, Dr. Delangué had been a living refutation of the assertions by the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC) that in the system set up by the Administering Authority in the Cameroons there was no place for outstanding

Cameroonians. He had also earned the affection of the populations in the Bassa region, thus threatening the prestige of Ruben Um Nyobé, the General Secretary of the UPC, who was also a native of that region. Further, he had aroused the wrath of the UPC by presenting, as his manifesto showed, a list of candidates who were in favour of the unification and independence of the Cameroons, a policy which the UPC was determined to monopolize. Dr. Delangué's list had won first place in the elections and one of the successful candidates in the Sanaga-Maritime had stated, at the opening of the Cameroonian Territorial Assembly, that Dr. Delangué had not been unaware of the risks he was running by supporting that representative's candidature and not submitting to the dictates of the UPC, which was a totalitarian party. Dr. Delangué had been killed in an ambush on a road in his *circonscription*. His death had greatly shocked public opinion in the Cameroons and had generally inspired both his friends and his enemies with horror.

33. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) inquired whether Ruben Um Nyobé's life would be in danger if he returned to the Cameroons, following the political assassination committed by his party.

34. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) could give no definite answer to that question, but thought that Dr. Delangué's family and friends would not take kindly to the reappearance of the persons whom they regarded as his murderers. Dr. Delangué's friends had not hitherto resorted to violence, but they had asked the inhabitants of the canton where he had been killed to leave the murdered leader's canton immediately.

35. In reply to a question from Mr. SEARS (United States of America) on the Africanization of the public service in the Territory, Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that about sixty Cameroonian officials, most of them in the senior categories A and B of the Cameroons, i.e., those recruited at the *baccalauréat* or *brevet* level, had been appointed to general administrative posts generally held by officials in the general category, i.e., those recruited at the college graduate level or by competitive examination. But some Cameroonians had been appointed to other posts, as in the case of the head of the youth and sports services, who was performing his duties very efficiently, and the head of the social services, whose appointment was still too recent to permit any judgements to be passed. Other Cameroonians had been appointed as chief subdivisional officers, and some of them had encountered problems of a tribal nature, as the populations had not always welcomed the replacement of a European official by an official of Cameroonian birth from a different tribe. In most cases, however, the situation had returned to normal. Other Cameroonian officials had been appointed assistants to chief regional officers, heads of administrative posts, or assistants to chief subdivisional officers or chiefs of section, positions in which they had successfully replaced European officials who were on leave, had returned to France or had been appointed to some other part of the Cameroons.

36. Those steps towards Africanization, which involved personnel already employed in the Cameroons, did not prevent the appointment of Cameroonian students, but that methods alone would not be enough, as the inflow of returning students was extremely irregular. Moreover, it would prevent officials who had done well in many different posts from being appointed to higher positions, so that a whole generation of Cameroonians would be deprived of all opportunities

<sup>1</sup> *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1955* (Paris, Imprimerie Chaix, 1956). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1284.

for promotion. Most of the officials who had been promoted to senior positions were permanent officials, often with over thirty-five years' service and extensive practical experience in administration. The population of the Territory had welcomed the far-reaching measures taken to promote Africanization, and the representatives of the various tribal groups had watched very closely to ensure that in the appointment of officials to senior posts the principle of racial and regional distribution was duly taken into account.

37. It was impossible to state precisely how long it would take before all metropolitan officials could be replaced by Cameroonians, for it had been observed in certain States which had attained independence or were about to do so that the number of European administrative officials had not decreased but increased, owing to the greater diversity of services and to the more complex political or administrative structure.

38. Mr. BARGUES (France) agreed that it was very difficult to work out precise plans for the Africanization of personnel; the origin of the officials was less important than the authority for which they worked. Some countries, after attaining independence, were anxious to retain the services of a number of European officials, but the latter then came under the authority of the independent country and no longer of the country which had administered the Trust Territory. It took a relatively long time to organize the technical and administrative personnel thoroughly; obviously, the treatment of sick people called for the services of qualified doctors, not of head nurses, and the construction of bridges for those of engineers, not of foremen. The replacement of personnel had to proceed gradually.

39. In reply to a question by Mr. SEARS (United States of America) Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that he could not anticipate the decision of the future legislative assembly concerning the organization of its committees and the preparation of its rules of procedure, for it would have full discretion in those matters; he could only give particulars concerning the existing Territorial Assembly. The latter's main committees were: the legal affairs committee, which had been largely responsible for the technical examination of the draft statute; the important financial affairs committee, which dealt with all questions with financial implications; the administrative affairs committee; the social affairs committee; the resolutions committee; and the public works committee. The committees were composed of members designated by the political groups according to the size of the latter, a practice similar to that of the metropolitan parliamentary assemblies.

40. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) asked for further particulars concerning tribal opposition which, according to the special representative's statement at the previous meeting, was rather violent in the Cameroons.

41. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that each ethnic group had retained a very strong sense of identity; Cameroonians from one region were unwilling for Cameroonians from other regions or other tribes to exercise authority over them unless their own sons exercised authority over the others. For example, Mr. Philippe Marga, head of a tribal association near Yaoundé—the Association des Kolobéti—had specifically stated in a letter that it was inadmissible for Cameroonians from other regions of the Territory to exercise authority over the Béti unless the Béti held similar positions of authority in those other regions. In

April 1956, after a brawl at a dance a fight had broken out between the Bamiléké and the Boulou, in the Sangmélina region, because the members of both tribes had thought that the sons of their respective chiefs had been insulted. At the time of the occurrences in the Sanaga-Maritime region, the Bassa group had been accused by the other ethnic groups in the Cameroons of being responsible, and at that time they had brought up old matters dating from before the arrival of the Europeans. Merely to be a Bassa was to provoke mockery and jokes from other Cameroonians.

42. Tribal opposition was also reflected in the grouping of the inhabitants in the districts of large cities, and in certain clashes of interest, as, for example, that between the Bamiléké, a prolific and expanding group, and the inhabitants of the Mungo region who, being fewer in number, had thought that the Bamiléké that had come to farm their land actually intended to take possession of it permanently.

43. Most Cameroonians regretted the continuance of tribal opposition, and they were seeking, as was the Administering Authority, to remove those psychological barriers and to create as solid a moral unity as the legislative and administrative unity.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.*

44. Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) inquired whether in the Territory as a whole, with the exception of the Sanaga-Maritime region, the elections had been conducted without the presence of troops or police forces.

45. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that the UPC had attempted to interfere with the normal electoral process in several regions. There had been incidents, mostly unimportant, in a number of places, including Yaoundé and Douala. The only troops deployed at the time of the elections were those sent to the Sanaga-Maritime region.

46. Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) referred to the question of petitions. The petition from the *Evolution sociale camerounaise* (ESOCAM) in document T/PET.5/504 mentioned trickery and fraud perpetrated by the UPC and the Confédération générale du travail, and also spoke of contributions, extorted under terrorist pressure, to the dissolved organizations. What did ESOCAM represent and what was the number of its members?

47. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) explained that ESOCAM had virtually no following outside the Sanaga-Maritime and Mungo regions. He estimated the number of its members at several thousand, but could not give an exact figure. In general, ESOCAM opposed the UPC and had adopted an extremely conservative attitude on many questions. Its views reflected not the opinion of the majority, but only of a fraction, of the population. In the recent elections, the party's list of candidates had achieved second place, after Dr. Delangué's list.

48. Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) asked whether persons of European origin had been elected members of the Territorial Assembly at the recent election.

49. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that seven of the seventy members elected were of European origin. Most of them were Europeans who had lived for a long time in the Cameroons and were accustomed to co-operating with the population.

50. In reply to another question put by Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium), Mr. DENIAU (Special Repre-

sentative) gave particulars concerning the Cameroonian public service. Pursuant to the draft statute, the Cameroonian was to be completely separate from the French public service, and the Cameroonian Government would be free to adopt whatever measures it considered advisable concerning the recruitment, organization and salary scales of Cameroonian officials. Quite possibly, therefore, it might modify the system of recruitment by competitive examination for positions in the *cadres généraux*; the system in force had the undesirable feature of making it necessary for Cameroonian candidates to compete with candidates from metropolitan France or other territories; and, if successful, they were not sure of being posted to the Cameroons. The authority of the Cameroonian Government would extend also to salary provisions, the system of family allowances, conditions governing promotion, eligibility for all appointments to the public service, and other matters. Its decisions would apply both to officials of European origin working in the Cameroonian public service and to indigenous officials.

51. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked whether the assembly of the North Cameroons, which would have budgetary autonomy, adopt its own budget and balance its own expenditures, would be able to block legislation approved by the legislative assembly that involved an increase in expenditure. Was there any danger of conflict between the two bodies, if, for example, the legislative assembly approved a law on administrative reorganization that had financial implications for the budget of the semi-autonomous province?

52. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that for the time being he could not really comment on the draft statute submitted by the French Government since it was still before the Parliament. Besides, the setting up of the province of the North Cameroons was provided for in an amendment of the Territorial Assembly to one of the articles of the draft statute. He would therefore confine himself to describing the provincial structure as contemplated in the draft statute. The legislative assembly voted the budget for the Territory as a whole and not merely for whatever part of the Territory that was not constituted as a province. Since the provincial assembly would have jurisdiction only within its own area, it was not correct to speak of financial autonomy.

53. He did not consider that a measure of administrative reorganization could give rise to conflict, for, if the legislative assembly decided, for instance, to create municipalities and communes and that decision involved a diminution of the revenues of the provincial budget, expenditure would undoubtedly decrease as a result.

54. Moreover, the provincial assembly could not prevent the legislative assembly from diminishing the revenues of the provincial budget since they had in part been fixed by that same body and included, *inter alia*: the funds to be allocated annually by the legislative assembly; additional taxes, not in excess of the maximum number specified by the legislative assembly; the income from provincial property and receipts of the public services of the province, which were governed by legislative provisions; provincial taxes levied and collected as prescribed by the legislative assembly; and, finally, loans, gifts and legacies which were not, unless circumstances demanded, governed by any legislative provisions.

55. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) asked how it was that the population of the Cameroons had opted in favour of the continuance of trusteeship. Could the statements of

certain members of the Territorial Assembly in favour of the continuance of trusteeship be said to reflect faithfully the feeling of the population of the Territory as a whole? Was there any truly representative organ qualified to speak for the population?

56. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) said that the Territorial Assembly, elected by a single electorate and by universal suffrage by almost a million Cameroonians, sufficiently represented the views of the population. A number of members of the Territorial Assembly had stated that they had received an express mandate from their constituents to support the continuance of trusteeship; only the Groupe d'action nationale had opposed the continuance of trusteeship.

57. Mr. BARGUES (France) referred to a report prepared by the legal affairs committee of the Territorial Assembly at the time when the draft statute had been under consideration. The chairman of that committee (on which the various groups of the Assembly were represented) was Mr. Mbida, and its members included opponents of the Trusteeship System. The report showed that the Cameroonian people had voted advisedly on programmes which had included the question of the Territory's political future. Hence, in voting for a particular party, the electors had simultaneously voted for or against the continuance of trusteeship.

58. In reply to a question from Mr. MUFTI (Syria), Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) stated that the North Cameroons was represented by twenty-eight members, including nineteen Moslems, in the Territorial Assembly, which had seventy members. The Groupe d'action nationale, with eight members, had strongly opposed the amendment to the draft statute submitted by the members from the North Cameroons concerning the immediate establishment of the province of the North Cameroons. A number of representatives of various other groups had not been in favour of the establishment of that province.

59. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked if the population or the Territorial authorities had been consulted at the time of the negotiations relating to the treaty signed in Rome on 25 March 1957, concerning the establishment of the common European market, if representatives from the Trust Territory had been able to take part in those negotiations, and if the French Government intended to consult the authorities or the population of the Trust Territories directly on that subject. He also asked whether, in view of the political, economic and social consequences of the treaty, the Administering Authority would place the question before the Trusteeship Council before ratification.

60. Mr. BARGUES (France) replied that when the Parliament came to vote on the treaty, the Cameroonian representatives in the National Assembly would be free to voice their opinion on an equal footing with the other representatives. He was not in a position to give a reply on the question of direct consultation. He added, in reply to the last question, that the Trusteeship Council's supervision of the administration of Trust Territories was *ex post facto* supervision.

61. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), referring to paragraph 11 of document T/L.742, asked if it was true that an atmosphere of repression had prevailed at the time of the elections, as alleged by the petitioners, and if troops had been sent to the Territory immediately before the elections. He also inquired for what reason and for how long the authorities had closed the frontier

between the two Cameroons, and what repercussions that had had on the elections.

62. Mr. BARGUES (France), referring to the first question, said that in the view of the French Government petitions sent by dissolved parties after their dissolution were not admissible.

63. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) stated that at the time of the elections troops had been at Douala, in transit to the Sanaga-Maritime region. That town and region respectively had had the lowest proportion of voters, but there had been no troop movements in the other regions and there was therefore no reason to assume that the presence of troops had influenced voting in the Territory as a whole.

64. In reply to the question relating to the closing of the frontier, he said that no special measures had been ordered at the time of the elections. It was possible that the identification papers of persons crossing the frontier had been examined more carefully on account of the incitements to violence uttered by the leaders of dissolved parties living in the Cameroons under British administration. The frontier had been patrolled by units of the Cameroonian guards which had been stationed in the area previously.

65. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) wished to refer to document T/L.742, but would not mention the source of the petitions which gave rise to his question. He asked if all the judicial inquiries arising out of the events of April and May 1955 had been completed and if all

the persons involved had appeared before the examining magistrate.

66. Mr. DENIAU (Special Representative) replied that, on 1 January 1957, 112 persons had been in custody for their participation in those incidents. Altogether 165 persons had been sentenced by default or charged with criminal offences. The papers relating to 125 of those cases, which had been held to support a criminal charge, had been referred to the courts, and the latter had imposed 122 sentences for offences and three for crimes. Those decisions might be modified if the accused appeared before the judge. The cases of the other forty were still undergoing examination, since the examining magistrates had considered that there was not sufficient evidence for committing them to trial.

67. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked if it was correct to infer that the Council's decision to examine document T/L.742 had been revoked, inasmuch as the representative of France had declined to reply to certain questions from the representative of Guatemala on the grounds that they related to petitions from political parties that had been dissolved.

68. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had not reversed its decision. In expressing the view that the petitions were inadmissible, the representative of France had not tried to preclude discussion of those questions by the Council. The members of the Council were free to ask any questions they considered relevant.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.