



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-first Session

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President: Mr. Emilio ARENALES CATALAN
(Guatemala).

Present:

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

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

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

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for 1956 (T/1340, T/1350, T/1353, T/L.811);
- (ii) Petitions raising general questions (T/L.811/Add.1)

[Agenda items 4 (c) and 5]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Field, 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 REPRESENTATIVE AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (*continued*)

Political advancement (concluded)

1. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that under the existing electoral law the right to vote was enjoyed by British subjects after two years' residence in the Trust Territory, whereas other non-indigenous inhabitants, including Cameroonians from the Cameroons under French administration, did not acquire that right until they had lived in the Territory and paid taxes for ten years. He asked what was the reason for that distinction.
2. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that it was natural that British subjects, as persons owing

allegiance to the governing authority, should qualify for the franchise. With regard to the fairly large number of Cameroonians from the neighbouring Trust Territory who had lived for some time in the Southern Cameroons under British administration, the people of the Southern Cameroons felt that they should be given some part in the conduct of territorial affairs but wished to ensure that the franchise was extended only to persons who might reasonably be said to have identified themselves with the Southern Cameroons and to have a permanent stake in its welfare. Under the new electoral regulations the tax qualification would no longer apply.

3. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) recalled that the Trusteeship Council itself at its nineteenth session had noted with approval the revision of the regulations for elections to the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, which provided for registration of voters, polling by secret ballot and extension of voting rights to foreigners who had resided in the Cameroons for a continuous period of ten years (A/3595 and Corr. 1, p. 102). Since the present arrangement had been approved by the Trusteeship Council it seemed premature to question it.

4. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that none of the reasons given for the distinction was convincing. He asked what percentage of the adult population had actually participated in the 1957 elections for the Southern Cameroons legislature.

5. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the total number of people who had registered was 102,944, of whom 78,439, or 76.2 per cent of the registered electorate, had voted. He could not say offhand what percentage of the adult population had taken part in the election but would provide that information later.

6. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the special representative could quote the text of the article of the Criminal Code on the basis of which certain organizations of the indigenous inhabitants had been disbanded.

7. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he did not have the text of that article before him but would obtain it.

8. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how many of the elected members of the House of Assembly were or had been chiefs.

9. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that as far as he was aware none of the elected members were chiefs. It was somewhat difficult, however, to define exactly what a chief was: while outstanding figures such as the Fons could unquestionably be called chiefs, there were leaders at the village level who might be heads of communities consisting of fifty, one hundred or two hundred people and they might conceivably be referred to as chiefs in some contexts. Whether any such leaders had been elected to the legislature he did not know but his impression was that they had not.

10. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked what were the new powers reserved to the High Commissioner and

the Commissioner as part of the new arrangements for the Southern Cameroons and whether they would allow the High Commissioner and the Commissioner to dissolve the House of Assembly or to dismiss elected members of the House of Assembly or the Government.

11. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the High Commissioner would have the power to dissolve the House of Assembly of the Southern Cameroons but that that power would normally be exercised on the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Cameroons acting on the advice of the Executive Council of the Southern Cameroons. There would be no power to dismiss individual members of the House of Assembly.

12. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether the One Kamerun party was the only regular party in the Territory whose platform included the unification of the two Cameroons, and what measures the party advocated for achieving that objective.

13. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) envisaged some sort of federal association between the two Territories, but only as a long-term objective. The One Kamerun party had never specified what measures it advocated in order to achieve unification.

14. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether the population of the Northern Cameroons had ever expressed a desire for the integration of the Northern Cameroons into the Northern Region of Nigeria.

15. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the Consultative Committee for the Northern Cameroons had on a number of occasions expressed its desire for integration into the Northern Region. During his recent travels in that part of the Territory he had never heard a contrary view expressed.

16. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked what feelings had been expressed in Nigeria with regard to the future status of the Cameroons as a whole or of each of its parts.

17. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the people of Nigeria were entirely in favour of the integration of the Northern Cameroons into the Northern Region, while the general feeling with regard to the Southern Cameroons was that when the time came for the matter to be settled the other units of the Federation would be very pleased for the Southern Cameroons to remain an integral part of the Federation if the people of the area so desired. He had not heard anyone express the view that the Southern Cameroons should not be part of the Federation of Nigeria.

18. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether it was intended that the exercise of suffrage in the Territory should remain subject to the payment of taxes when the new constitutional provisions decided on at the Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in 1957 went into force.

19. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the forthcoming elections in Southern Cameroons would not be held on the basis of a tax qualification.

20. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) referring to paragraph 51 of the Administering Authority's annual report,¹

¹ *The Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration: Report by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the year 1956*, Colonial No. 334 (London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1957). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1340).

asked for further information concerning the disorders which had occurred at Kumbo after the unexpected return of an exiled local chief.

21. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the incident had arisen as a result of the appointment of the Fon of the Nsaws. Some years ago the individual concerned had been in the position of a regent and when a new Fon had been appointed he had been unwilling to surrender his powers. His attitude had aroused considerable hostility in the area and he had left, without any formal expulsion order, because of the general public disapproval of his behaviour. His sudden reappearance in 1956, and the resentment it had aroused among the people of the area, had resulted in the disturbances referred to and thereafter he had been formally removed from the district. The man was now dead and it was hoped that the matter would be forgotten and the dispute would be at an end.

22. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether any consultation of the population regarding the future of the Territory was planned for the coming year.

23. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that he could only repeat his statement that the Administering Authority would submit proposals regarding the future of the Territory at the appropriate time. He could assure the Haitian representative that the Administering Authority would consult the Council at that time, as it had done in the past.

24. Mr. NATARAJAN (India), referring to paragraph 130 of the annual report, asked what steps were being taken to train officials in the Territory to take up higher posts as the European officials resigned or retired, and how experience gained elsewhere was being utilized for the establishment of an efficient civil service during the transitional period.

25. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the problem was constantly engaging the attention of the Administration. In the Southern Cameroons the problem was rather more complicated than in other parts of the Federation, since educational facilities had been available there for a shorter period. The problem was not merely one of training people for higher posts but of bringing them to the stage where they could be trained for such posts. An increasing number of boys and girls were leaving the secondary schools and scholarships were available for courses in various institutions of higher learning which would qualify them for the holding of senior posts. As he had mentioned in his opening statement (856th meeting), there was a very considerable diversity of courses. The process of training necessarily took a certain time and nothing could be done to shorten it.

26. Furthermore, officials already in the service whose abilities and character made them suitable for senior posts were sent on courses with a view to qualifying them for such posts.

27. Mr. NATARAJAN (India), referring to paragraph 159 of the annual report, asked whether promotions of magistrates were regulated by the Chief Justice and not by the executive head of the Federation or the region.

28. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that whereas the administration of the courts was under the control of the Chief Justice, the question of promotion of magistrates was dealt with by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

29. Mr. NATARAJAN (India) noted from the same paragraph that it was usual for chief magistrates and magistrates of the first grade to be qualified to practise as advocates. He assumed that the two functions were not carried out simultaneously.

30. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) confirmed that that was so. A full-time magistrate was a member of the Judicial Department and was not permitted to engage in private practice. The statement to which the Indian representative had referred related to the professional qualifications required of chief magistrates and magistrates of the first grade.

31. Mr. NATARAJAN (India), referring to paragraph 106 of the annual report, asked whether it could be assumed that the process by which a voter whispered the name of the candidate of his choice to the returning officer had now been abandoned, even in primary elections, in favour of voting by secret ballot.

32. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that as far as he was aware no council was now elected by the process of the whispering vote. There was only one area in which he was not quite sure that that reform had yet been introduced.

33. Mr. NATARAJAN (India) asked how the issue would be decided in the event of any dispute concerning the division of legislative functions between the Federal and regional Governments.

34. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that there was a constitutional provision that in the case of any conflict the matter might be taken to the High Court, whence an appeal lay to the Supreme Court and in the last resort to the Privy Council.

35. Mr. NATARAJAN (India) asked whether steps were being taken to enable representatives of the Nigerian Government to take part in matters relating to external affairs.

36. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied in the affirmative. There had been a number of conferences at which the Nigerian Government had been represented by Federal Ministers: for example, representatives of the Nigerian Government had attended the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation and a meeting held by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as also a number of other meetings and conferences, some of them of West African interest only and some of wider interest. There were also a number of external affairs which, although the responsibility ultimately rested on the Governor-General, were dealt with by the Prime Minister.

37. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) observed that according to paragraph 150 of the annual report the KNDP stood for the severance of political ties with the Federation of Nigeria and there were some small groups which were in favour of immediate federation with the Cameroons under French administration. He asked the special representative whether those who held that view belonged to all classes of the population and to all ethnic groups, or to any particular tribe or section.

38. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that it was difficult to give a definite answer since the matter had not been an election issue. His personal opinion was that the desire for separation from the Federation could be found in all strata of the population and throughout the Territory, but principally in the more northerly parts of the Southern Cameroons. He did

not think that opinion on the subject followed tribal lines.

39. Mr. TOMEH (Syria), referring to paragraphs 58 and 59 (b) of the annual report, asked whether any indigenous personnel were being trained to deal with external relations.

40. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that a number were being trained, some of whom were at present at the British Embassy in Washington.

41. Mr. TOMEH (Syria) observed that according to paragraph 59 (c) the Queen retained the right to disallow any law passed by a Nigerian legislature. He asked whether the special representative could mention any specific cases in which Her Majesty had exercised that right.

42. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that as long as he had been in the Service no instance of the kind had occurred.

43. Mr. TOMEH (Syria) asked what was the meaning of the stipulation.

44. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) pointed out that as long as the United Kingdom Government was ultimately responsible to Parliament for the administration of any Territory, the power to disallow legislation must exist as a matter of constitutional law. The stipulation in question really symbolized the ultimate responsibility of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

45. Mr. TOMEH (Syria) did not see how the special representative's earlier statement that it was difficult to define a chief could be reconciled with the very important role played by the chiefs in the Territory. Furthermore, it appeared to him that their role was a perpetuation of feudalism which was out of place in a progressive society.

46. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that there were only two Houses of Chiefs in Nigeria, one in the Western Region and one in the Northern Region. The chiefs in those regions were easily identified as such. He did not agree that the existence of such institutions was a relic of feudalism. The Northern House of Chiefs was part of the machinery of the Northern Region; the chiefs in that area were highly respected, generally speaking progressive in their outlook, and quite competent to understand the issues brought before them. The general sentiment in the area was in favour of having such an upper house.

47. The position was not quite the same in the Southern Cameroons and for that reason the Southern Cameroons House of Chiefs would not be a house of legislature. There were some chiefs in the Southern Cameroons in the ordinary sense of the word, but there were others who, while they exercised the functions of a chief, were heads of very small communities. Nevertheless they represented a traditional element in the population which naturally exercised a certain influence. There seemed to be a general feeling among the people of the Southern Cameroons that there ought to be some channel whereby they could convey their views to those who were in charge of the affairs of the Territory and learn from them what was being done.

48. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) added that it should be recognized how important chiefs still were in the sentiments, custom, life and public affairs of such territories as the Cameroons. There might be a danger to liberal progress if it did not derive some of its strength from the traditions of the past. The chiefs were highly regarded by the people and if they were

not included in the structure of public life progress might be less rapid, less vigorous and less natural than it would otherwise be. Moreover, the chiefs were much more likely to move with the times if they formed part of public life instead of being left outside it.

49. Mr. TOMEH (Syria), referring to paragraph 117 of the annual report, asked what progress had been made in the projected reorganization of local government in Victoria Division.

50. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the proposals had been agreed upon by all concerned and the elections to the new councils were about to be held.

51. Mr. TOMEH (Syria) asked whether in the Cameroons under British administration there was a desire for unity with the Cameroons under French administration.

52. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that there was a section of opinion in the Southern Cameroons which considered that its future should lie with what was now the Cameroons under French administration, although the strength of that opinion had not been put to the test. There was also a strongly held opinion in the Cameroons that the future of the Territory should be with Nigeria.

53. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), referring to document T/COM.4/L.27, a communication from the Kamerun National Congress (KNC) which included a resolution adopted by its National Executive Committee on 7 January 1958, asked whether paragraph 2 of the resolution was meant to suggest a timetable for the various stages leading to independence not later than 1960, and what meaning should be attached to the word "independence" in the context of the resolution, since he understood that the KNC did not wish for the complete independence of the Southern Cameroons.

54. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the KNC was one of the parties which favoured the continuation of association with Nigeria. As he understood it, its members hoped the Cameroons would become an independent unit within an independent Federation. He considered that the resolution sketched out the programme which they felt should be followed so that the Cameroons should be at the same stage of development as the other units of the Federation when independence was achieved.

Economic advancement

55. Mr. ORR (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) drew attention to the continued increase in the number of co-operatives in the Cameroons under British administration, as stated in the annual report and as amplified in the statement of the special representative at the 856th meeting. The Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had frequently stressed the role which co-operatives could play in the production and marketing of agricultural products.

56. Progress had been made in combating soil erosion through the promotion of contour ploughing and other soil-conservation practices. Those efforts should be vigorously pursued in order that increased agricultural production should not be accompanied by a loss of soil resources. It appeared that the tea industry which was to be developed would initially be a plantation enterprise, in which case soil erosion could be effectively controlled. If, however, as seemed probable, tea cultivation were to be taken up by small farmers, steps

would have to be taken to instruct them in erosion-prevention measures. The expansion of coffee and cocoa production did not present equally serious erosion problems but it did raise problems of soil exhaustion. It was clear from the report, however, that the authorities were well aware of the facts and that measures were being taken to maintain the fertility of the land.

57. He noted with regret the slow progress in the forestry programme in the Northern Cameroons and hoped that it would be accelerated. According to the annual report, forest reserves in the Southern Cameroons comprised 13.8 per cent of the total land area and the reservation programme was virtually complete. It seemed doubtful whether, in a mountainous region with considerable risk of erosion, that proportion was sufficient. On the other hand a new statement of forest policy for the Southern Cameroons had been published which recognized the importance of the forest estate as a territorial and national asset and as a factor in the general problem of soil and water conservation. Further encouraging developments were the increase in plantings of eucalyptus by private farmers and the increase in the controlled exploitation of forests.

58. While the 1956 report did not specifically mention the problem of nutrition in the Territory, it did state that there was a tendency towards improved diet among workers on plantations and in other enterprises. Consideration might perhaps be given to including nutrition education in the community development projects mentioned in the chapter on social security and welfare services.

59. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked to what use the grant of £450,000 which had been made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act was to be put.

60. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the grant had been made only recently and the Southern Cameroons Executive Council was now considering projects on which the money might be spent. The grant was a part of the current colonial development and welfare programme, which expired in 1960, and the money would be spent before that time. The projects selected would be subject to approval by the Secretary of State.

61. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked whether any new industries had been attracted to the Territory since the adoption by the Southern Cameroons Government of its policy of encouraging foreign investment in the Territory.

62. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that two additional timber firms had since established themselves in the Territory.

63. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked whether the amendments to the Land and Native Rights Ordinance extending the area over which a right of occupancy might be granted had been ratified, and what had been the reasons prompting that amendment.

64. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that that law had now come into force. Its purpose was to increase the area of land that could be granted for agricultural purposes, because the limit previously imposed had been uneconomical for some of the plantation enterprises which it was hoped would be developed in the Southern Cameroons.

65. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked for further information about the use of the funds granted to the Northern Region Development Corporation.

66. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the Corporation had granted a number of loans, including one to the Adamawa Native Authority for an improvement scheme at the Jada market and one to the Dikwa Native Authority for similar schemes, as also two small loans to individuals for the purchase of corn-grinding machinery.
67. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked how the study which had been undertaken of the financial structure of the Cameroons Development Corporation was progressing.
68. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the problem continued to engage the attention of both the Federal and the Southern Cameroons Government. The Colonial Development Corporation, which was a public corporation set up by the United Kingdom Government for the purpose of developing the economy of the dependent territories, had been invited to consider participating in the Cameroons Development Corporation.
69. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) added that neither the Government nor the Colonial Development Corporation had yet come to any conclusion in the matter.
70. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) asked what was the purpose of the fruit-tree nurseries which had been established in the Northern Cameroons.
71. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that their purpose was to distribute fruit trees to individuals in order that they might have fruit to improve their diet.
72. Replying to a question from Mr. YANG (China), Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that there were no co-operatives in the Southern Cameroons similar to the consumers co-operative which was operating in the north.
73. Mr. YANG (China) asked whether there had been any open conflicts recently between graziers and farmers as a result of the influx of Fulani cattle-owners into the grasslands of Bamenda Division and what had been the results of the inquiry undertaken in 1956 into the question of farmer-grazier needs.
74. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that there had been no recent cases of open conflict, a hopeful sign which indicated that there was a growing awareness by both the farmers and the cattle-owners that their interests were not necessarily antagonistic.
75. The chief result of the inquiry had been to define the problem more clearly. It had become apparent that before proper action could be taken it would be necessary to make a fuller investigation of the needs of both communities and to take into account the amount of land which might be available for tea production as well as ordinary farming. Accordingly, a committee had been established to pursue the matter further, with a view to producing a scheme acceptable to all. The committee was still conducting its investigation, which might be fairly lengthy, and no very quick results could be expected.
76. Mr. YANG (China) asked for further information on the riot at Akwaja, mentioned in paragraph 52 of the annual report.
77. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he could not give any details offhand but would provide the Chinese representative with a fuller account of it on a later occasion.
78. Mr. YANG (China) noted that the Administering Authority was turning its attention to the economic potentialities of the Mambila plateau and asked whether it would not be less costly to build a road linking the plateau with Bamenda in the south than to try to link it with Abong in the north, in accordance with the tentative plan referred to in paragraph 365 of the annual report. He also asked if the special representative could give more detailed information concerning the results of the preliminary road-construction reconnaissance survey and the comprehensive economic survey which had been carried out on the plateau in 1956.
79. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that while he did not know whether a comparison of the costs had been made, he knew that it would be a very expensive undertaking to build a road from Bamenda to the plateau because it would have to cross the valley lying between the two areas, the floor of which was 2,000 feet or more lower than Bamenda. Following the preliminary reconnaissance survey for a pass from Abong to the Mambila plateau, a firm of consulting engineers was now making a detailed survey of a line up the escarpment and would subsequently prepare plans and estimates for the construction of the road. The Regional Government had set aside a sum of £190,000 with which to begin construction. It was hoped that the work, which might take two years to complete, would begin in 1958.
80. In reply to the Chinese representative's second question, he said that one result of the economic survey had been to encourage the coffee industry in the Mambila area. Farmers who had been planting coffee would be able to sell their first crop during the present year and seedlings were being planted at the rate of 15,000 or 16,000 a year. The excellent herds of cattle on the plateau, which was not plagued by the tsetse fly, were another promising economic factor but the problem was to find a fly-free route by which they could be brought down from the plateau and turned to economic advantage. At the recommendation of the Consultative Committee and the Native Authorities the veterinary staff in the area had been increased and was at present engaged in searching for such a route. Grazing and fencing experiments were also being carried out. A committee composed of representatives of the Fulani cattle-owners and the farmers and agricultural and veterinary officials, which had been set up to solve problems arising from the conflicting interests of farmers and graziers, had had great success in dealing with such problems and even preventing them from arising.
- The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.*
81. Mr. YANG (China) asked whether measures had been taken or were contemplated to give effect to the recommendation, referred to in paragraph 195 of the annual report, regarding the establishment of central processing units to which farmers could sell wet unfermented cocoa beans.
82. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that intensive efforts by the Agricultural Department, the Marketing Board, the Co-operative Department and the cocoa-buying firms to demonstrate improved methods of drying cocoa, as well as the installation of the 600 new improved drying-ovens to which he had referred in his opening statement (856th meeting), had brought about a marked improvement in the present

season's crop. One of the cocoa-buying firms had gone so far as to construct a number of improved ovens for the cocoa growers at its own expense. The question of establishing central processing units was only one aspect of the matter; they would benefit primarily the small cocoa growers, who would thus be relieved of drying the cocoa themselves. Such units would have to be under proper control, for if they were incorrectly used the result might be simply to produce smoky cocoa in bulk. As the produce laws in force prohibited the sale of wet unfermented beans, new legislation would be required before the central units could be established. Such legislation would have to be introduced not by the Southern Cameroons Government but by the Marketing Board, which had regulation-making powers subject to the Government's approval. The problems of ensuring correct use of the processing units and making the necessary legislative changes were under consideration.

83. Mr. YANG (China), referring to paragraphs 164 and 165 of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955 (T/1226), asked whether the Barombi-Kang Governmental Agricultural Station had made further progress in teaching cocoa growers spraying methods to combat the black-pod disease.

84. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the campaign was continuing with marked success. The sprays, which were in constant demand, were made available to the farmers through the co-operative societies and were financed by loans obtained from the former Southern Cameroons Production Development Board.

85. Mr. YANG (China) asked whether the experiments with the Amazon type of cocoa tree initiated by that Station were being continued and whether the Station was still receiving financial assistance from the Production Development Board.

86. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that the experiments were continuing and showed considerable promise. The grant of £5,000 made available to the Station by the Production Development Board had not been exhausted in the first year and as far as he knew no further subsidy had been granted. The purpose of the grant was to finance the importation and germination of 100,000 seedlings and their subsequent distribution to farmers if the experiment proved successful.

87. Mr. YANG (China) noted from paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Secretariat's working paper (T/L.811) that the reserve left to the Southern Cameroons Marketing Board for 1956 had been considerably smaller than the corresponding figure for 1955. He asked whether that loss would necessitate a curtailment of the Board's activities and what measures were contemplated to prevent such losses in the future. He would also like to know what was the Board's financial situation for 1957.

88. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that as one of the objects of such boards was to stabilize produce prices they might be expected to sustain losses on their transactions in years when they found it necessary to support prices, as the Southern Cameroons Marketing Board had had to do in 1956. As the Board's annual report and balance sheet for 1957 had not yet been published, he was unable to give information on the present state of its finances.

89. Mr. YANG (China) recalled that the 1955 Visiting Mission had been impressed by the excellent work carried on at the Santa Coffee Estate, which had by its example encouraged the local population to take an active interest in coffee growing. He had understood that full production might be expected in 1960 and he wondered whether the special representative had any recent information regarding the Estate: whether more coffee trees had been grown and what was the prospect for the yield.

90. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the work conducted on the plantation was mainly developmental. Although the trees were now planted, not all the coffee was yet in production and it was unlikely that the Estate would produce sufficient coffee to support itself until towards the end of 1959. The yields obtained had been encouraging, both in quality and in quantity. The main development on the Estate had been the completion and opening of a new factory where beans were processed, dried, sorted and bagged for export.

91. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) referred to the statement in appendix XII of the annual report that there were no known mineral resources of commercial value and consequently no mining in the Trust Territory. However, paragraph 337, of the annual report, mentioned that an oil prospecting licence had been granted to the Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company. He asked whether all possibility of discovering mineral resources was excluded or whether there were any geological indications or surveys that might provide some hope, especially since prospecting had apparently been successful in Nigeria.

92. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that although geological investigations had so far failed to disclose the existence of minerals in payable quantities, the Federal Government had recently posted an officer of the Geological Survey Department to the Southern Cameroons to carry out an intensive survey to see whether workable minerals might not be discovered.

93. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) asked whether the activities of such organizations as the Cameroons Development Corporation and the two Marketing Boards, which had apparently achieved very good results in the production of cocoa, coffee, and groundnuts, included any means of ensuring the stabilization of prices and protecting producers from price fluctuations in the various products.

94. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that the main purpose of the two Marketing Boards was the stabilization of commodity prices. They fixed the prices at which they were to buy produce in relation to the world price; if there was any likelihood of a significant fall in the market, they could fix the price higher than market price, thus safeguarding producers and stabilizing prices.

95. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) referred to the Southern Cameroons Government's policy of stimulating foreign investment and attracting foreign capital, which had been commended by the Trusteeship Council at its nineteenth session (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 108). It would be interesting to know what measures the Administration had taken to safeguard the interests of the Cameroonian population in pursuing that policy.

96. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that such measures would largely depend on the type of

enterprise contemplated. The Government would safeguard the Cameroonians in that it would not encourage outside enterprise in retail trade and similar types of business which the Cameroonians were fully competent to operate themselves. In the matter of land concessions, too, the Administration was careful to ensure that no more was granted than was reasonably required for the enterprise in question and that areas in which a large-scale displacement of persons might be caused were avoided. Moreover, the capital investment had to be adequate and the rent and conditions on which the land was granted were properly determined in relation to the economics of the enterprise, which must, furthermore, be carried out diligently and for the advantage of the Territory.

97. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether companies which were granted concessions for the planting of agricultural products or for the exploitation of forests were required to provide training for their Cameroonian personnel, to contribute to the maintenance of schools for the workers' children and subsequently to leave any improvements made in the way of roads and public facilities for the future use of the population.

98. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that that was so. Naturally what was required of them depended on the situation and the type of the enterprise. The tea estate, for instance, would be required, once it was in full operation, to provide educational opportunities and medical services for its employees and proper housing conditions where it employed labour. Such a body, however, would not necessarily be required to provide its own school; that would only be the case where there was an accumulation of labour and inadequate educational facilities in the area. The provision of roads, too, would depend on the type of enterprise: a timber company, for example, would need to build a number of access roads, but those need not be of a higher standard than that required for its economic purposes, nor would all the roads it built be of general use to the community. The three timber companies at present operating had constructed a road; it was admittedly for their own convenience, but it was maintained by them and was fully available to the general public.

99. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) added that such concessions were normally granted because the Cameroonian leaders wanted foreign investments. If too many obligations were imposed upon new enterprises before they had established themselves economically, they might never prosper.

100. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether an inventory of the Territory's resources had been undertaken, particularly with regard to arable land and forest resources. Specifically, he would like to know if the authorities had any data that would permit the establishment of land reserves in order to safeguard the interests of the inhabitants while at the same time encouraging capital investment and the establishment of plantations on a larger scale.

101. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that although, to his knowledge, no exact assessment had been made of the proportion between forest, arable and other types of land, the amount of land alienated for plantation enterprises had not hitherto attained such proportions as to necessitate the reservation of areas for peasant farming.

102. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked the special representative to comment on the possibility, mentioned at an earlier session, of increasing internal fiscal resources by the establishment of certain export taxes or an increase in those already imposed.

103. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that there had been an increase in the export duty on bananas from three pence to a shilling a bunch. Legislation had been enacted to enable a tax to be levied on coffee purchased for export; it was hoped that in the coming year that tax would yield something like £15,000. The other measures taken by the Government had been to increase taxes for petrol licences and motor vehicles.

104. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether, during the year under review, any progress had been made in the economic relations between the Northern and Southern Cameroons and whether there had been any improvement in communications between the two areas.

105. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that, apart from the projected road to link Bamenda with the Mambila plateau, to which he had referred earlier, work had been continued on a road that would run from the Southern Cameroons, from Kamine in the Bamenda area to Bissaula in the Northern Cameroons. There were as yet no natural trade routes between the North and the South or any natural flow of trade between the areas. The only exchange was in the form of cattle coming down to the Southern Cameroons from the Mambila plateau.

106. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked what type of credit was granted by the Southern Cameroons Development Agency to indigenous farmers and whether technical assistance was also provided to those using credit facilities.

107. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that one individual had received a loan from the Agency for setting up a sawmill. Others had received loans for establishing plantations. It was hoped that the Agency would be able to develop those activities more fully when the divisional loan boards were functioning properly. The Agency itself did not provide technical advice or assistance, but such advice and assistance was readily granted by the government departments interested in the enterprise concerned.

108. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked for additional details concerning loans and technical assistance furnished to the population by the Northern Region Development Corporation.

109. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) recalled that in replying to an earlier question he had referred to loans granted by that Corporation to Native Authorities and individuals for the improvement of markets and corn-grinding machinery. Grants had also been made for road construction and other schemes, which, while not designed exclusively for the Trust Territory, would be of value to the inhabitants. Such schemes included the breeding of cows for mixed farmers, the provision of fertilizers, water supplies for cattle, anti-tsetse measures and so forth. The Northern Region Development Corporation did not employ technical staff except on the projects it was undertaking directly, but government technical staff was available to give advice and assistance to those benefiting from the Corporation's activities. The Corporation was, moreover, responsible for the resettlement scheme at Gwoza, which it financed and which was directly

operated by an officer of the Corporation, who assisted the people in their resettlement.

110. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether there was any likelihood of the establishment of industries in the Northern or Southern Cameroons for the processing of raw materials produced there or in Nigeria.

111. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) said that he doubted if it would be economic to establish an industrial plant in the Cameroons for processing raw materials produced in Nigeria. Since both the Northern and Southern Cameroons were primarily agricultural areas, producing export crops, there were as yet no proposals for setting up industries in either part of the Territory.

112. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked whether the management and membership of the Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers was entirely Cameroonian.

113. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) replied that all the members of the co-operative societies were Cameroonians and that the co-operatives were managed by committees composed of elected Cameroonian

members. At the request of the societies themselves, however, a skilled manager had been seconded from one of the companies in the Cameroons to carry out the office side of the business.

114. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) said it was encouraging to note that the Bakweri Co-operative had been so successful in increasing banana production and assuming direct responsibility for the shipment and sale of its products. He understood that there was no intermediary organization between the Co-operative and the banana purchasers for the export of bananas.

115. Mr. FIELD (Special Representative) explained that the Co-operative had concluded a shipping and marketing agreement with a firm in the United Kingdom to ship and sell the products for it on the United Kingdom market. That was the only intermediary in the transaction. Previously the Co-operative had sold its products to the Cameroons Development Corporation, which had sold them through its own channels. The Co-operative now had direct arrangements with its shipping and marketing associates to dispose of its own produce.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.